

Unit VIII: Cold War to Reagan Era

~1945-1988~

A Meridian® APUSH Study Guide by
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❖ **Major Elections of the Era:**

Major Elections		
1948	Republican: Thomas Dewey	Although unpopular, Truman unexpectedly defeated the Republican candidate Dewey. Southern Democrats, furious at the nomination of Truman, split from the Democrats and formed the "Dixiecrat" party advocating the continuation of segregation. Henry Wallace, former Vice President under Roosevelt, also entered the election calling for reconciliation with the Soviets. Even without support of the "Solid South", Truman won the election.
	Democrat: Harry S. Truman	
	Dixiecrats: Strom Thurmond	
	Progressive: Henry Wallace	
1960	Republican: Richard M. Nixon	Kennedy secured a narrow victory over former Vice President Nixon. Critics assailed Kennedy's Catholicism, while Nixon is charged with failing to keep the Soviets from gaining on American prestige. Televised debates as played a prominent role: Kennedy's appearance may have granted him an advantage.
	Democrat: John F. Kennedy	
1968	Republican: Richard M. Nixon	Nixon promised to restore "law and order" after the Vietnam war and Kennedy's assassination. The Democratic party was thrown into disarray after the assassination of Robert Kennedy. Wallace advocated continuation of segregation, gaining support of Southern states. Nixon won the election easily.
	Democrat: Herbert Humphrey	
	Independent: George Wallace	
1980	Republican: Ronald Reagan	Incumbent Carter was unpopular due the stagnant economy and the Iran Hostage Crisis. Reagan promised to revitalize the economy on a conservative platform and won a landslide victory over Carter.
	Democrat: Jimmy Carter	

➤ **Third Parties:**

Third Parties of the Era		
Name	Election	Description
Dixiecrats	1948	Southern Democrats who split from the party opposing Truman's civil rights platform.
Progressive	1948	Henry Wallace, former Vice President under Roosevelt, broke from the Democratic Party and ran under the Progressive Party calling for a "cooling" of the relations with the Soviets.
Independent	1960	Party formed against the civil rights platforms of the major parties. It secured the support of the Deep South.

❖ **Foreign Policy: Also see "Post World War II Presidents"**

➤ **International Organizations:**

U.S. International Involvement		
Name	Date	Description
U.N	1945-	Replaced the League of Nations after World War II. The U.S.

	Present	became an active member in the organization unlike the former League.
NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)	1949- Present	Originally intended to unite the Western nations against Communist influence. After Cold War, however, NATO expanded into former Eastern bloc nations, adopting the role of a mutual defense organization.
Warsaw Pact	1955- 1991	Formed in response to NATO, the treaty organized the military of the Soviet Union with its satellite Eastern bloc nations. At the end of the Cold War, the Pact dissolved, with many of the nations joining NATO.
SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization)	1954-1977	Alliance between the U.S., Britain, France, and several Southeast Asia nations. It was created from the Truman Doctrine as proposed by Dulles. The alliance failed to intervene in Vietnam and Laos, leading to eventual disbandment.
OAS (Organization of American States)	1951 Present	Organization for the mutual defense of American republics in response to the Communist threat. It replaced the Pan-American Union.

➤ **Policies:**

Foreign Strategies		
Name	Policies	Description
George Kennan	Containment	Head of the policy committee under Acheson and Truman. He formulated the policy of containment, which declared that the U.S. would prevent the spread of Communist influence.
Dean Acheson	Containment	Secretary of State under Truman who helped to devise the Marshall Plan as well as the Truman Doctrine. Although anti-communist, critics accused him of being too "soft".
John Foster Dulles	Massive Retaliation, Brinkmanship	Secretary of State under Eisenhower who advocated an aggressive stance against the Communists. He argued that neutrality was impossible and encouraged pushing the Soviets to the brink of war in order to force concessions.

- ✓ **McCarthyism:** Policy began by Senator Joseph McCarthy where officials would be unfairly accused of sympathizing with Communists, taking advantage of public fear for personal gain.

- ❖ **Tensions with the U.S.S.R.:** Communism and capitalism were hostile philosophies. During World War II, the U.S. had suspended lend-lease and denied participation in the Manhattan Project. U.S. was suspicious of the intentions of the Soviet, believing that they intended to spread Communism

❖ **Domestic Policies:**

➤ **Presidential Agendas:**

U.S. International Involvement		
Name	President	Description
Fair Deal	Truman	Domestic policy intended to expand Roosevelt's New Deal. It intended to expand government aid to education, housing, agriculture, and civil rights. Congress passed most of the proposed legislation.
New Frontier	Kennedy	Ambitious domestic plan to create Medicare, fund education, and end discrimination. Congress resisted most of the reforms.
The Great Society	Johnson	Adopted much of the unfinished goals of the New Frontier with the goals of ending poverty and racial discrimination. It was extremely successful in terms passing of legislation.

- **Post War Effects:** U.S. economy dropped into a brief recession. The U.S. government resolved to take a larger role in the economy, allowing the economy to enter the longest period of growth in its history.

Also see "Post World War II Presidents" guide.

❖ **Major Events:**

Name	Date	Description
Korean Conflict	June 25, 1950	South Korean forces were shoved back southward to Pusan Perimeter. Truman issued the National Security Council Memorandum Number 68, which allowed the US to quadruple its defense spending. Truman then took full advantage of temporary Soviet absence from the UN Security Council meeting on June 25, 1950, when he obtained a unanimous condemnation of N. Korea as an aggressor. Officially, the US was simply participating in a UN "police action", but in actuality, the US made up the overwhelming bulk of the UN contingents, and General MacArthur took orders from Washington, not from the Security Council.
Truman Doctrine	March 12, 1947	Truman asked for \$400 million to bolster Greece and Turkey. He declared that <i>"it must be the policy of the US to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures"</i> . Critics then and later charged that Truman had overreacted by promising unlimited support to any despot who claimed to be resisting "Communist aggression".
Iron Curtain	March 1946	Coined by Winston Churchill, "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. This iron curtain divides free and democratic West from an East under totalitarian rule.
"Doves v. Hawks"	N/A	Doves desired peace during the Vietnam war. Hawks desired war, and further belligerency.
Cuban Missile Crisis	October 22, 1962	Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine of Cuba and demanded immediate removal of the threatening weaponry. He also served notice on Khrushchev that any attack on the US from Cuba would be regarded as coming from the Soviet Union and would trigger nuclear retaliation against the Russian heartland. On October 28, he agreed to a partially face saving compromise, by which he would pull the missiles out of Cuba. The U.S. in return agreed to end the quarantine and not invade the island. The American government also quietly signaled that it would remove from Turkey some of its own missiles target on the Soviet Union.
Peace Corps	1961	Designed to send American civilian volunteers to developing nations. The volunteers would aid local citizens in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in such fields as education, health, technology, and agriculture.
Watergate Scandal	1974	The scandal began as a scheme to create the biggest win possible in the 1972 election. The Committee to Re Elect the President (CREEP) had bugged the offices of the Democratic Party campaign headquarters in the Watergate Hotel and office buildings in Washington DC, in June of 1972. One of the "burglars", who had worked for the CIA was and employee of CREEP, and had in his pocket the telephone number of John Mitchell, the former US attorney general and head of Nixon's 1972 campaign. The scandal involved hundreds of thousands of dollars in payoffs for silence, stolen information from a psychiatrist's office, and the cover up of illegal activities. Nixon had full knowledge of the scandals despite his repeated denials. He was charged with "Obstruction of Justice". The Saturday Night Massacre occurred when Nixon forced out two attorneys general because they would not fire the

		special prosecutor.
Brown v. Board	1954	Linda Brown was denied admission to her local elementary school in Topeka because she was black. NAACP lawyers lead by Thurgood Marshall successfully argued the case using the results of psychological and sociological studies showing that segregation affects the ability of African American children to learn. Chief Justice Earl Warren led the Court to overrule Plessy v. Ferguson 1896, concluding that "the doctrine of separate but equal has no place" in public schools.
Bus boycott	1955	Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man. By the next day no African American person rode the public busses, as the Women's Political Council had distributed 30,000 leaflets calling for a boycott. For 11 months, the black community refused to ride buses, either walking or arranging carpools to get to work. Eventually the boycott was successful as the Supreme Court ordered desegregation of the buses.
Native Americans	N/A	Eisenhower also sought to cancel the tribal preservation policies of the "Indian New Deal", in place since 1934. He proposed to terminate the tribes as legal entities and to revert to the assimilationist goals of the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887. A few tribes, notably the Klamaths of Oregon, were induced to terminate themselves in return for cash payments.
Domino Theory	Eisenhower	Eisenhower's theory that one Communist country would infiltrate or influence its neighbors, supporting insurrection there and causing them to become Communist too. They would fall like dominoes. JFK, LBJ and Nixon also used this theory, a version of containment.
Israel	N/A	The US supported Israel, causing many middle eastern nations to become antagonistic to the US with regard to oil.
Philippine Independence	July 4, 1946	Philippine independence in 1946 came with numerous strings attached. The U.S. retained dozens of military bases, and that independence was linked to legislation passed by the U.S. Congress which was designed to ensure that the Philippines would remain an economic ward of the US.
Vietnam, LBJ/Nixon	March 1957-1975	LBJ dispatched actual American troops, and launched "Operation Rolling Thunder" in March 1965. His strategy was gradual escalation, sending in a bit more troops every time. But this was ineffective, since the guerilla warfare stepped up as well each time. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution allowed for LBJ to use any means necessary to win the war. The Viet Cong launch the Tet offensive, attacking 27 cities in the South. Nixon's strategy was Vietnamization, or gradually removing troops from Vietnam. The South Vietnamese with American money, weapons, training, and advice could then gradually take over the burden of fighting their own war. However, Nixon actually widened the war by attacking Cambodia in 1970. The Cambodian invasion deepened the bitterness between hawks and doves. Nixon then met with China, and later Russia, and ushered in an era of détente, with the 2 communist powers. On 15 January 1973, citing progress in peace negotiations, President Nixon announced the suspension of offensive action in North Vietnam which was later followed by a unilateral withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. The Paris Peace Accords were later signed on 27 January 1973, which officially ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict, marking the first loss in United States military history.
Alliance for Progress	1961	Kennedy's Marshall Plan for Latin America. The primary goal was to help the Good Neighbors close the gap between the calloused

		rich and the wretched poor, and thus quiet communist agitation. But the results were disappointing; there was little alliance and even less progress. American handouts had little positive impact on Latin America's immense social problems.
Iranian Hostage Crisis	1985	The Reagan administration was involved in a scandal comparable to Watergate. This was their scheme to release the hostages in Lebanon, and at the same time give aid to the anti Communist Contras in Nicaragua. President Reagan appeared to the American public and told a national television audience that the United States had not sold weapons to Iran. In a later televised Presidential Address he clarified that facts showed that the administration had, in fact, done so. Reagan repeatedly denied that he had authorized the arms exchanges, but took full responsibility for what happened.
The "hotline"	August 1963	Moscow-Washington hotline that permits immediate teletype communication in case of crisis. Showed a thaw in the Cold War.
Little Rock Incident	September 1957	Ike was forced to act to allow 9 black students to enroll in Little Rock's Central high School. Orval Faubus, the governor of Arkansas mobilized the National Guard to prevent them. Eisenhower sent troops to escort the children to their classes.
Black Power	N/A	The political advocacy of black owned businesses and independent black political action. Stokely Carmichael first used the term in a position paper for the SNCC in 1965.
Taft Hartley Act	1947	Made "closed-shop" illegal, labor unions could no longer force employers to hire only union members although it allowed the "union-shop" in which newly hired employees were required to join the union. It established an 80 day cooling off period for strikers in key industries, ended the practice of employers collecting dues for unions, forbade such actions as secondary boycotts, jurisdictional strikes, featherbedding, and contributing to political campaigns, and required an anti communist oath of union officials. This act slowed down efforts to unionize the South and by 1954 fifteen states had passed "right to work" laws, forbidding the "union-shop".
Agency for Intl' Development	1961	The United States Agency for International Development (or USAID) is the U.S. government organization responsible for most non-military foreign aid. An independent federal agency, it receives overall foreign policy guidance from the US Secretary of State and seeks to "extend a helping hand to those people overseas struggling to make a better life, recover from a disaster or striving to live in a free and democratic country..."

❖ Other Events:

➤ Foreign Events:

Presidents	
Name	Description
Postwar Middle East Policy	In 1973, when U.S. backed Israel in the Yom Kippur War against Egypt and Syria, OPEC nations put an embargo that limited oil exports to U.S. and caused a crisis through the nation through this oil shortage. Even though the embargo was lifted a year later, OPEC roughly quadrupled the price of petroleum. The International Energy Agency was later formed to counter OPEC's high petroleum prices.
Eisenhower Doctrine	In 1957, U.S. stated that it would use armed forces upon request in response to imminent or actual aggression to the Middle East. Furthermore, countries that took stances opposed to Communism would be given aid in various forms.

Bay of Pigs	CIA-planned and funded landing by armed Cuban exiles in southwest Cuba in an attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro in 1961. The invasion failed miserably when Kennedy refused to send air support.
Dominican Republic and Haiti	The U.S. sent Marines to maintain order in the area, largely to prevent Communists to get a foothold. It contributed to the tensions between U.S. and Latin America.
USSR v. Afghanistan	A war broke out between the Soviet forces and anti-government insurgents in 1979 that were fighting to depose Afghanistan's Marxist government. The Soviet Union supported the government while the insurgents found support from a variety of sources including the United States, and Pakistan.
Warren Courts	The 14 th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appointed by Eisenhower who is known for his "judicial activism". His term of office was marked by numerous rulings affecting, among other things, the legal status of racial segregation, civil rights, separation of church and state and police arrest procedure in the United States. Also see "People"
Burger Courts	The 15 th Chief Justice of the United States also known for his "judicial activism". Under his leadership, the United States Supreme Court delivered major decisions on abortion, capital punishment, and school desegregation. He worked hard for the adoption of modern management techniques in the nation's judicial system. Also see "People".
Urban Riots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom Riders: a group of men and women from many different backgrounds and ethnicities who boarded buses, trains and planes headed for the deep South to test the 1960 U.S. Supreme Court ruling outlawing racial segregation in all interstate public facilities. Many of these resulted in riots and the torching of buses and freedom riders getting beaten up. - Rise of Counter Culture: Many of the Counter Culture plead for civil rights such as public demonstrations gave rise to urban riots. Harmless Drugs experimentations gave rise to addicted weed smokers and powerful underground drug lords that often resulted in underground riots.
Equal Rights Amendment	Proposed amendment to the United States Constitution in 1979 that would guarantee equal rights under the law for Americans regardless of sex. However, the amendment failed ratification due to much opposition shouting for its obliteration of traditional distinction between sexes
Social Security Act	A social insurance program that was initially signed into law by FDR in 1935 and it covered unemployment insurance, but now the term is used in America to mean only the three benefits for retirement, disability and death which are the three main benefits provided by traditional private sector pension plans that still exist.
Civil Rights Act of 1964	The landmark legislation outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Originally conceived to protect the rights of black men, the bill was amended prior to passage to protect the civil rights of all men and women as well.
SALT II Treaty	A second round of talks from 1972 to 1979 between the U.S. and Soviet Union, which sought to reduce the manufacture of strategic nuclear weapons. Even though U.S. senate never ratified the treaty, the terms were nonetheless honored by both sides.
Medicare	A health insurance program administered by LBJ in 1965 as amendments to the Social Security legislation, which covered people who are either age 65 and over, or who meet other special criteria.
Medicaid	A program managed by the states and funded jointly by the states and federal government created in 1965 to provide health insurance for individuals and families with low incomes and resources.

Fair Labor Standard Act	Passed in 1938, the FLSA establishes a national minimum wage, guarantees time and a half for overtime in certain jobs, and prohibits most employment of minors in "oppressive child labor".
Voting Rights Act of 1965	Outlawed the requirement that voters in the United States take literacy tests to qualify to register to vote, and it provided for federal registration of voters -- instead of state or local voter registration which had often been denied to minorities and poor voters--in areas that had less than 50% of eligible minority voters registered.
Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (GI Bill of Rights)	Provided for college or vocational education for returning World War II veterans as well as one-year of unemployment compensation. It also provided loans for returning veterans to buy homes and start businesses.

❖ **People of the Era:**

Presidents	
Name	Description
Harry S. Truman (Democrat)	Succeeded after Roosevelt's death. The Fair Deal was Truman's main domestic policy (See "Domestic Policies"), repealing Taft-Hartley and a strong civil rights program. As the first president to experience the Cold-War era, he called for flexibility by creating special organizations such as the Green Berets.
Dwight Eisenhower (Republican)	Popularly known as "Ike". Supreme Commander of Allied forces in WWII. Known for the construction of the Interstate Highway System, based on the Autobahn in Germany.
John F. Kennedy (Democrat)	Most noted for his involvement in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Space Race, and the American Civil Rights Movement. Assassinated in 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald.
Lyndon B. Johnson (Democrat)	Succeeded after John F. Kennedy's assassination. He's responsible for new civil rights legislation, Medicare, and a war on poverty, but also known for fueling the Vietnam War fire. Although reelected with a landslide vote, the democrat party fell in disarray shortly after so he pledged not to run for another term.
Richard Nixon (Republican)	Nixon created peace by playing off the USSR and China. He is also credited with ending the Vietnam War. His success is scarred by the Watergate scandal. He is the only president to resign from office.
Gerald Ford (Republican)	Following the resignation of Richard Nixon, Ford ascended to the presidency. The Ford administration saw the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam, the Helsinki Accords and continuing of inflation and recession. The administration was hampered in its ability to pass major legislation.
Jimmy Carter (Democrat)	Known for the Panama Canal Treaties and the Camp David Accords.
Ronald Reagan (Republican)	Most famed for "Reaganomics" or supply-side economics. It cuts income tax, reduces inflation, and reduces interest rates, but greatly increase military spending. This created massive national debt, but lead to huge economic expansion.

Politicians	
Name	Description
George McGovern	United States Congressman, Senator, and Democratic presidential candidate, losing the 1972 presidential election to incumbent Richard Nixon. McGovern was most noted for his opposition to the Vietnam War. He is currently serving as the United Nations global ambassador on hunger.

Eugene McCarthy	In the 1968 presidential election, McCarthy unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for president of the United States to succeed incumbent Lyndon B. Johnson on an anti-Vietnam War platform. He would unsuccessfully seek the presidency five times altogether.
John Baynard Anderson	Liberal Republican U.S. Representative from Illinois and presidential candidate in the 1980 election.
George Wallace	American politician who was elected Governor of Alabama as a Democrat four times and ran for U.S. President four times as well. He is best known for his racist attitudes, for which he later repented, during American desegregation.
Spiro Agnew	39th Vice President of the United States, serving from 1969 to 1973 under President Richard M. Nixon, but is most famous for his resignation in 1973 following evidence of tax evasion. Agnew was also the 55 th governor of the state of Maryland from 1967 to 1969.
Winston Churchill	British politician, best known as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during the Second World War. At various times a soldier, journalist, author, painter, and politician, Churchill is generally regarded as one of the most important leaders in modern British and world history. He won the 1953 Nobel Prize in Literature.
Senator Joseph McCarthy	A Republican Senator from the state of Wisconsin. During his ten years in the Senate, McCarthy and his staff gained notoriety for making freewheeling accusations (See "McCarthyism"). These accusations were largely directed towards people in the U.S. government, particularly employees of the State Department, but included many others as well.
Earl Warren	California district attorney of Alameda County, the 30th Governor of California, and the 14th Chief Justice of the United States (from 1953 to 1969). As Chief Justice, his term of office was marked by numerous rulings affecting, among other things, the legal status of racial segregation, civil rights, separation of church and state and police arrest procedure in the United States.
Warren Burger	Chief Justice of the United States from 1969 to 1986. Under his leadership, the United States Supreme Court delivered major decisions on abortion, capital punishment, and school desegregation. He worked hard for the adoption of modern management techniques in the nation's judicial system.

Civil Rights Leaders	
Name	Description
Eldridge Cleaver	American civil rights activist and high ranking member of the Black Panther Party. Candidate of the Peace and Freedom Party in 1968. Later was deported to Algeria for attempted murder. Came back and wrote the book, <i>Soul on Fire</i> which reflected his exile in Algeria.
Martin Luther King Jr.	The most famous American civil rights leader. A Baptist minister and political activist. Won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. King proposed "non-violent civil disobedience" started by Mahatma Gandhi of India. Assassinated in 1968.
Malcolm X	Muslim Minister and National Spokesman of Islam. A prominent black nationalist and militant leader, he advocated black pride, identity politics, and economic self-reliance. Assassinated in NYC in 1965.
Stokely Carmichael	Black activist and leader of the Black Panther Party. Later became a black separatist and Pan-Africanist. Also advocated black power, such as in his "Black Power" speech. Wrote a book <i>Black Power</i> in 1967.

Advisors	
Name	Description
George Kennan	American advisor, diplomat, political scientist, and historian, best known as "the father of containment". See "Foreign Policy".
John Foster Dulles	American statesman who served as Secretary of State under President Dwight D. Eisenhower who advocated an aggressive stance against communism. See "Foreign Policy".
George Marshall	American military leader and Secretary of State best remembered for his leadership in the Allied victory in World War II and for his work establishing the post-war reconstruction effort for Europe, which became known as the Marshall Plan.
Dean Acheson	U.S. Secretary of State under Truman, responsible for the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. See "Foreign Policy".

Other	
Name	Description
Lee Harvey Oswald	Assassin of US President John F. Kennedy, and as the murderer of Dallas Texas policeman J. D. Tippit on November 22, 1963, by the Warren Commission and three other formal federal investigations into the assassination.