

Postwar Administrations

Dwight David Eisenhower (Republican, 1952-1960)

- **McCarran Internal Security Act** (1950-Truman vetoed) required all Communist organizations to register with the federal government
- **McCarthyism** (1950-1953) Joseph McCarthy (Sen., Wisconsin) investigated federal agencies, intimidated witness claiming were over “100” communists working for federal gov’t – people blacklisted, later resigns in disgrace
- **Southern Manifesto** (1955) 101 Southern legislators declared Brown v. Board unconstitutional
- **Little Rock** incident (see Civil Rights handout)
- **NASA** created (1958)

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (Democrat, 1960-1963)

- **Berlin Wall** (1961), Speech: Ich Bien Ein Berliner (1962)
- **Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis** (1962)
- **Civil Rights Movement**
- Vietnam buildup
- Space Program (“...before this decade is over....we will land a man on the moon and return him safely....”)
- **Peace Corps** (volunteers to Third World nations)
- **Limited Test Ban Treaty** (1963): no atmospheric, outer space, underwater testing of nukes/Russians refused onsite inspections; China, France refused to sign [seen by some as his greatest foreign policy achievement]
- Assassination by Lee Harvey Oswald (11/22/63) in Dallas during Presidential campaign

Lyndon Baines Johnson (Democrat, 1963-1968)

- “Let us continue....” Kennedy’s policies following the assassination
- **Immigration Reform Act** (1965) eliminated immigration quotas
- **War on Poverty** (Kennedy’s plan, un-enacted)
 - Office of Economic Opportunity (OEC): Job Corps (HS dropouts), Neighborhood Youth Corps (unemployed teens), Head start (preschool), VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America)
- **Great Society** (Medicare, Medicaid)
- Democratic Convention protest
- Refuses 1968 nomination (“I will not seek, nor will I accept the nomination for President of the United States....”)
- Assassinations: MLK 4/4/68 James Earl Ray
RFK 6/5/68 Sirhan Sirhan
- 1968 election:
 - Hubert Humphrey (D)
 - Richard Nixon (R)
 - George Wallace (I)

Richard Milhouse Nixon (Republican, 1968-1972)

- **Vietnamization**: “Nixon Doctrine” (weapons, money for soldiers)
- 1969 **Apollo 11** landed on the moon (“The Eagle has landed” in the Sea of Tranquility)
- 1972 China Policy: Lifted 1950 embargo vs. China (U.S. table tennis team visited, Nixon visited Mao Zedong) = improved Soviet relations
- 1972 **SALT Talks** (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty): limited ABM (antiballistic missiles) but not bombers, cruise missiles or multiple warheads
- **“Détente”** (easing of tensions) between U.S. and USSR, China
- **New Federalism** (replace “Great Society”): General Revenue Sharing (shifting of federal funds and responsibilities to states)
- Inflation: Johnson’s decision not to raise taxes to pay for Vietnam (“guns and butter”), 1969 tax cut = inflations
- 1973: Arab impose embargo on oil because of U.S. support of Israel during Arab-Israeli War (led by OPEC –Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) – began energy saving measures
 - auto fuel standards imposed
 - fuel efficient foreign models popular
- 1972-1973 Watergate
 - Pentagon Papers (gov’t. report on Vietnam) revealed U.S. continuing war
 - Daniel Ellsberg (contributor) leaked story to NY Times = Nixon furious
 - White House Council, John Dean created list of “unfriendly” journalists to harass
 - Ex-CIA: E. Howard Hunt (CREEP, Committee for Rep. Re-election) and G. Gordon Liddy (Presidential Staff) ordered to stop leaks
 - 6/17/72: Five “burglars” broke into Dem. Headquarters in Watergate Building
 - Nixon covered up = H.R. Haldeman told to warn off FBI for “National Security” reasons & paid \$400,000 to “burglars”
 - Won 1972 Election in landslide vs. George McGovern (SD) + Geo. Wallace shot
 - Judge John Sirica pressured burglars + Washington Post’s Woodward & Bernstein broke story (All the President’s Men)
 - Senate Select Committee (Sam Ervin) subpoenaed tapes (edited) = Supreme Court ruled President had to turn over originals
 - Senate voted impeachment on three charges
 1. Hindering criminal investigation
 2. Abusing Presidency by using federal agencies to deny citizens of rights
 3. Ignoring committee subpoena for tapes
 - Announced resignation 8/8/72

Gerald Rudolph Ford (Republican, 1972-1976)

- Only President never elected President or VP (Spiro Agnew indicted)
- Pardoned Nixon
- Helsinki Accords: NATO/Warsaw Pact agreed to recognize 1945 borders and guarantee human rights

James Earl Carter (Democrat, 1976-1980)

- 1978 Recession = high inflation = massive plant closings in NE
- 1978 Energy Policy & conservation Act: new energy sources, but Three Mile Island incident stopped development of nuclear power
- 1978 Withheld economic support from south Africa (apartheid), Guatemala, Chile, and Nicaragua (human rights abuses)
- 1978 Camp David Accords
 - Anwar el-Sadat (Egypt) + Menachem Begin (Israel) normalized relations in exchange for Israeli pullout of Sinai Peninsula
- Weak Foreign Policy
 - Soviets sent troops into African countries (Marxists regimes)
 - SALT II (supposed to reduce both U.S. and Soviet arms
 - Senate balked, SALT II failed, Carter began increasing defense spending
 - Returned Panama Canal
 - 1979 Radical Muslims opposed to modernization of Iran under Shah, revolted under Ayatollah Khomeini (anti-American)
 - stormed U.S. Embassy when U.S. allowed Shah in for medical treatment
 - took 60+ hostages, demanded Shah's return
 - Carter ordered rescue = FAILED (3 helos malfunctioned, 1 crashed)
- 1980 Election = Ronald Reagan won
 - Hostages released after 444 days in captivity

Ronald Reagan (Republican, 1980-1988)

- "New Conservatism" (Free markets v. Gov't. programs/ "Gov't. intervention hurts and stops initiative)
- 1981 ERTA (Economic Recovery Tax Act): lowered personal income tax by 25% over 3 years
 1. Stimulate the economy [increased investments, raised income of middle class]
 2. No cuts to military or Social Security (meant states had to enact social programs)
 3. Deregulation: encouragement of competition in major industries (airlines, telephone)
 - Hit unions (ex: Air Controllers' Strike: 11,000 fired because of no-strike clause, at same time decline in blue-collar jobs)
- "Era of Greed": Tom Wolfe's, Bonfire of the Vanities
- Yuppies (Young Urban Professionals)
- Corporate "Downsizing" as cities hit by tax cuts
- Poverty rate increased from 11% to 13%
- Foreign Policy
 - 1983 SDI/"Star Wars" (Strategic Defense Initiative)
 - 1983 Marine barracks bombed during Lebanese Civil War killing 231 Marines
 - 1983 US. Invaded Grenada to stop Cuban airbase from being built
 - Nicaragua and El Salvador = Sandinistas (socialists) vs. Contras
 - Iran-Contra Affair (Oliver North, "arms for hostages" deal)
 - Mikhail Gorbachev's "glasnost" and "perestroika"
 - 1989 Berlin Wall fell
 - INF (Intermediate Nuclear Force Agreement): agreed to destruction of intermediate and ground launched, cruise missiles and onsite inspections
 - 1991 Boris Yeltsin's coup establishing democracy (1st time in Russian history)

George Herbert Walker Bush (Republican, 1988-1992)

- ***Americans with Disabilities Act*** (1990): employment, transportation, public accommodations
- 1990 ***Hussein invaded Kuwait*** = First Persian Gulf War/Operation Desert Storm (8-year Iraq-Iran War was just over)

William Jefferson Clinton (Democrat, 1992-2000)

- Terrorist attacks: Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia (bombing of Kosovo + USS Cole)
- Republican Revolution: 1996 Contract with America
- 1993 Waco: federal agents fired on Branch Davidians (over 80 died)
- 1993 Oklahoma Bombing (2nd anniversary of Waco) killed 169
- Whitewater investigation into Clinton holdings
- Monica Lewinsky (White House intern): denied had sexual relations under oath = perjury and obstruction of justice
- 1993 NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement): “Common Market” for Canada, U.S., and Mexico to reduce trade barriers
- WTO (World Trade Organization): set standards for World Trade: viewed as a tool of international corporations

George Walker Bush (Republican, 2000-2008)

- Terrorist attacks on Twin Towers = 9/11 = “War on Terror”
- 2001 = War in Afghanistan
- 2003 = War in Iraq
- Tax cuts
- Patriot Act
- No Child Left Behind
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- Dec. 2007 = beginning of Recession

Barack Hussein Obama II (Democrat, 2008-)

- First African American President
- 2009 Nobel Peace Prize
- 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package)
- Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal
- 2011 Libyan military intervention
- Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare)