



Reagan, Bush, and Clinton U.S. History Unit Companion

Directions

- Complete the Prepare section before you begin a unit.
- Complete the Lesson Summaries and Guided Notes section as you work through each lesson.
- Complete the Unit Review sections before you take the cumulative assessment.

NOTE: Your teacher may require that you complete and submit this unit companion.

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Prepare

Throughout the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton unit, you will explore the following Essential Questions.

Unit Essential Questions

- What factors led to the rise in conservatism in the 1980s?
- What were key humanitarian and social issues of the 1980s?
- How did Ronald Reagan's economic policies differ from those of previous administrations?
- How did Ronald Reagan's domestic policies affect Americans?
- What role did the United States play in foreign relations in the 1980s?
- How did Ronald Reagan help usher in an end to the Cold War?
- What were some of George H.W. Bush's successes and failures as president?
- How did conflicts in the Middle East affect George H.W. Bush's foreign policy?
- What were Bill Clinton's achievements and challenges in terms of domestic and economic policies?
- How did new technology and globalization change society during the Clinton administration?
- What role did the United States play in global conflicts during the Clinton administration?
- What events led to Bill Clinton's impeachment?
- What unusual circumstances led to the outcome of the 2000 presidential election?

You will learn about the following topics in the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton unit:

- the reasons for the growth in conservatism in the 1980s
- the important humanitarian and social issues of the 1980s
- Ronald Reagan's economic and domestic policies
- the changing role of government during the Reagan administration
- the United States' role in international conflicts of the 1980s
- Reagan's approach to the Cold War
- the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union during George H.W. Bush's administration
- Middle Eastern conflicts that affected the United States during George H.W. Bush's administration
- the important social issues during the Bush and Clinton administrations
- Bill Clinton's foreign and domestic policies
- why Bill Clinton was impeached
- why the Supreme Court was involved in determining the outcome of the 2000 presidential election

You will take a cumulative quiz and test over the content in this unit.



Lesson Summaries and Guided Notes

Each lesson is summarized on the following pages. Read the summary before a lesson to preview the most important information, including people, places, and events. Read the summary after a lesson to review the lesson content without rereading every word. As you complete each lesson, record information in the Guided Notes section. Some questions have been provided for you. You may also take notes on other important lesson information.

Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts Summary

The 1980s saw a growth of the Conservative Movement. Groups such as the Moral Majority and the New Right supported a return to traditional, conservative values. These conservatives were able to get Ronald Reagan elected in 1980. Reagan's election was buoyed by large turnout of conservative, wealthy, older white voters.

As part of this new wave of conservatism, the feminist Equal Rights Amendment was finally defeated after twenty years of efforts to pass it. Conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly was largely responsible for the amendment's defeat.

Violent crime rates rose in the 1980s, and President Reagan blamed this violence on the popularity of street drugs. He announced a war on drugs, which resulted in several states, such as California, enacting harsher sentences for drug-related offenses. The harsher laws impacted the African American community, which saw a sharp increase in incarcerations.

The 1980s also saw the rise of a new disease known as AIDS. Thought to be largely a disease spread by gay people, the government paid little attention to finding a cure. The gay community mobilized to help AIDS patients and fight for their rights.

Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts Guided Notes

What were the beliefs of the Moral Majority?
(slide 1)

The Moral Majority, a religious and political group formed by minister Jerry Falwell in 1979, believed Jimmy Carter had failed because he betrayed his southern roots. They supported a return to traditional values. They opposed the legalization of abortion, the feminist movement, and sex education in schools.

What was the New Right?
(slide 1)

Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts Guided Notes

What problems in California did Ronald Reagan blame on liberal Democrats? (slide 2)	
What trends in voter turnout determined the 1980 presidential election? (slide 2)	
How did Reagan gain popularity with under-represented groups of Americans? (slide 2)	
What was the fate of the Equal Rights Movement (ERA)? (slide 3)	
What was Phyllis Schlafly's strategy in her fight to stop the ERA? (slide 3)	
What was Ronald Reagan's policy on the ERA? (slide 3)	
What was one outcome of the war on drugs? (slide 4)	
What impact did the war on drugs have on African Americans? (slide 4)	
What was the government's response to the AIDS crisis? (slide 5)	

Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts Guided Notes

How did the gay community respond to the government's response to the AIDS crisis?
(slide 5)

Reagan's Domestic Policies Summary

Reagan's economic policies, called Reaganomics by the press, were based on the idea that the key to stimulating the economy was to give rich people more money to spend. This idea, also known as "trickle down economics," suggested that by lowering taxes on the wealthy, they would have more money to spend on consumerism and in the stock market. Reagan believed the benefits of this increased spending would "trickle down" and help people with less money.

At the same time he lowered taxes on the rich, Reagan largely ignored the plight of the less fortunate. He allocated a very small share of the federal budget to antipoverty programs. He also believed in deregulating many industries and dismantling labor unions because he believed that a free market regulates itself.

Additionally, Reagan increased interest rates in an attempt to curb inflation. This attempt led to a recession as people began to borrow and spend less money. Reagan's increase in defense spending and his tax cut for the rich led to a very high budget deficit by the end of his second term.

Reagan's Domestic Policies Guided Notes

What was the primary idea behind the economic policies of Reaganomics?
(slide 1)

Reaganomics, a term coined by the press to refer to Reagan's economic policies, were based on supply-side economics. In Reagan's case, that meant he lowered taxes on the rich in the hopes that they would have more money to stimulate the economy and the stock market.

What is "trickle down economics?"
(slide 1)

Reagan's Domestic Policies Guided Notes	
Why was Reagan's economic policy criticized by many politicians? (slide 1)	
How did Reagan gain support for his economic policies? (slide 1)	
How did Reagan's policies hurt the poor? (slide 2)	
Why did Reagan support deregulating industry and weakening labor unions? (slide 2)	
What events led to a recession during the Reagan administration? (slide 3)	
Why was the federal budget deficit so high by the end of the Reagan administration? (slide 3)	

Reagan's Foreign Policies Summary

While Carter's approach to the Cold War was de-escalation of the arms race, Reagan believed the United States should use military force if necessary to demonstrate its dominance in the world. He allocated significant funding to the purchasing of weapons. His Strategic Defense Initiative proposed an expensive defense missile defense system. This plan was never carried out.

Reagan demonstrated his desire to use military force on multiple occasions. He sent troops to Lebanon to restore order after an Israeli invasion. Unfortunately many soldiers were killed there in the Beirut barracks bombing in 1984.

Reagan also turned his military focus to preventing the spread of Communism in South America. He sent soldiers to oust Cuban forces on the island of Grenada and supported anti-Communist forces in Nicaragua.

Congress opposed support to Nicaragua, but Reagan wanted to fund its anti-Communist soldiers known as Contras. Reagan found this money by selling weapons to Iran. Reagan's aide, Oliver North, was secretly giving the Contras the proceeds from weapon sales to Iran. This scandal, known as the Iran-Contra Affair, resulted in North's acquittal.

Reagan changed his opinion on military force when he faced reelection in 1984. He and Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty agreeing to eliminate some nuclear weapons. Gorbachev worked with Reagan to de-escalate the Cold War in a way no previous Soviet leader had.

Reagan's Foreign Policies Guided Notes	
How did Reagan's approach to the Cold War differ from his predecessors'? (slide 1)	Reagan's predecessors had attempted to slow the Cold War by supporting non-escalation and weapons reduction. Reagan, however, believed the United States should show its military dominance to demonstrate the country's power in the world. He believed the arms race needed to continue, and he wasn't afraid to support foreign authoritarian anti-Soviet governments.
What was Reagan's view of the Soviet Union? (slide 1)	
What happened in the Beirut barracks bombing? (slide 2)	
Why did Reagan authorize the invasion of Grenada? (slide 2)	
What did Reagan do in Nicaragua? (slide 2)	
What was Oliver North accused of in the Iran-Contra Affair? (slide 3)	

Reagan's Foreign Policies Guided Notes	
What was the outcome of the Iran-Contra Affair and how did it impact the power of Congress? (slide 3)	
What was the Strategic Defense Initiative? (slide 4)	
What agreements did Ronald Reagan make with Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev? (slide 4)	
What was Reagan's belief in peace through strength? (slide 5)	
What happened after Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power in the Soviet Union? (slide 5)	

The Presidency of George H.W. Bush Summary

When George H.W. Bush took office, he struggled to balance the federal budget without increasing taxes. A Democratic-controlled Congress wanted to raise taxes on the rich, while Republicans wanted to cut domestic spending. Eventually both parties got their way with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

Bush followed Reagan's legacy of promoting peace with the Soviet Union. He signed a treaty with the Soviet Union, with both sides agreeing to reduce nuclear arsenals. Soon there were signs that Soviet control was crumbling. The Soviet Union eventually broke up in January 1992, ending the Cold War.

Bush ordered an invasion of Panama in the name of human rights. The United States also became involved in a conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, known as Operation Desert Storm. The operation was considered a success and a demonstration of America's new power in the world.

At home, Bush succeeded in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was also involved in scandal at home when he appointed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. A former co-worker, Anita Hill, accused Thomas of sexual harassment, but Thomas was still confirmed to the Court. This event hurt Bush's reputation with female voters. He went from tremendous popularity after Desert Storm to defeat in the 1992 election.

The Presidency of George H.W. Bush Guided Notes	
What economic challenges did George H.W. Bush face when he took office? (slide 1)	When Bush took office, the federal budget had a large deficit due to Reagan's increased defense spending and tax cuts. During his presidential campaign, Bush had promised not to increase taxes. He struggled to balance the budget and keep his promise not to raise taxes.
What were the terms of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990? (slide 1)	
What was Bush's strategy in dealing with the Soviet Union? (slide 2)	
What events led to the end of the Cold War? (slide 2)	
What were Bush's reasons for the invasion of Panama? (slide 3)	
What was Operation Desert Storm? (slide 3)	
Why was Operation Desert Storm considered a success? (slide 4)	

The Presidency of George H.W. Bush Guided Notes

What was one successful piece of legislation passed during the Bush administration?
(slide 5)

Why did Bush lose popularity after the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court confirmation?
(slide 5)

The Presidency of Bill Clinton Summary

By the election of 1992, George H.W. Bush had lost popularity. Democratic candidate Bill Clinton was able to defeat Bush in the election by appealing to middle-class voters.

Under Clinton, the U.S., Canada, and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which boosted trade among the nations by eliminating tariffs. The Clinton administration also saw economic prosperity across the nation.

Clinton faced some roadblocks when trying to pass domestic legislation. In particular, Congressional Republican leaders rallied to block Clinton's efforts to pass a universal health care bill.

Clinton tried to appease members of both parties, especially when it came to gays and lesbians serving in the military and same-sex marriage. He established a "don't ask, don't tell" policy for the gay members of the military. He also signed legislation prohibiting same-sex marriage. He did, however, hire gay and lesbian individuals for important government positions. He also supported the ERA, equal pay for women, and affirmative action programs.

Americans' access to computers and the Internet grew dramatically during the Clinton years. Not only did this growth in technology contribute to the economic boom, it also helped the growing trend of globalization.

The Presidency of Bill Clinton Guided Notes

Why had President George H.W. Bush lost popularity by the election of 1992? (slide 1)	By 1992, many people had lost faith in Bush's ability to solve America's problems. Republicans were unhappy that he had broken his promise not to raise taxes. Many people blamed Bush for not removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. Working-class Americans saw him as an elitist with an Ivy League background.
How did Bill Clinton gain appeal among voters? (slide 1)	
What factors during the Clinton administration turned the budget deficit around? (slide 2)	
How did economic prosperity for Americans increase during Clinton's administration? (slide 2)	
What was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)? (slide 3)	
What was the most significant result of NAFTA? (slide 3)	
Why did Clinton's healthcare legislation that secured universal healthcare for all Americans fail? (slide 4)	
What was the Contract with America? (slide 4)	

The Presidency of Bill Clinton Guided Notes	
In what ways did Bill Clinton try to appease conservatives in his policies toward gays and lesbians? (slide 5)	
What were some examples of Clinton's social liberalism? (slide 5)	
How did technology change rapidly during the Clinton administration? (slide 5)	
What factors led to globalization in the 1990s? (slide 5)	

Clinton's Legacy Summary

The Clinton administration saw multiple acts of domestic terrorism. One was a deadly fire set by the Branch Davidians at their compound in Waco, Texas, intended to end a standoff with the government. The other was the bombing of the Oklahoma Federal Building, carried out by American Timothy McVeigh.

Much of Clinton's foreign policy centered around the Middle East. When a brutal conflict erupted between Yugoslavians and Bosnians, the United States launched an air strike that forced the Yugoslavians to retreat.

Clinton faced multiple scandals during his presidency, namely a scandal involving his alleged affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton swore under oath that he hadn't had a sexual relationship with Lewinsky, but Lewinsky presented evidence proving otherwise. Now found to have lied under oath, Clinton faced impeachment. The House of Representatives sent impeachment articles to the Senate, but the Senate voted against removing Clinton from office.

When Clinton's Vice President, Al Gore, ran for president in the 2000 election, he hoped to distance himself from Clinton's scandals. This distancing may have alienated him from many

Democratic voters. Meanwhile, the wealthy George W. Bush ran for president on the Republican ticket. The election was so close that George W. Bush wasn't declared the winner until after three weeks of recounts.

Clinton's Legacy Guided Notes	
What happened in Waco, Texas in the spring of 1993? (slide 1)	A religious group called the Branch Davidians had a compound in Waco. The group was believed to be in illegal possession of weapons, and police attempted a search and seizure. The Branch Davidians resisted police searches, using deadly force. On April 19, a final assault occurred on the compound. Seventy-six men, women, and children died in a fire likely set by sect members.
What act of domestic terrorism did Timothy McVeigh commit? (slide 1)	
What act of foreign terrorism occurred in New York in 1993? (slide 2)	
What attacks did al-Qaeda carry out against Americans between 1998 and 2000? (slide 2)	
What did Bill Clinton see as the United States' role in the post-cold war world? (slide 3)	
How did the U.S. intervene in the conflicts in Bosnia? (slide 3)	
Why did the House of Representatives impeach Clinton? (slide 4)	
What was Clinton's popularity at the end of his second term? (slide 4)	

Clinton's Legacy Guided Notes

Why were the election results delayed in the 2000 presidential election? (slide 5)



Unit Review – Key Words

Describe the following key words from the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton unit. Your descriptions should be as detailed as possible. Include names, dates, and relevant facts related to each key word. Be sure to explain why each person or term is important.

Remember to download and save this PDF before writing.

Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts

Key Word	Description
AIDS Crisis	The AIDS Crisis was an epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The disease was first recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in 1981.
Moral Majority	
New Right	
Phyllis Schlafly	
war on drugs	

Reagan's Domestic Policies

Key Word	Description
inflation	Inflation is a rise in prices that occurs when the availability of goods and services cannot keep up with an increase in the amount of money available.
Reaganomics	

Key Word	Description
recession	

Reagan's Foreign Policies

Key Word	Description
Beirut barracks bombing	The Beirut barracks bombing was carried out by Iranian-trained militants on October 23, 1983. The bombing killed 241 U.S. service personnel.
invasion of Grenada	
Iran-Contra Affair	
peace through strength	
Strategic Arms Limitation Talks/Treaty	
Strategic Defense Initiative	

The Presidency of George H.W. Bush

Key Word	Description
Berlin Wall	The Berlin Wall was a large concrete barrier that divided Soviet-controlled East Berlin from West Berlin. The Soviet Union built the wall in 1961, and it was torn down in 1989.
invasion of Panama	
Operation Desert Storm	

Key Word	Description
Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)	

The Presidency of Bill Clinton

Key Word	Description
contract with America	The contract with America was a list of eight specific legislative reforms or initiatives that Republican representatives promised to enact if they gained a majority in Congress in the 1994 midterm elections.
globalization	
internet	
Newt Gingrich	
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	
welfare-to-work	

Clinton's Legacy

Key Word	Description
Dayton Accords	The Dayton Accords was a peace settlement signed in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995 that ended the war in Bosnia between Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia.
domestic terrorism	

Key Word	Description
impeachment	



Unit Review – Key Questions

Before the unit assessment, answer the following key questions. Each question contains a tip to help you locate the material in the course. You may want to add your own note about the location of the information. Write the answers in your own words, and test your memory of each answer by covering the answer column while quizzing yourself. Remember that some content may be presented in a multimedia presentation, graphic, or other resource. Refer to the transcripts or text versions for written versions of that content.

Key Question / Location	Answer in your own words
In what ways did the Conservative Movement gain power in the 1980s? (Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts)	Conservative groups such as the Moral Majority and the New Right believed that the nation’s problems could be blamed on progressivism and a move away from traditional conservative values. These groups shared the same conservative beliefs. In 1980, they were able to get a fellow conservative, Ronald Reagan, elected president. Most of the voters in the election were conservative, older, wealthier, and white.
What were some of the effects of the rise of conservatism during Reagan’s presidency? (Ronald Reagan and Cultural Shifts)	
What was Reagan’s goal with his Reaganomics “trickle down” policy? (Reagan’s Domestic Policies)	
How did Reagan’s support of deregulation and his anti-union policies affect working -class Americans? (Reagan’s Domestic Policies)	
What were Reagan’s overall goals in his early foreign policy decisions? (Reagan’s Foreign Policies)	

Key Question / Location	Answer in your own words
<p>How did Gorbachev and Reagan work together to cool tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union? (Reagan’s Foreign Policies)</p>	
<p>What events led to the fall of the Soviet Union? (The Presidency of George H.W. Bush)</p>	
<p>How did George H.W. Bush go from being very popular with Americans to losing the election in 1992? (The Presidency of George H.W. Bush)</p>	
<p>What were some successes of the Clinton administration? (The Presidency of Bill Clinton)</p>	
<p>What obstacles did Bill Clinton face in his attempts to pass legislation? (The Presidency of Bill Clinton)</p>	
<p>How did the United States intervene in the conflict in Bosnia? (Clinton’s Legacy)</p>	
<p>Why was Clinton impeached? (Clinton’s Legacy)</p>	

Key Question / Location	Answer in your own words
Why was the Supreme Court involved in determining the 2000 presidential results? (Clinton's Legacy)	