

Conservative Surge

- I. New Frontier (JFK)
 - a. Kennedy promised changes to the society
 - i. Changes would come from federal government
 - 1. health care
 - 2. education
 - 3. civil rights
 - 4. few laws passed by JFK
 - ii. pushed for development of space program
 - iii. Created Peace Corps
 - 1. to increase American influence overseas
 - 2. to improve lives of people in foreign countries
 - b. JFK Assassination
 - i. November 22, 1963, JFK was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas
- II. Great Society (LBJ)
 - a. Johnson was named president following JFK's death
 - b. Johnson wanted to continue JFK's social programs
 - i. Was able to pass many of JFK's ideas
 - c. Great Society
 - i. Series of programs designed to change American Society
 - 1. education
 - 2. civil rights
 - 3. Environment
 - 4. War on Poverty
 - 5. Medicare and Medicaid (Health insurance for old and poor)
- III. 1968
 - a. LBJ refuses to run for second term as President
 - i. Largely because of unpopularity of Vietnam war
 - ii. Didn't want to risk his social programs as an unpopular president
 - b. Robert Kennedy runs for President of US
 - i. Assassinated in Chicago
 - c. Martin Luther King led Civil Rights movement
 - i. Assassinated in Memphis
 - d. Riots broke out in the streets as a result of assassinations, frustrations of Vietnam and Civil Rights movement
- IV. Carter's Presidency (1977-1981)
 - a. Makes humanitarian aid part of American foreign policy
 - i. Wanted to improve Human Rights in Third World
 - ii. Sent aid to improve basic rights and living conditions in poor nations
 - b. Oil Crisis
 - i. OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)
 - 1. charged higher prices for gas
 - 2. caused inflation around the world
 - 3. led to a recession in the United States
 - c. Iran
 - i. Islamic Revolution of Iran
 - 1. Shah of Iran (US ally) lost power
 - 2. Ayatollah Khomeini – Islamic Fundamentalist leader becomes leader of Iran
 - a. Established a Muslim religious state in Iran

- b. Rejected Western influence
 - ii. Iran Hostage Crisis
 - 1. Americans allow Shah of Iran into the US
 - a. Iranians wanted to put Shah in jail
 - b. US refuses to return Shah to Iran
 - 2. Iranians takeover US embassy and hold Americans hostage for more than a year
 - 3. Hostage crisis helps Reagan beat Carter in election
- V. Election of 1980
 - a. Reagan wins in a landslide
 - i. Represents a shift from liberal to conservative in American
 - 1. liberals
 - a. believe government should take active role in improving the lives of Americans especially poor and minorities
 - b. Reagan Economic Policies
 - i. Reaganomics
 - 1. Cut social programs
 - 2. Lower taxes
 - 3. Increase military spending
 - 4. trickle down - give money to rich to help poor
 - ii. By 1983 economy was improving
 - iii. Deficit
 - 1. Deficit – when nation spends more money than it takes in
 - 2. National Debt – money US owes to other countries
 - 3. Deficit grows significantly under Reagan
 - c. First Term Highlights (1981-1985)
 - i. March 1981 attempted assassination on Reagan
 - ii. Space Shuttle *Columbia*
 - iii. Sandra Day O'Connor appointed first woman to Supreme Court
- VI. 1984 Election
 - a. Mondale/Ferraro (first woman VP candidate) beaten easily by Reagan
- VII. Election of 1988/ Bush Presidency
 - a. Bush/Quayle win easily
 - b. Bush was President during collapse of communism
 - c. Beat Iraq in Persian Gulf War
 - d. Savings and loan crisis
 - i. Banks allowed to make high risk loans, loans fail, government spent billions to bail out banks
 - ii. Economy
 - iii. Goes into recession in 1990
 - iv. Bush tried to fix by raising taxes, costs him the election in 1992
- VIII. 1992 Election
 - a. Candidates
 - i. Democrats – Bill Clinton and Al Gore
 - ii. Republicans – President George HW Bush and Dan Quayle
 - iii. Independent – Ross Perot
 - b. Issues of Election
 - i. Bush had a 91% approval rating after Gulf War
 - ii. Bush's popularity drops after he raises taxes and economy slows

- iii. Clinton appealed to younger generation of voters
 - 1. went on MTV, late night talk shows
 - c. Perot
 - i. Argued neither party listened to average American
 - ii. Proposed flat tax
 - iii. Became a popular candidate and took away voters from Bush
 - d. Clinton wins the election
- IX. Clinton Presidency
 - a. Health Care Reform
 - i. Led by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
 - 1. designed to provide everyone with health care
 - 2. opposed by Republicans because of cost and complexity
 - ii. Reform failed
 - b. NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)
 - i. Eliminate tariffs between US, Mexico and Canada
 - ii. Opponents feared it would cost Americans jobs
 - c. 1994 Election
 - i. Contract with America
 - 1. Led by Newt Gingrich
 - 2. Called for limits on federal government
 - 3. Pursued conservative ideas
 - ii. Republicans win majorities in House and Senate
 - d. Budget Battle
 - i. Republicans and Clinton disagree on how to make a budget
 - ii. Nov 14 1995, the government is shut down
 - e. Welfare Reform
 - i. States given more control of welfare, set limits on how long people can be on welfare
- X. 1996 Election
 - a. Candidates
 - i. Democrats – President Clinton and Gore
 - ii. Republicans – Bob Dole and Jack Kemp
 - iii. Independent – Ross Perot
 - b. Clinton wins
- XI. Clinton Impeachment
 - a. Clinton was accused of many scandals
 - b. Whitewater
 - i. Investigation into Clinton land deals while governor of Arkansas
 - ii. Special Counsel Kenneth Starr questioned Clinton's sexual relationships
 - iii. Clinton denied relationship with Monica Lewinsky
 - c. Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice
 - i. Only second president to be impeached
 - d. Was not convicted by the Senate, so he remained President
- XII. Clinton Economy
 - a. Economy grew rapidly
 - i. Driven by growth of world wide web and dot com industries
- XIII. Clinton Foreign Policy
 - a. Sends troops around the world for humanitarian reasons and to spread democracy
 - i. Haiti
 - ii. Yugoslavia

- iii. Israel/Palestine
- iv. Somalia
- XIV. 2000 Election
 - a. Candidates
 - i. Democrats - Al Gore and Joe Liebermann
 - ii. Republicans – George W Bush and Dick Cheney
 - iii. Independent – Ralph Nader
 - 1. Nader takes votes from Gore
 - b. Election Controversy
 - i. Both sides accused other of fraud in the election
 - ii. Legal battles delayed the announcing of results
 - iii. 13 states were decided by less than 5% of popular votes
 - iv. Recounts were held in Florida
 - 1. Gore challenged results in Supreme Court
 - 2. Bush declared winner on January 6, 2001
 - v. Democrats felt cheated from election
 - c. Bush wins Presidency
 - i. Gore had more of the popular vote
- XV. Bush's Conservative Agenda
 - a. Favored tax cuts
 - i. Critics say it only helped the rich
 - b. No Child Left Behind
 - i. Program of standardized tests to hold schools accountable for performance
 - 1. schools lose funding if scores aren't met or improved