**Unit 10: The Cold War to the Millennium**

**Nixon to Reagan**

* **President Richard Nixon**
	+ Nixon’s Domestic Policy
		- Nixon could not match his successes overseas at home.
		- His presidency was know for a worsening economy, recession-inflation that was called stagflation and a price-and-wage freeze, along with increased federal spending
		- Still politically the American society remained divided among the have and have nots or the conservatives and the progressives
		- Several confrontations on college campuses heightened political tensions, such as the Kent State University tragedy
		- During his presidency the division between the youth and middle age Americans increased, especially over the Vietnam War
		- As well urban crime level rose, causing many to flee to the relative tranquility of the suburbs
		- Still Nixon was able to win the 1972 presidential election in one of the country’s greatest political landslide victories
	+ **Watergate** and Nixon’s Resignation
		- In the summer of 1971, tow major newspapers published the **Pentagon Papers**
			* These were top secret governmental study reports of the history of the US involvement in Vietnam
			* It documented numerous military miscalculations and flat out lies the government had told the American public
			* Nixon fought very aggressively to prevent the Pentagon Papers from being published and available to the public
				+ Nixon was concerned that if the information about was to get out about the US’ secret diplomatic negations with North Vietnam, the USSR and China that it might destroy his credibility in the present
			* The papers were published and Nixon took further action to prevent further and future leaks by creating “plumbers”
				+ Plumbers undertook such disgraceful projects as burglarizing a psychiatrist’s office in order to gather incriminating information on one government official who had helped release the Pentagon Papers
				+ The plumbers even helped sabotaged the 1972 campaigns of several Democratic hopefuls for presidency and botched a burglary at the Democratic headquarters in the **Watergate** Hotel
				+ The plumbers were arrested at the Watergate Hotel and the White House began an immediate effort to cover up the scandal
				+ Information did get out slowly about what had occurred and incriminated the president’s closest advisors, who quickly resigned but were still tried and conceited of felonies
				+ Eventually it was discovered that President Nixon had secretly recorded all conversation in the White House, including many concerning the incident at the Watergate Hotel
				+ The Senate demanded to have the tapes but Nixon refused to turn them over, claiming executive privilege, Nixon lost the battle over the tapes when the Supreme Court ordered Nixon to turn them over to the Senate
				+ Nixon now knew his days were numbered because the tapes would leak out a number of unsavory aspects of Nixon’s character
				+ Rather than face impeachment, Nixon was the first president to resign in 1974
				+ His vice president Gerald Ford became president and then almost immediately granted Nixon a presidential pardon, there by preventing a trial
	+ **President Gerald Ford**
		- Ford became president after Nixon’s resignation
		- Ford was then left to chose his vice president, this was the first time in American history that the president and vice president had not been elected by the public
		- Immediate Issues for Ford
			* Ford’s pardon to Nixon did not really start Ford’s presidency off in the right direction causing many wondered if Nixon and Ford had cut a deal
			* Additionally Ford had to deal with a poor and weak economy
				+ People were encouraged to wear WIN buttons (Whip Inflation NOW)
			* Plus an oil embargo organized by Arab nations under OPEC against the US increased fuel prices resulting in the price of almost everything else to increase as well
			* To make things worse the unemployment rate increased as well
		- Running for re-election in 1976
			* Ford did not win re-election in 1976
				+ It is believed that the way he handled all the issues during his presidency and the damage done by the media, especially on Saturday Night Live, aided to he loss
	+ **President Jimmy Carter**
		- Carter inherited a weakening economy
			* Inflation exceeded to 10% and interest rates on loans approached 20%
			* Carter did try to balance the federal budget but failed just as every American president since Eisenhower
		- **Department of Energy**
			* With OPEC’s increase on petroleum Cater increased research funding on alternative sources of power
			* The Department of Energy was to oversea these efforts
			* Nuclear energy was one option but there were opponents to nuclear power plants and they were semi correct when the nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania’s Three Mile Island failed, releasing radioactive materials into the atmosphere
		- **The Camp David Accords**
			* Carter personally brokered a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt
			* Israel and Egypt had issued dated back for several years but in 1978 they were able to agree and meet with other
			* They meet secretly with Carter at Camp David and the men came to an agreement between the two nations (Israel and Egypt)
			* Ever since the meeting at Camp David, the US has actively a participated in peace negotiations in the region
		- Successes Under Carter
			* Carter concluded an arms agreement wit the USSR
	+ **President Ronald Reagan**
		- The Election of 1980
			* In late 1970s Americans had begun to grow tired of the conflicts of the previous decade
			* Reagan saw that the nation was ready for a major change
			* Reagan, who was a form actor, governor of California and a divorcee presented himself Carter’s opposition in the 1980 election
			* Reagan stressed the positive aspects of America
			* Though many did disagree with Reagan’s conservative politics they did end up voting for him because of his “can do” attitude
			* Reagan won the election of 1980 by a landslide
		- Reagan’s Presidency
			* Economics
				+ Reagan tried to revive the economy by applying the theory of supply-side economics
				+ Under this Reagan believed that if corporate taxes were reduce those corporations would earn greater profits, thus resulting in the corporations buying new equipment and hiring more employees

This would result in wealth trickling down

* + - * + As well Reagan lobbied Congress for an across-the-board tax cut for all Americans

This caused most Americans to like him but some did say that tax cuts hurt the poor

* + - * + At first Reagan’s economic policies had little effect and took two years for effects to be seen on Reagan’s plan

Unemployment did rise and the saying the “rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer” was claimed by Americans

Part of the reason this happened was because the rich were not reinvesting in the economy, they rather used the money saved on taxes to buy luxury items

* + - * New Federalism
				+ Which would decrease the size of the federal government and shift more power to the states
				+ But it was never accomplished
			* The Military
				+ Reagan was able to convince Congress to increase military spending
				+ He funded research into a space-based missile shields system called SDI or Star Wars

This escalated the arms race with the USSR

* + - * Foreign Policy
				+ Reagan sought to end the Cold War by winning it on every front he could in any way he could
				+ Reagan help relations with the USSR when reformer Mikhail Gorbachev rose to power in the USSR
				+ The two met frequently and ultimately negotiated a withdrawal of nuclear warheads from Europe