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The 1960s and 1970s were transformative decades in the United States, marked by liberal advances in civil rights, social programs, and cultural change. However, political scandals and economic challenges led to the rise of the modern conservative movement. Events like the Watergate scandal reduced trust in the government. Conservative ideas gained momentum, advocating for limited government and traditional social values. Decisions like Roe v Wade (1973) which legalized abortion faced backlash from religious conservatives, energizing the Christian Right to promote pro-life policies and uphold family values. This rise in modern conservatism signaled a major political and cultural shift in response to the challenges and controversies of the previous decades. The YAF was founded in 1960 by William BuckleyBuckley was a conservative writer and political commentatorThe organization was a group of conservative college students who supported:the Vietnam Warlimited governmenttraditional family valuesThe YAF played a key role in shaping youth involvement in the conservative movementBy supporting the Vietnam War, YAF contributed to the growing divide between conservative and liberal students during the 1960sStagflation is defined as the combination of high unemployment and high inflation which stagnates the economyIt caused widespread economic hardshipStagnation was caused between 1973-1982 by:rising consumer debtinflationfederal spending on the Vietnam Wara sharp increase in oil pricesPresident Nixon increased federal spending, which worsened the economic climateThe governments inability to effectively address stag nation set the stage for the rise of conservative economic policies championed by Ronald Reaganfor example, tax cuts and deregulationThe economic struggles led many Americans to question government interventionAffirmative action was introduced in 1972 by President Richard NixonThe program aimed to ensure equal hiring opportunities for racial minorities in hiring and admissions to colleges and universities through quotasThis policy faced controversy and opposition from conservativesThey viewed it as unfair and discriminatoryWatergate was a political scandal in 1972, involving President Richard Nixon and the Republican PartyNixons operatives were arrested while breaking into Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building during the re-election of Richard NixonNixon claimed no knowledge of the operationSecret tape recordings from the Oval Office later revealed Nixons involvement in efforts to cover up the crimeNixon resigned in 1974 under threat of impeachmentFollowing this, the American voter's trust in the government deterioratedleading to widespread cynicism and a lack of trust in political leadersRoe v. Wade (1973) is a Supreme Court caseAbortion was legalized nationwide under the right to privacy protected by the Fourteenth AmendmentThis was a major victory for womens rightsThis was a landmark decision that sparked ongoing debate about reproductive rights and womens healthThe decision led to the rise of the religious right, who opposed abortionThe religious right were a movement of conservative Christians who supported the Republican partyThe movement sought to bring back conservative views such as:prayer in schoolsanti-abortionanti-gay rightsKey figures include:Jerry Falwell: a religious leader and TV personality who founded The Moral Majority in 1979Opposed LGBTQ+, the women's movement, and abortionPat Robertson: a religious leader and TV host of the Christian program The 700 Clubpromoted conservative Christian valuesDr. James Dobson: an American psychologist host of the media program Focus on the Familypromoted Christian, conservative family valuesBilly Graham: an American evangelistpromoted Protestant values across the U.S.The John Birch Society was a far-right conservative advocacy group that focused on:anti-communismanti-government interventionThe group was influential in early conservative movements but criticized for being too extremeNew Right and the modern conservative movement gained momentum in the 1980s, under President Ronald ReaganKey focus on conservative values:tax cuts, deregulation, and reducing government interventionstrong anti-communist foreign policy and support for military spendingwanted to bring back prayer in schoolsupported traditional family and religious valuesanti-abortion lawsDid this page help you? Conservatives believe that, when the government regulates the economy, it makes the economy Create your free account By continuing, you agree to Quizgecko's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. The average American was older than in the sixties and more likely to live in the South or West, the traditional bastions of the Old Right, where many harbored suspicions of federal powerThe conservative cause drew strength from the emergence of a New Right movement, partly in response to counter-cultural protests of the 1960sevangelical Christian groups, social issues denouncing abortion, pornography, homosexuality, feminism, and affirmative actionRonald Reagan sided with the new right on social issues denounced the activist govt and failed social engineering of the 1960sboth Reagan and Roosevelt championed the common manReagan preached a populist political philosophy that condemned federal intervention in local affairs, favoritism of minorities and elitism of arrogant bureaucrats (working-class, middle-class)Reagan drew ideas from the neo-conservatives who championed free-market capitalism liberated from govt restraints and took anti-Soviet positions in foreign policy, questioned liberal welfare programs, affirmative action policies, and called for reassertion of traditional valuesAn actor-turned-politician, Reagan enjoyed enormous popularity (governor of California)By 1980 the Republican party was ready to challenge the Democrats hold on the White HouseDisaffection with Carter ran in his own Democratic party where an ABC (Anybody but Carter) movement gathered and Senator Edward Kennedy emerged (Kennedys car accident in 69)The Republican candidate proved to be a good campaigner (acting skills in televised debates)Reagan attacked the performance in foreign policy and blasted the big govt philosophy of the Democrats; Reagan won over 51 percent of the popular vote, moderate independent AndersonCarter was the first elected president to be unseated by the voters since Herbert HooverCarter stressed in his Farewell Address his efforts to scale down the deadly arms race, to promote human rights, and to protest the environment (bill preserving Alaska land)On Reagans Inauguration Day, January 20, 1981, the Iranians released the hostages (444 days)Reagan assembled a conservative cabinet including James Watt who was a product of the Sagebrush Rebellion, an anti-Washington movement to protest federal control over resourcesEnvironmentalists pointed to Watts schemes to hobble the EPA and he resigned in 1983A major goal of Reagan was to reduce the size of the govt by shrinking the federal budget and slashing taxes; by the early 1980s this antigovernment message found a receptive audienceAfter four decades of advancing New Deal and Great Society programs, a strong countercurrent took hold and Californians staged a tax revolt in 1978 (Proposition 13) that slashed property taxes; the California tax quake jolted other state capitals and Reagan proceededReagan proposed a new federal budget that necessitated cuts of some \$35 billion mostly in social programs and federally funded centers (Reagan had a Republican majority in the Senate but in the Democratic House he wooed a group of southern conservative Democratsboll weevils)On March 6, 1981, a gunman shot the president; Reagan recovered rapidly and when he appeared on national television to address Congress/public on his budget, support was enormousCongress swallowed Reagans budget proposals, approving expenditures of \$695 million with a projected deficit of \$38 billion, which Congress addressed by scalping Great Society programsReagan exercised great power over Congress and the second part of his economic program called for deep tax cuts, amounting to 25 percent reductions over a period of three years (TV address)Thanks to the continued defection of the boll weevils from the Democratic camp, Reagan had his way; reforms lowered individual tax rates, reduced estate taxes, and created savings plansReagans supply-side economic advisers assured him that combination of budgetary discipline and tax reduction would stimulate new investment, boost productivity, foster dramatic economic growth, and reduce federal deficit (unemployment, automobile industry lagged, bank failures)The tight money policies that precipitated the Reagan recession of 1982 had been initiated by the Federal Reserve Board; advisers waited for their Reaganomics to produce resultsA healthy economic recovery finally got under way in 1983 but income gaps widenedSymbolic of the new income stratification was the emergence of the yuppies, or young, urban professionals who showcased the values of materialism and the pursuit of wealth of 1980sMassive military expenditures may have constituted the foundation of 1980s prosperityReagan wanted to close window of vulnerabilitygovt borrowing to cover deficits kept interest rates high, which elevated the value of the dollar; America heaviest borrower of 80sAs the Soviets carried on war in Afghanistan, Reagan continued to condemn the KremlinReagan believed in negotiating with the Soviets but from a position of strength; by expanding US military capabilities, he could threaten the Soviets with arms race/economy strongerIn March 1983 Reagan announced intention to pursue a missile-defense system called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), popularly known as Star Wars (overall Soviet strategy)SDI emphasized defense rather than offense; doubts constrained funding for SDIIn late 1981, Poland clamped martial law on the troubled country and the Solidarity (union)Reagan saw the USSR inside Poland and imposed economic sanctions on Poland and the USSRIn September 1983 a Korean passenger airliner was blasted from the sky for violating airspace and by the end of 1983, all arms-control negotiations with the Soviets was broken off;Deepening chill of the Cold War was felt in boycotted Moscow Olympics and LA OlympicsIn June 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon seeking to suppress Palestinian fighter basesPresident Reagan was obliged to send American troops to Lebanon in 1983 as part of an international peacekeeping force and after a suicide bomber killed 200 US marines on October 23, 1983, the president soon after withdrew remaining American troops (no political damage)a leftist revolution deposed the dictator of Nicaragua in 1979 and while Carter tried to ignore anti-American revolutionaries known as Sandinistas, Reagan returned fire for fireDiscovering aid sent to El Salvador, Reagan sent military advisers to prop up the pro-American govt of El Salvador and provided covert aid (invasion force to Grenada)Reagan won the Republican nomination in 1984 for a second White House term and his opponent was Democrat Walter Mondale whose running mate was Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro of New York who was the first woman ever to appear on a major-party presidential ticketMondale was tainted by his service as vice president under Carter and Reagan won handilyForeign-policy issues dominated Reagans news in his second term; the president soon found himself contending for worlds attention with new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev (1985)Gorbachev announced glasnost, or openness to introduce free speech and political liberty and perestroika, or restructuring to revive the Soviet economy with many free-market practicesSoviet Union shrunk the size of its enormous military machine and wanted to end the Cold WarGorbachev made overtures to the West announcing in April 1985 that the Soviet Union would cease to deploy intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) targeted on Western EuropeHE met with Reagan at four summit meetings, Geneva, Iceland, Washington, D.C. in December 1987 which produced the INF treaty, banning all INFs from Europe and the final summit Moscow in May 1988 that brought the Cold War to a kind of conclusionReagan intervened in a civil war in the Philippines, ordered air raid against Libya in 1986 for sponsoring terrorist attacks and escort of oil tankers through the Persian Gulf (Iran vs. Iraq)The continuing captivity of American hostages seized by Muslim extremists in Lebanon and the continuing grip on power of the left-wing Sandinista govt in Nicaragua seemed unsolvableReagan repeatedly requested Congress provide military aid to contra rebels but Congress refusedIn 1985 American diplomats arranged arms sales to Iranians in return for Iranian aid in obtaining the release of American hostages held by Middle Eastern terrorists (money from the payment for the arms was diverted to the contras which violated ban on military aid to Nicaraguan rebels)News of these secret dealings broke in November 1986 and President Reagan pleaded innocent; criminal indictments were brought against several individuals tarred by the Iran-contra scandalThe Iran-contra affair cast a dark shadow over the Reagan record in foreign policy and despite revelations, Reagan remained among the most popular presidents in modern American historyReagan eased many regulatory rules, pushed major tax reform bills through Congress but a balance budget remained out of reach (the combination of tax reduction and huge increases in military spending opened a vast revenue hole of \$200 billion annual deficits)The staggering deficits of the Reagan years assuredly constituted a great economic failure and foreign lenders financed much of the debt (legislation mandating balanced budget, 1986)The deficits contained the welfare state and there was a sharp reversal of a long-term trend toward a more equitable distribution of income and an increasing squeeze on the middle classReligion pervaded American politics in the 1980s; especially conspicuous was a coalition of conservative, evangelical Christians known as the religious right (Moral Majority)Reverend Falwell preached against sexual permissiveness, abortion, feminism, and the gay rights and televangelists reached huge audiences in the 1980s, collected millions and were conservativeMembers of the religious right were sometimes called movement conservatives, a term that recalls the left-wing protest movements of the 1960s (response to sixties radicalism)The religious right practiced a form of identity politics but declared themselves Christian or pro-life voters; the right had prayer meetings; they mirrored tactics of civil disobedienceSeveral leaders of the religious right fell from grace in the latter part of the decade (continued)The courts became Reagans principle instrument in the cultural wars demanded by the religious right; by the time he had left office, Reagan had appointed many sitting judges and he had named three conservative-minded justices to the US Supreme Court who included Sandra Day O'Connor, who became the first woman to ascend to the high bench (9/25/81)Reaganism repudiated two great icons of the liberal political cultureaffirmative action/abortionIn 1984 the Court ruled that union rules about job seniority could outweigh affirmative actionIn two cases in 1989 (Wards Cove Packing v. Antonia and Martin v. Wilks), the Court made it more difficult to prove that an employer practiced racial discrimination in hiring and made it easier for white males to argue that they were the victims of reverse discriminationIn the case of Roe v. Wade in 1973, the Supreme Court prohibited states from making laws that interfered with a womans right to an abortion during the early months of pregnancy and two decades later, that decision became the foundation for pro-choice advocatesIn Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the Court in 1989 did not entirely overturn Roe but it approved state law imposing certain restrictions on abortion (Planned Parenthood v. Casey)Republicans lost control of the Senate in the elections of November 1986; hopes rose among Democrats that the Reagan Revolution: might be showing signs of political vulnerabilityDemocrats relished the prospect of making political hay out of both the Iran-contra scandal and the unethical behavior that tainted the Reagan administration and the twin towers of deficits, the federal budget deficit and international trade deficit that continued to mount ominouslyFalling oil prices blighted the economy of the Southwest, slashing real estate values and undermining hundreds of savings-and-loans (S&L) institutions the damage was so massive that a federal rescue operation was estimated to have cost over \$500 billion to the S&LsMore banks and savings institutions were folding than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s; on Black Monday, October 19, 1987, the largest stock one-day decline occurredDemocrats (Seven Dwarfs) chased after the partys 1988 presidential nomination but the Democratic front-runner (Gary Hart) was forced to drop out after charges of sexual misconductBlack candidate Jesse Jackson had a rousing speech but the Democratic nomination went to the governor of Massachusetts, Michael Dukakis while the Republicans nominated Reagans vice president, George Bush on won using Reagans record during his presidencyGeorge Herbert Walker Bush attended Yale, was part of WW II and owned his own oil business in Texas before he was a congressman, ambassador to the UN, director of the CIA and vice president and was inaugurated as president in January 1989 (communist despots attention)In China prodemocracy demonstrators protested in Beijings Tiananmen Square in the spring of 1989 but Chinas rulers brutally crushed the prodemocracy movement publicly executing peopleWorld opinion condemned the bloody suppression of the prodemocracy demonstratorsIn 1989, the Solidarity movement in Poland toppled Polands communist govt and with speed, communist regimes collapsed in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and RomaniaIn December 1989, Germans danced atop the hated Berlin Wall, symbol of the division; the Wall soon came down and with the approval of the Allied power, Germany reunited in October 90Old guard hard-liners to preserve the communist system attempted to dislodge Gorbachev with a military coup in August 1991 and with the support of Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, Gorbachev foiled the plotters; in December 1991, Gorbachev resigned as president Boris Yeltsin headed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (Soviet Union dissolved)The demise of the Soviet Union wrote a definitive finish to the Cold War era; Bush spoke of a new world order where democracy would reign and diplomacy would supersede weaponryIn 1993 President Bush signed the START II accord with Russian president Boris Yeltsin committing both powers to reduce their long-range nuclear arsenals by two-thirds in 10 yearsWaves of nationalistic fervor and ethnic and racial hatreds rolled across the Soviet empireA conflict erupted in the Russian Caucasus in 1991 when the Chechnyan minority tired to declare their independence from Russia, prompting President Yeltsin to send in Russian troopsRefugees from the strife-torn regions flooded into Western Europe (ethnic antagonisms)The German economy wobbled, the stability of the entire European continent seemed at riskThe Soviet-American rivalry had created huge economic sectors such as aerospace which were heavily sustained by military contracts; military closings and cancellations followedElsewhere in the world, democracy marched triumphantly forward (Nelson Mandela in South Africa, free elections in Nicaragua removed Sandinistas from power, peace to El Salvador)President Bush sent in airborne troops to capture dictator Manuel Noriega in Panama in 1989On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein, ruler of Iraq, sent his armies to overrun Kuwait; oil fueled Saddams aggressionIraq needed Kuwaits oil to pay its huge war bills (war with Iran)The United States and its allies had helped supply Saddam with the tools of aggression; but in the 1980s American enmity for Islamic-fundamentalist Iran was intense and American policy-makers helped build Saddams military machine into a formidable force (speed and audacity)On August 3, the United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion and demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqs troops, economic embargo failureThe Security Council delivered an ultimatum to Saddam to leave Kuwait by 1/15/91 but as the day passed, some 339,000 US soldiers were assembled (all-volunteer) and 270,000 other troopsUS Congress voted regretfully on January 12 to approve the use of forceOn January 16, 1991, the UN unleashed an air war against Iraq that responded by launching several dozen Scud short-range ballistic missiles in Saudi Arabia and IsraelThe allied commander, American general Norman Schwarzkopfs strategy was to soften the Iraq with relentless bombing, and then to suffocate them on the ground with a rush of troopsIraq had stockpiled tons of chemical and biological weapons (ecological warfare)On February 23, the land war began with Operation Desert Storm that lasted only four daysAllied casualties were amazingly light, and on February 27, Saddam accepted a cease-fireThe end of the war had come so suddenly that antiwar sentiment never crystallizedThe war had nevertheless failed to dislodge Saddam from power (internal conflicts)George Bush signed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 (kinder, gentler America)The president signed a major water projects bill in 1922 that reformed the distribution of subsidized federal water in the West that put the interests of the environment ahead of agricultureBush repeatedly threatened to veto civil rights legislation (prevent discrimination in hiring)In 1991 Bush nominated for the Supreme Court the conservative African-American jurist Clarence Thomas who was slated to fill a seat vacated by the retirement of Thurgood MarshallThomas nomination was opposed by the liberal groups, NAACP and NOW (abortion rights)In October 1991, a press leak revealed that Anita Hill, a law professor, had accused Thomas of sexual harassment; the public outcry forced the Senate Judiciary Committee to reopen hearingsHills charges had failed to block Thomas nomination; the furor over Clarence Thomas confirmation suggested that the social issues that had helped produce Republican presidential victories in the 1980s were losing some of their electoral appeal; many voters opposed BushThe unemployment rate increased and the federal budget deficit continued to growBush agreed in 1990 to a budget agreement with Congress that included \$133 billion in new taxes; In his presidential campaign Bush had promised no new taxes but he had broken itIn 1991 it was revealed that many members of the House had written bad checksdistrustThe slumbering economy, the widening gender gap, and the rising anti-incumbent spirit spelled opportunity for Democrats; Governor William Clinton of AK emerged as the standard-bearerHe chose Al Gore of TN as his vice-presidential running mate; in 1984 Clinton and other Democrats had formed the Democratic Leadership Council to point eh party away from its traditional antibusiness, dovish orientation and toward progrowth, strong defense, and anticrimeClinton promised to stimulate the economy, reform the welfare system, and overhaul the nations health-care apparatus while the Republican strove on family values and renominated BushFear of the economic problems of the future swayed votes; Ross Perot emerged as independentPerots presence accounted for a record turnout on election day (100 million) and the final tallies gave Clinton the win (Perot gathered almost 20 million votes, strongest third party showing)Democrats racked up clear majorities in both houses of Congress with great diversity while Carol Moseley-Braun became the first African-American woman elected to the US SenateWomen figured prominently in President Clintons cabinet including the first female attorney general, Janet Reno and Donna Shalala, the secretary of health and human servicesIn 1993, Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Court to make a pair of women justicesClinton entered office by advocating an end to the ban on gays and lesbians in the armed services and faced with fierce opposition, the president had to settle for the dont ask, dont tell policyClinton nominated his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton as the director of a task force charged with redesigning the medical-service industry, which was dead upon arrival and she stepped backClinton had better luck with a deficit-reduction bill in 1993, which combined with a moderately buoyant economy to shrink the federal deficit to its lower level in more than a decadeIn 1993, he induced Congress to pass the gun-control law, the Brady Bill and in July of 1994 made further progress against the national plague of firearms with a \$30 billion anticrime billThe US struggled to hold the line against an epidemic of violence that rocked American society in the 1990s including a Muslim group bombing of New Yorks World Trade Center in 93A still larger blast destroyed a federal office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1995 taking 168 lives (linked to the fundamentalist sect known as the Branch Davidians)The confidence in the govt was in short supply by the centurys end Clintons failed initiatives and antigovt sentiment offered conservative Republicans a golden opportunity in 1994; led by New Gingrich, conservatives offered voters a Contract with America that promised all-out assault on budget deficits/radical reductions in welfare programsThe new Republican majority after the 1994 elections legislated federal laws that imposed new obligations on state and local govt without providing new revenues and in 1996 the Congress compelled Clinton to sign the Welfare Reform Bill that made deep cuts in welfare grants and required able-bodied welfare recipients to find employment (restricted immigration welfare)Clinton was at first stunned by the magnitude of the Republican congressional victory in 1994 and outlandishly partisan antics bred a backlash that helped President Clinton reboundIntons reelection campaign raised spectacular sums of money and the eventual Republican standard-bearer was Robert Dole and buoyed by a healthy economy breezed to an easy victoryAs Clinton began his second term, he proposed only modest legislative goalsClinton managed to put Republicans on the defensive by claiming the political middle groundHE now embraced the Welfare Reform Bill of 1996 and though Proposition 209 in CA (prohibiting affirmative action preferences in govt and higher education) and the Hopwood v. Texas decision assaulted affirmative action, he did not try to reverse them (public opinion) Clintons major political advantage continued to be the roaring economy, while unemployment crept down and inflationary pressure remained low (US driven by Internet businesses)Scandal and Impeachment Clintons LegacyThe Bush-Gore President BattleYou just finished Chapter 41: The Resurgence of Conservatism, 1980-2000. Nicework!Previous ChapterNext ChapterTip: Use keys to navigate!Aboukhadjeh, Feross. "Chapter 41: The Resurgence of Conservatism, 1980-2000" StudyNotes.org. Study Notes, LLC. 17 Nov. 2012. Web. 01 Jun. 2025. < . Create your free account By continuing, you agree to Quizgecko's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

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