

America Since 1945



Domestic Issues

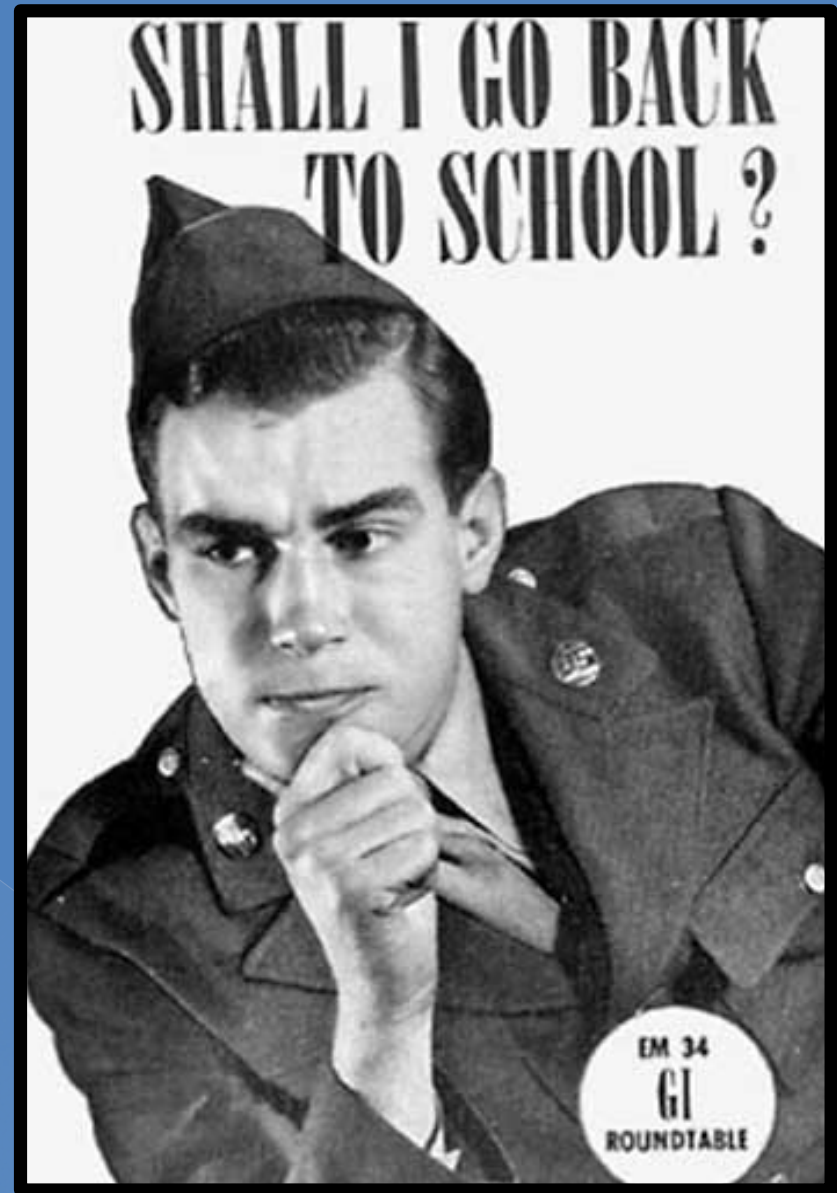
Sean McAtee

Iroquois High School, Elma, NY (May 2015)

THE G.I. BILL

Provided college for returning
World War II veterans
(commonly referred to as GIs)

Provided one year of
unemployment compensation



*Millions of GIs bought homes,
attended college, started
business venture, or found jobs*

Truman and Civil Rights

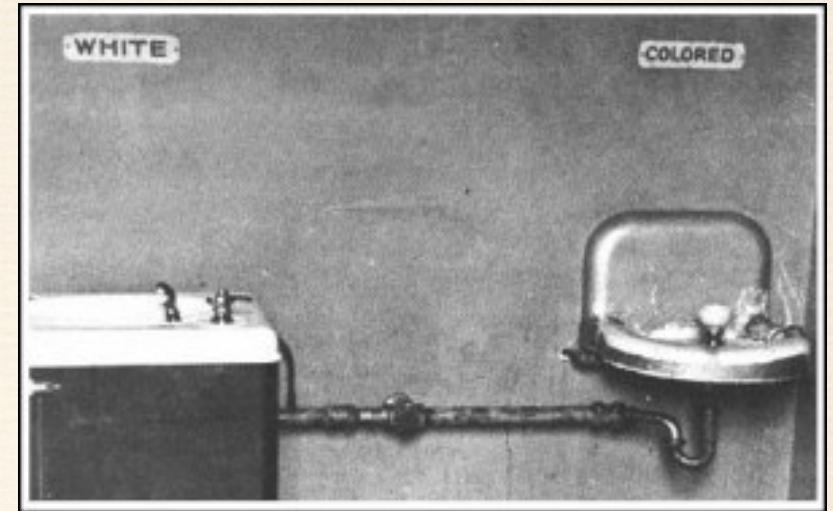


In 1948, Truman issued an executive order ending segregation in the armed forces

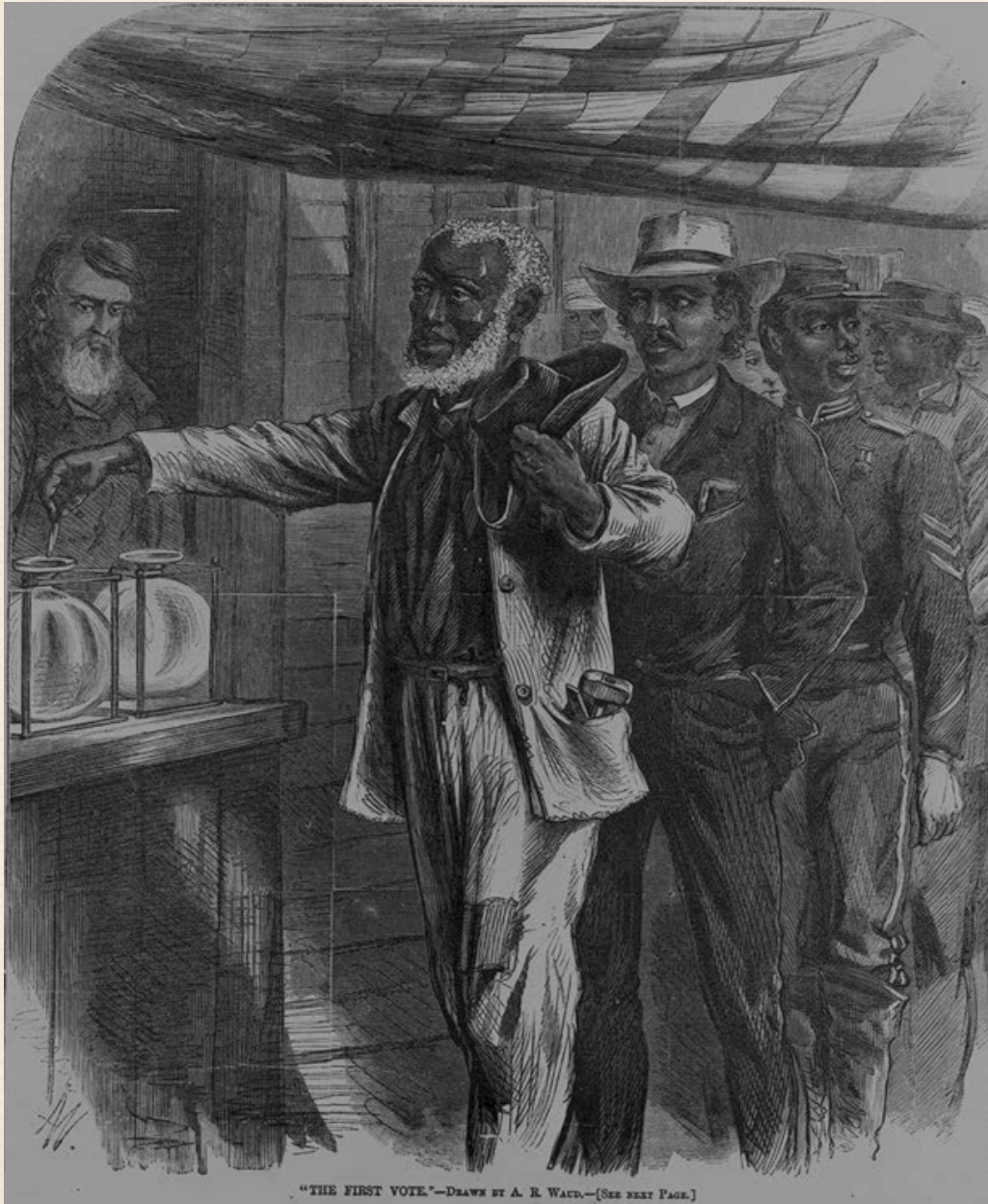
Did this action convince African Americans that this was the time to fight segregation everywhere?



Segregation - Inequality



African Americans after Civil War



13th Amendment (1865)
Ended Slavery

14th Amendment (1867)
Former slaves are citizens
Due process &
Equal protection clauses

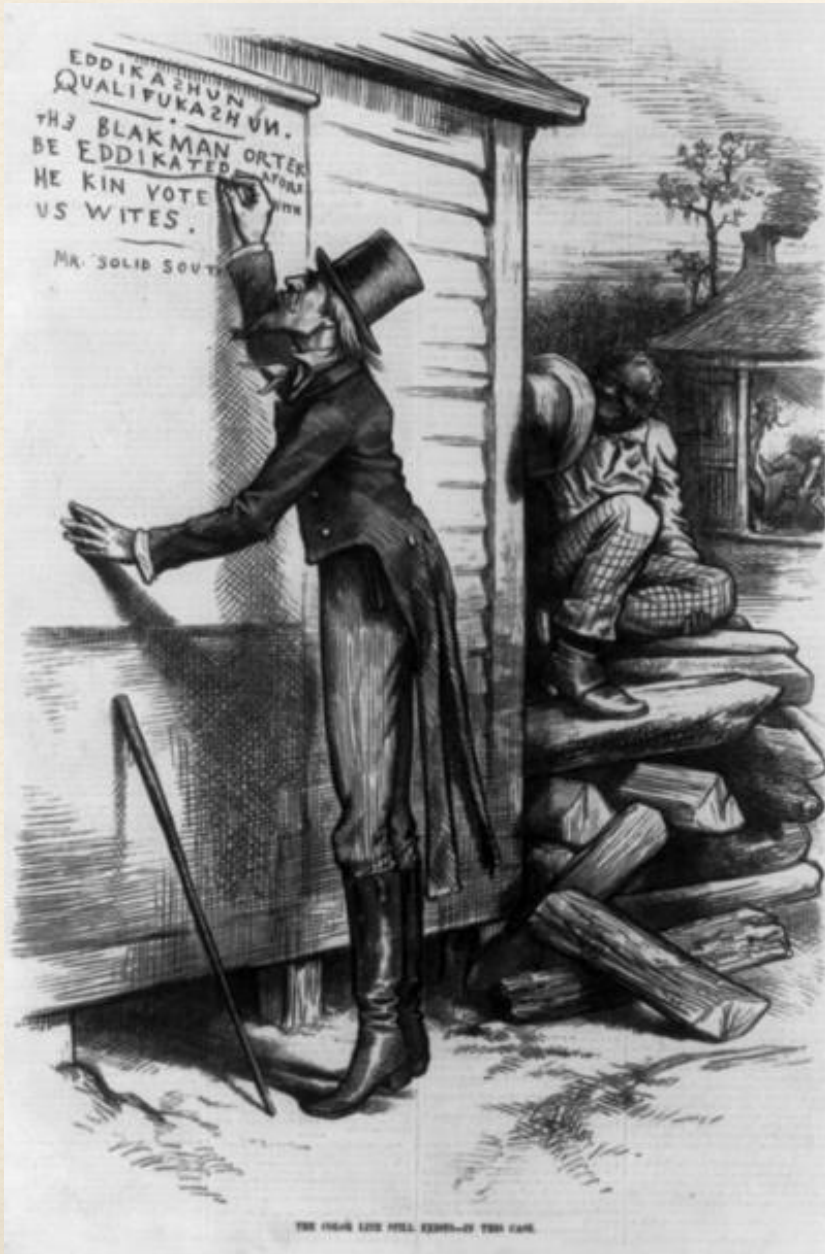
15th Amendment (1870)
Men who had been
enslaved gain right to vote

Reconstruction Ends - Racial Segregation Begins

When Reconstruction
ended in 1877,
whites in the South
worked to regain
control of their society



Voting Restrictions - Jim Crow Laws



To regain control of state and local governments, white Southerners found ways to limit black voting

Literacy Tests

To vote, a person had to prove that he could read and write

Poll Taxes

Had to pay a tax to vote

Grandfather Clauses

A white person could vote if he (or his father or grandfather) could vote in 1867

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)



NEGRO EXPULSION FROM RAILWAY CAR, PHILADELPHIA.

It was acceptable to have
separate facilities for
whites and blacks

Segregation was legal

Separate but equal



Brown v. Board (1954)

*Segregated schools
are not equal*

Thurgood Marshall (center)
NAACP lawyer who won this case.
He would become the first black man
to serve on the US Supreme Court



Rosa Parks Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56)



Desegregating Little Rock Central High School, 1957



http://www.kingsacademy.com/mhodes/03_The-World-since-1900/09_The-Cold-War/pictures/Integrating-Little-Rock-Central-High_1957.jpg



<http://a66c7b.medialib.glogster.com/media/1e/1e896cde6fd527faca30b8990b9caefbcac724d9dc4366a74d905e0709a92daf/warimage003-jpg.jpg>



http://ronanshonorsushistoryii.mrsronansclasses.com/Mrs._Ronans_Honors_U.S._History_II/The_Civil_Rights_Movement_files/segregation.jpg



<http://www.marquette.edu/magazine/images/winter2010/bnr-little-rock-nine.jpg>

Civil Disobedience - Refuse to Obey Unjust Laws



<http://greensborositins.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/sit-ins1963.gif>



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/7/74/Birmingham_campaign_dogs.jpg



[http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/
CorePicketers_2101a08b1b_fullsize.jpg](http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/CorePicketers_2101a08b1b_fullsize.jpg)



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c3/1963_march_on_washington.jpg

I Have A dream!!



I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.

— August 28, 1963

Key Results of the Civil Rights Movement

Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin
- Ended unequal application of voter requirements
- Ended segregation in “public accommodations” - schools, workplaces, and other public facilities

Voting Rights Act of 1965

- Prohibits any state or local government from imposing any voting law that results in discrimination against racial or language minorities
- Outlaws literacy tests
- Federal examiners have power to monitor local voting

The Baby Boom

The American birthrate exploded after World War II.

From 1945 -61 more than 65 million children were born

This period became known as the Baby Boom

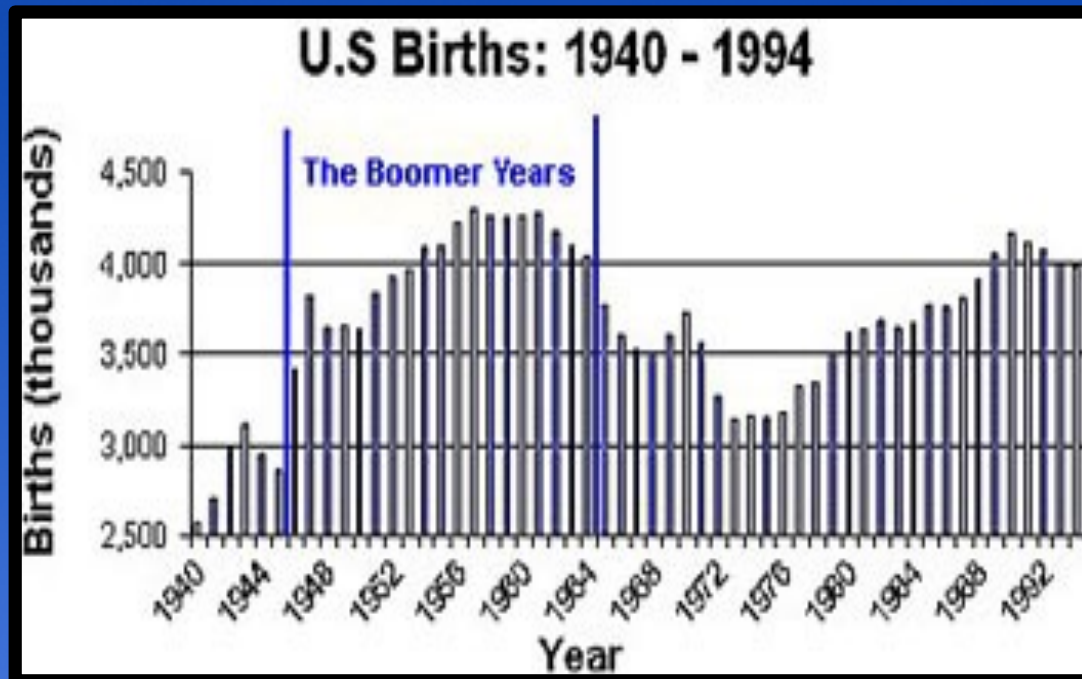


Contributing factors:

The end of wars led to more young couples getting married

G.I. Bill encouraged growth of families by offering generous benefits for home purchases

Pop culture glorified pregnancy, parenthood and large families



Suburbs = The American Dream

- Affordable single-family housing
- Good schools
- Friendly neighbors like themselves



- New highways, affordable automobiles, low gasoline prices
- A safe, healthy environment for children



13 million
homes built
in the
1950s –
85% were
suburban



Interstate Highways Built



*The Federal Highway Act
was passed in 1956*

*This was the largest
public works program in
American history.*

*Law called for the
building of 40,000 miles
of interstate*



Ike warns U.S. about the threat of Military-Industrial Complex



"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military/industrial/complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties, or the democratic processes.

We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert & Knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial & military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security & liberty may prosper Together."

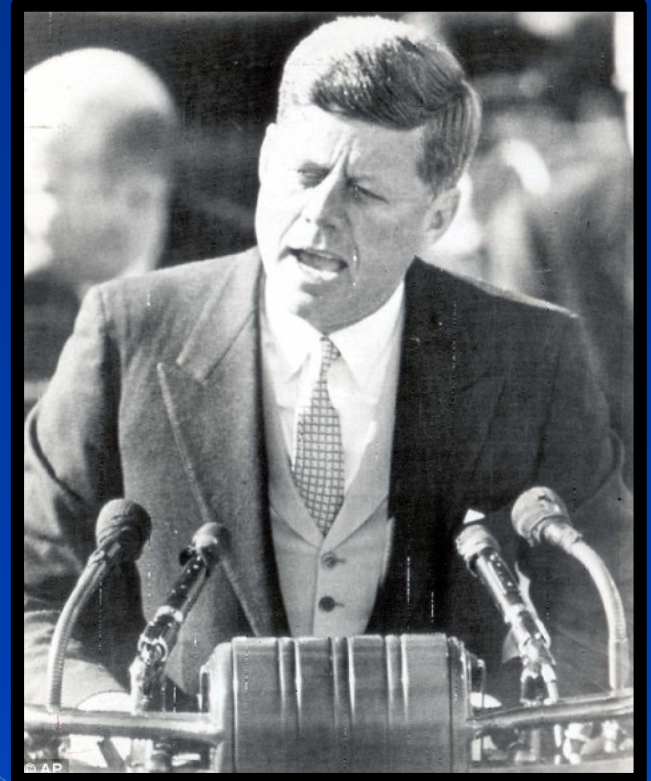
President Eisenhower's Farewell address to the nation. ~ 1961

Kennedy beats Nixon

In one of the closest presidential elections in U.S. history, Kennedy defeated Nixon

**“Ask not what your country can do for you,
ask what you can do for your country.”**

-- John F. Kennedy
Inauguration Speech, 1961



In his inauguration speech, Kennedy inspired people with his optimism, his youthfulness and his ability to handle the media.

**“Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike,
that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans.”**

-- John F. Kennedy, Inauguration Speech, 1961

Camelot

JFK was a very popular president with the American people.

People often refer to Kennedy's presidency as "Camelot" because of the potential and promise for the future, and the period was symbolic of hope



His youthful energy, looks, glamorous wife Jacqueline, and their young children led to constant coverage by the media.



Peace Corps

One of Kennedy's first presidential acts was creating the Peace Corps

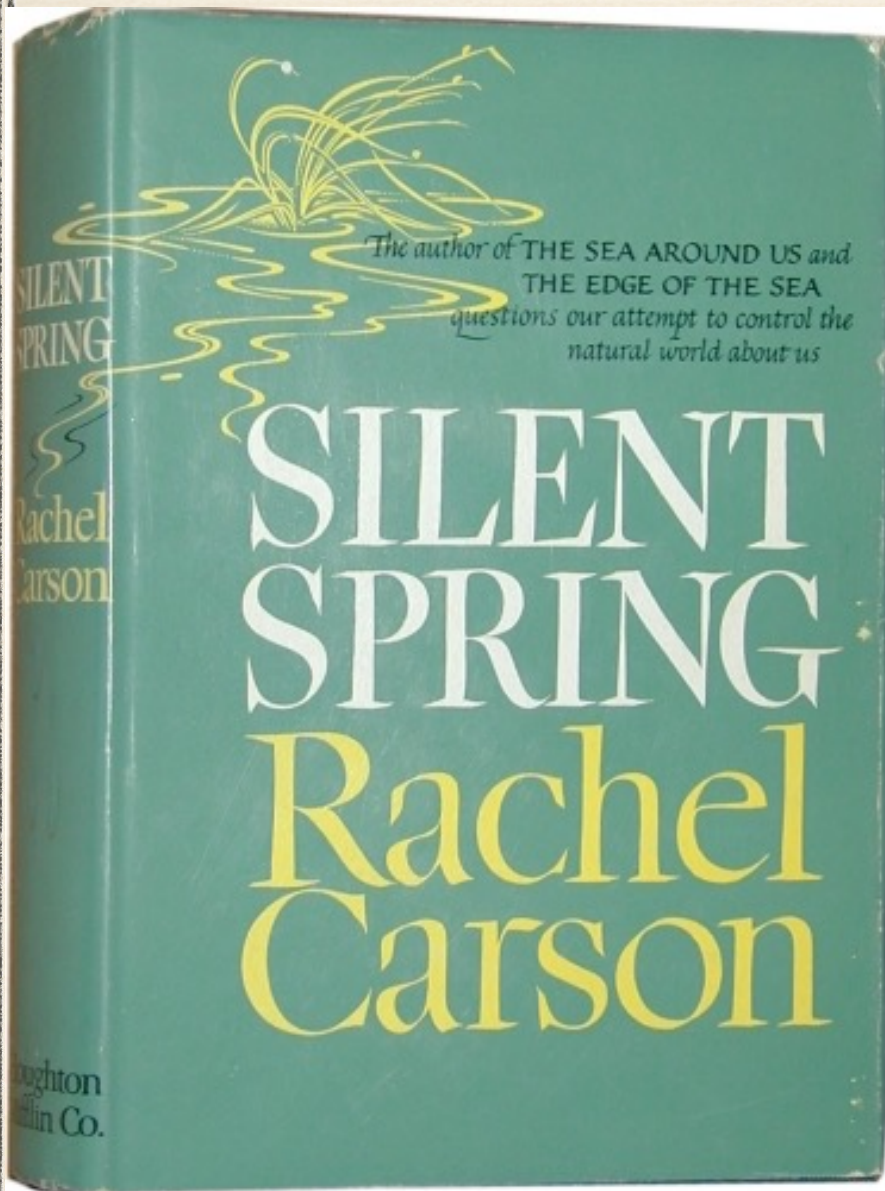


Americans volunteered to help underdeveloped nations in areas such as education, farming, health care and construction

The main purpose of the Peace Corps was to fight poverty in less developed countries.

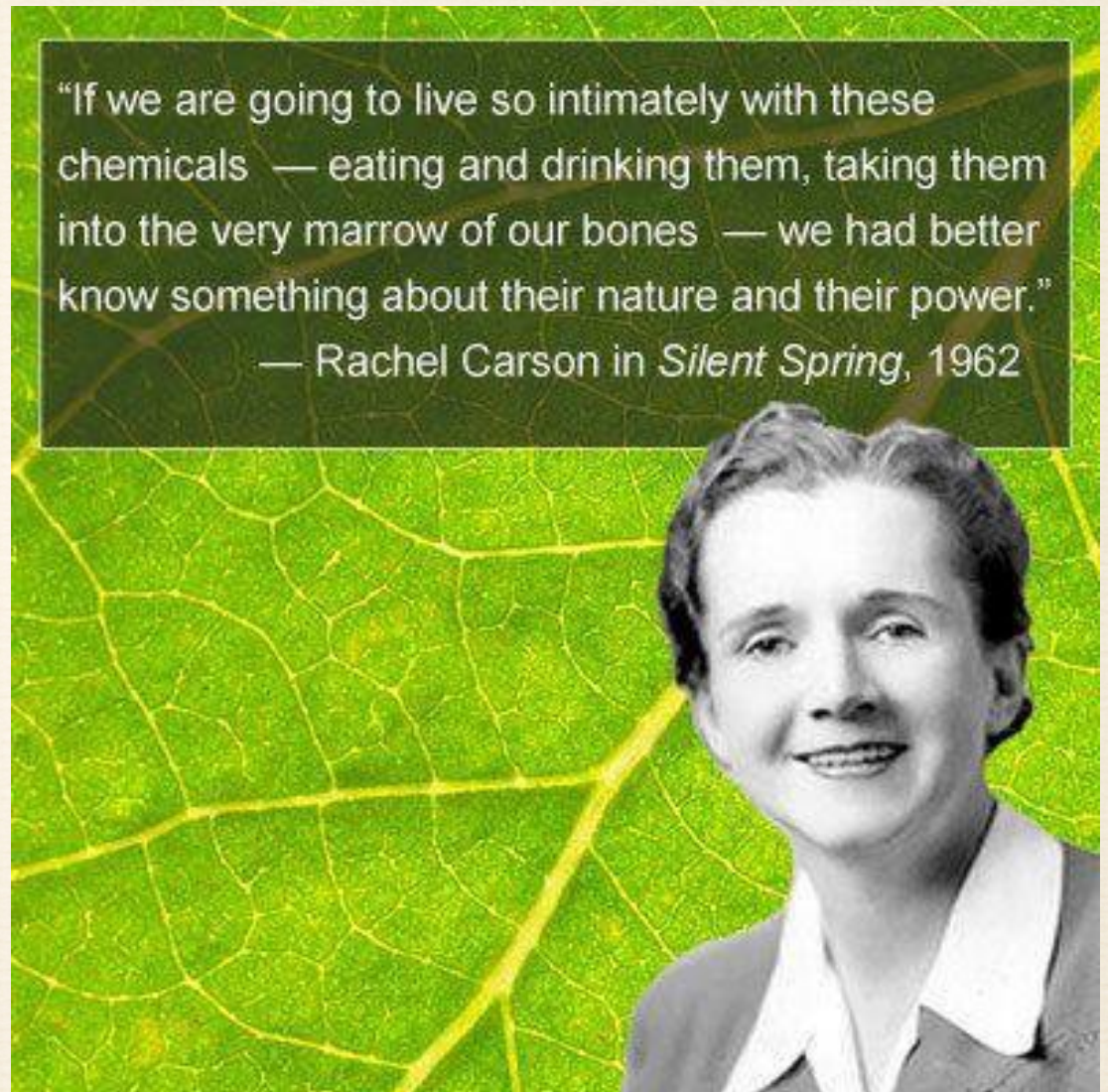


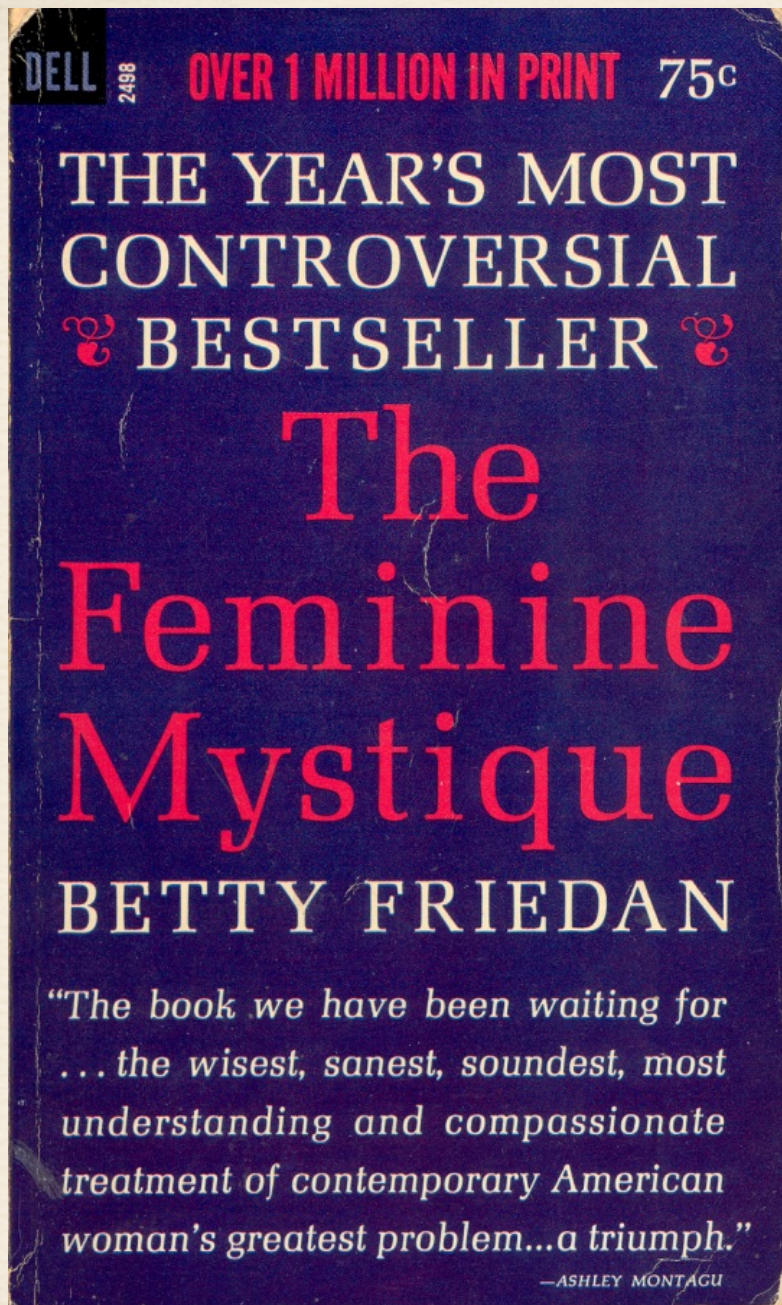




"If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals — eating and drinking them, taking them into the very marrow of our bones — we had better know something about their nature and their power."

— Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring*, 1962





Published 1963

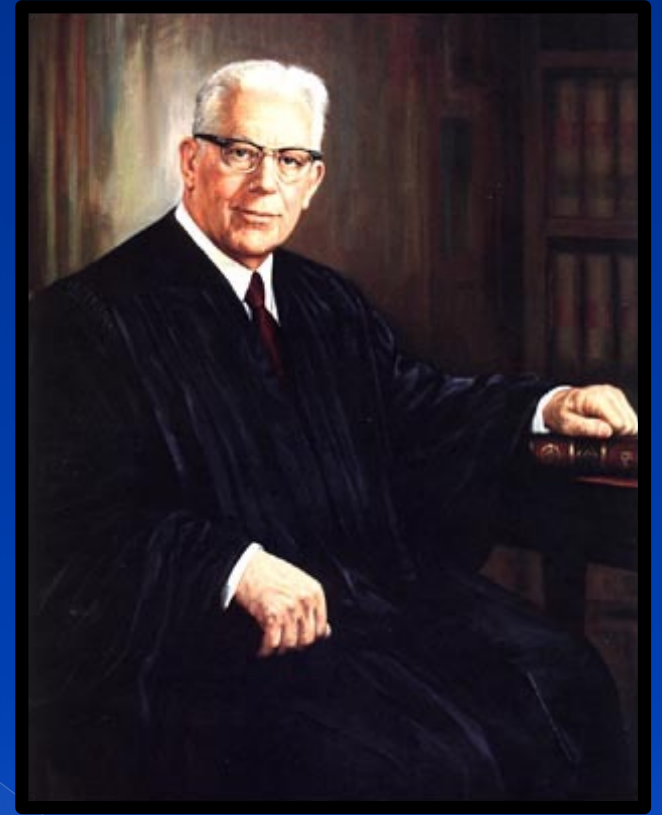
What place / role do women have in American society?

Are women equal, or are they second class citizens?



The Warren Court

Dwight D. Eisenhower nominated Earl Warren to be Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court



**Many thought Warren would be a conservative, but he was not
The Warren Court was an active one that made numerous key rulings**

Key Supreme Court rulings

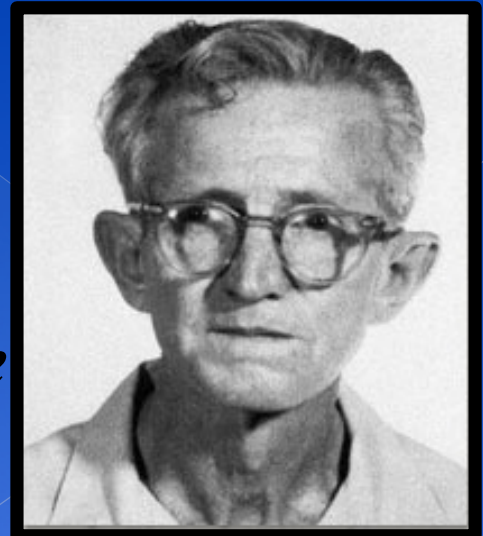
Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)

Court acknowledged that the Constitution grants a “right of privacy.” This reasoning would be used in Roe v. Wade decision (abortion)



Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

Defendant in a state court had the right to a lawyer, regardless of his ability to pay

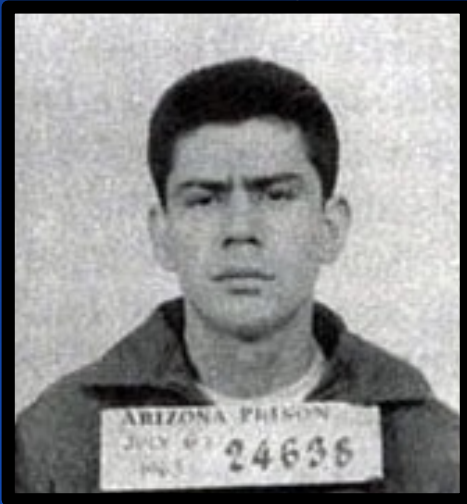


Engel v. Vitale (1962)

Court ruled that government-funded schools could not require prayer in public schools



Miranda v. Arizona (1966)



Ernesto Miranda was arrested for raping an 18 year old. He later confessed to robbery and attempted rape under interrogation by police

Miranda had confessed without knowing that he had the right to remain silent (5th Amendment)



Supreme Court ruled that his constitutional rights were violated by the police who interrogated him

The War on Poverty

In his 1962 book The Other America, Michael Harrington showed that many Americans lived in poverty in the United States.

The book influenced the thinking of both John F. Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, as they both made the elimination of poverty a major goal.

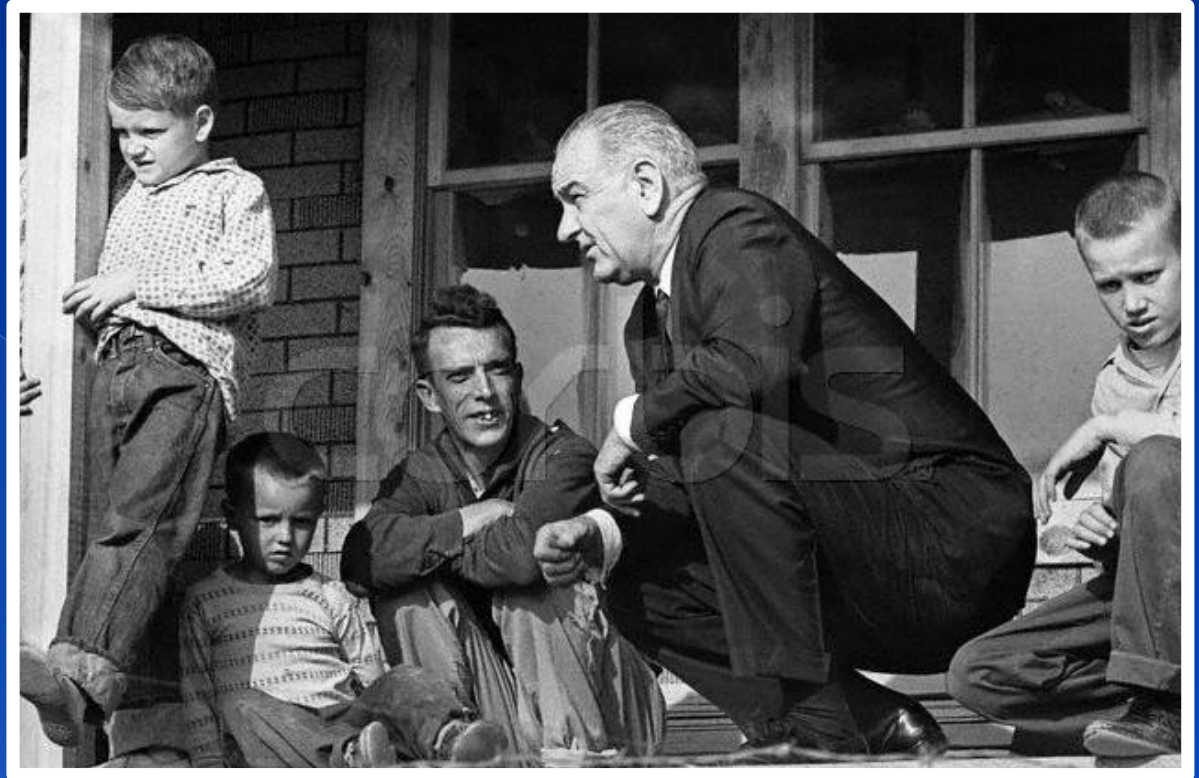


“America needs to build a ‘Great Society.’ I am declaring a war on poverty.”

-- Lyndon B. Johnson
University of Michigan, 1964

LBJ's Great Society

Once Johnson was elected in 1964, he began working on his plan for domestic programs to help the United States. He called his program the Great Society.



Although there were many, the key programs of the Great Society were Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, and HUD.



Vietnam War Divided America



<https://www.sss.gov/IMAGES/LOTTER1.jpg>

Draft was held - many young men
were forced to become soldiers



[https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/
plAOztyG2A7I2fLfz9m7rfFwFe8WVSy46OxMkKWfijkv1t7r10f_FhF4Njy6MJWNGjPt
zQ_tObVLyJzV4xcKxITDxKQAeZ_vYCE7JWVdC_AEaFnX8Q](https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/plAOztyG2A7I2fLfz9m7rfFwFe8WVSy46OxMkKWfijkv1t7r10f_FhF4Njy6MJWNGjPtzQ_tObVLyJzV4xcKxITDxKQAeZ_vYCE7JWVdC_AEaFnX8Q)

As the war dragged on, protests against
the draft - and the war - increased





End of the Vietnam War

The US begin
withdrawing forces from
Vietnam in 1973



<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/files/images/RambergSmall.gif>

Saigon, the capital of
South Vietnam, falls to
the North in 1975



Vietnam is united as a
Communist country

http://cache.boston.com/resize/bonzai-fba/Globe_Photo/2009/05/15/1242441987_5068/539w.jpg

Economic Troubles of the 1970s

To retaliate for U.S. support of Israel, in 1973, OPEC placed an embargo on oil sold to the US

Gas became very expensive.

Despite rationing, not enough to meet demand



**Organization of Petroleum
Exporting Countries**

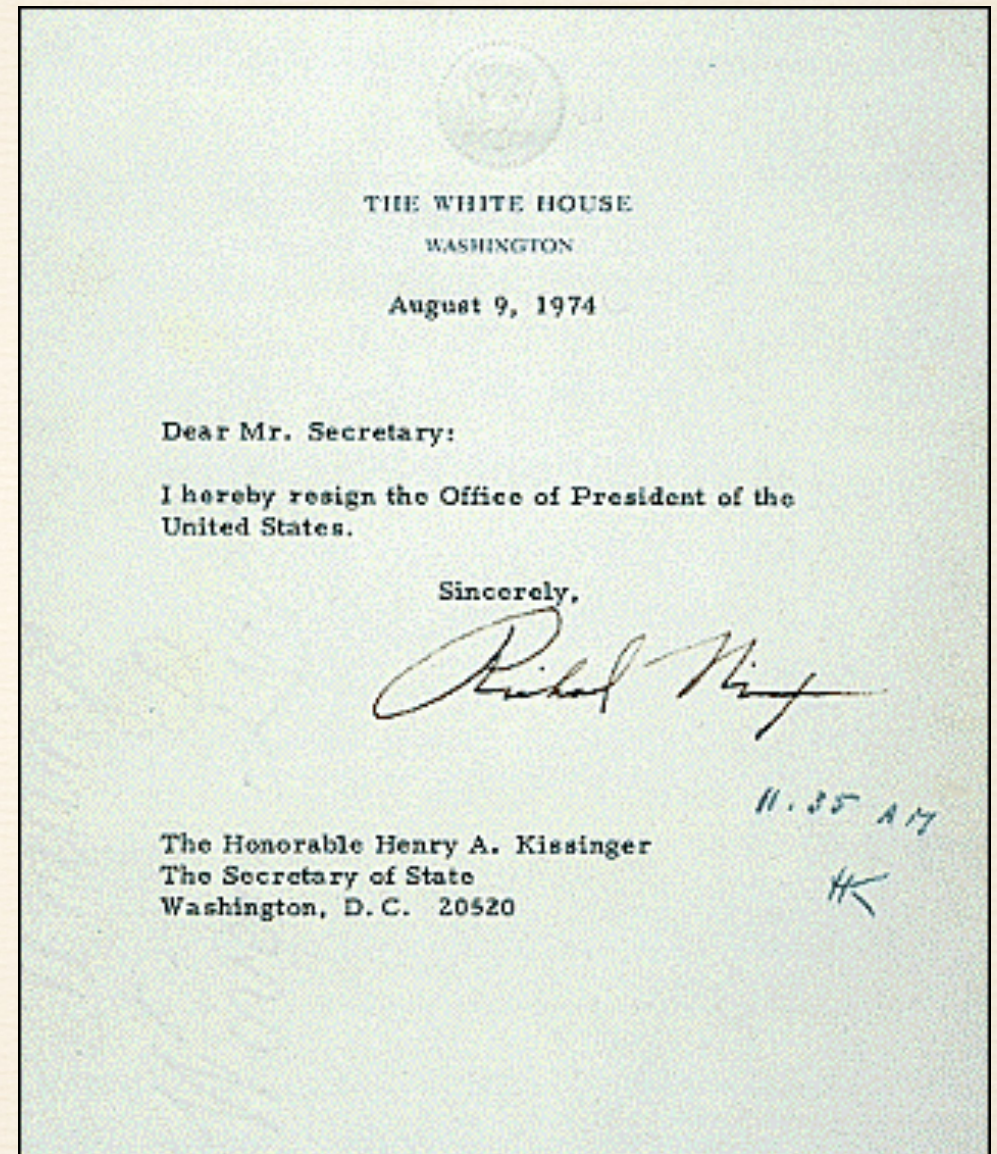


Richard Nixon - Watergate Scandal

June 1972 - several burglars were arrested inside the office of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate building in Washington, D.C.

In time, it became clear that Nixon knew about, and was working to cover up, this crime

Nixon would have likely been impeached and removed from office, but resigned before that could take place - Aug. 9, 1974



http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/resign.gif



Gerald Ford - president 1974-77

Ford had been vice president.
He became president when
Nixon resigned

Ford angered many
Americans when he issued a
pardon for President Nixon
(Sept. 8, 1974)

Ford seemed incapable of
improving America's economy



Jimmy Carter elected President (1976)



Camp David Accords (1978)



Agreement signed by Egyptian President Anwar al Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin

Israel gave up land taken from Egypt in 1967

Egypt formally recognized Israel's right to exist as a country

Iran Hostage Crisis (1979-1980)

January 1979 Muslim religious leaders overthrow Iran's leader (the Shah) - who had been supported by the United States



November 4, 1979 - armed students seized US embassy in Tehran, taking **56 Americans** hostage - they were **held hostage for 444 days!**

Ronald Reagan Elected President November 1980



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/16/Official_Portrait_of_President_Reagan_1981.jpg



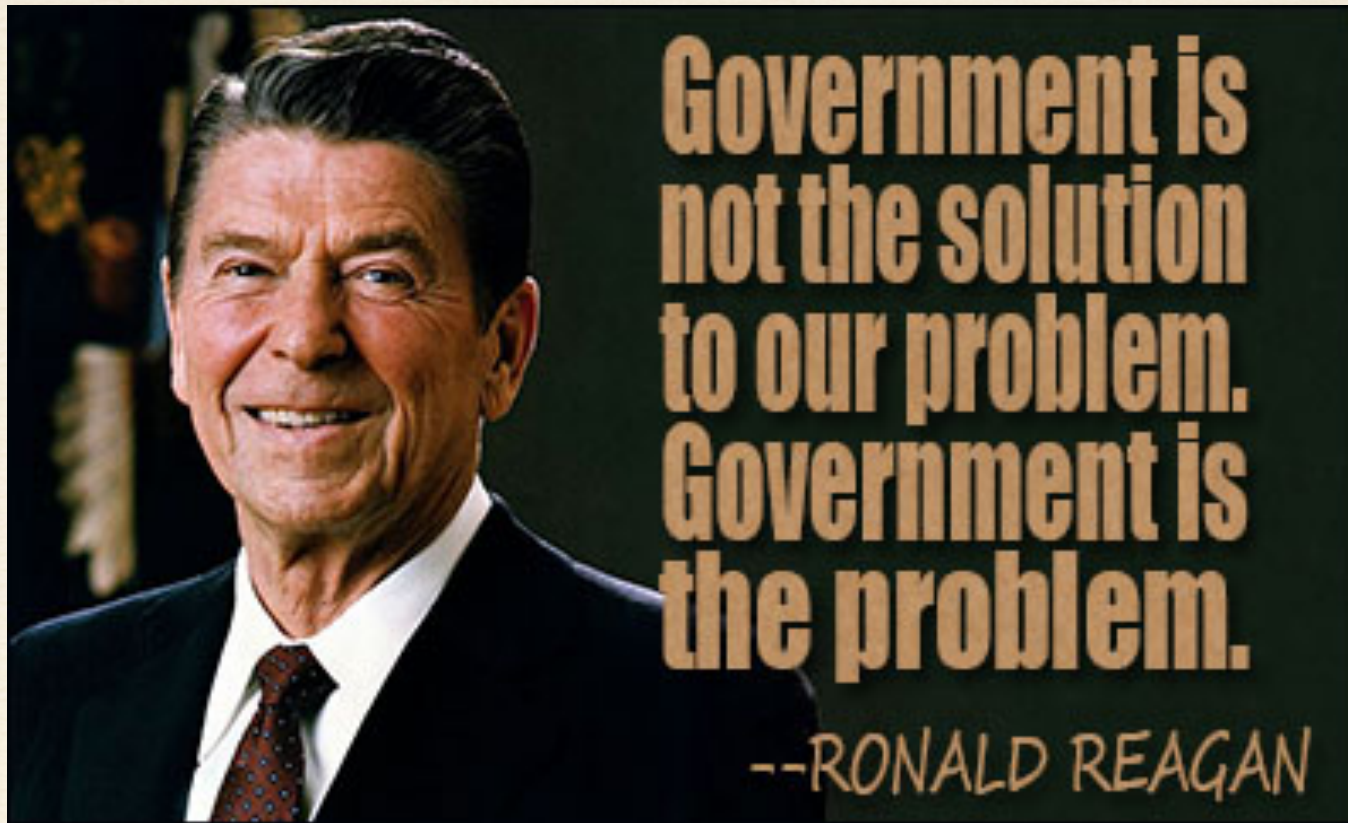
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**REAGAN TAKES OATH AS 40TH PRESIDENT;
PROMISES AN 'ERA OF NATIONAL RENÉWAL'
MINUTES LATER, 52 U.S. HOSTAGES IN IRAN
FLY TO FREEDOM AFTER 444-DAY ORDEAL**

**ALIVE, WELL, AND FREE' Teheran Captors
Call Out Insults
As the 52 Leave**
By JOHNN KILLER
TEHRAN, Iran, Jan. 30 — The 52 American hostages who were held for nearly 445 days in Iran today were flown to freedom today, minutes after President Reagan was taking the oath of office.

FREEZE SET ON HIRING
California Stresses Need
to Restrict Government
and Buoy Economy
By STEVEN W. WEITMAN
WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — Ronald Reagan, who was elected president last year, today called for a freeze on hiring in the federal government, saying that such a move would help to curb inflation and buoy the economy.

11:57 A.M.: Ronald Reagan being sworn in as 40th President by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.



Reagan (a Republican) was the leader of the
“Conservative Revolution” taking place in America

Reagan and his supporters believed that the federal government had
become too powerful - taking away the rights of individuals

*Goals: Cut taxes / cut size & power of the federal government
Create a stronger economy / more individual freedoms*



Reagan did cut taxes. However, he also increased spending - especially on the military (35% increase)

While Reagan was president, the economy improved and the Cold War was nearly over, but big increases in national debt





Germany was officially reunified on October 3, 1990



Soviet Union "Dissolved"

December 26, 1991

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Laté Edition
New York, Tuesday, December 26, 1991
Today's paper will be the
same size as Tuesday, Monday
and Wednesday, Friday
and Saturday, except for the
Sunday edition, which is
larger.

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30 CENTS

GORBACHEV, LAST SOVIET LEADER, RESIGNS; U.S. RECOGNIZES REPUBLICS' INDEPENDENCE

RETAILERS REPORT SALES FELL SHORT OF DIN FORECASTS

Last Minute Buying Spree Fails
to Carry Merchants' Hopes
of Last Year's Receipts

By E. B. SCHAPIRO

Retailers would probably like to forget Christmas, 1991. While most merchants had been prepared for a long, pushy season, many said sales fell short of last year's. Last year's shopping frenzy was so strong that it got merchants starting to plan ahead.

As recently as a month ago, many merchants had hoped to record last year's sales in 3 percent. But through the first of December, on Monday, many said sales were far from as strong as expected. The major retail chains are scheduled to release their final monthly sales results next week.

Mr. Schapiro, a senior vice president of the National Retail Federation, said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

"This is the last day," he said, and a number of retailers said that Monday was the busiest day of the year. But Mr. Schapiro said, "In my view, it's really been a disaster for the retail industry, which relies on Christmas for much of its business. We're not going to see a recovery in the retail industry."

The industry's Christmas shopping Christmas shopping season — the time of the year when most retailers make their money — is over. And many retailers say this year's holiday season is likely to be the last of its kind.

The economy's record of the last year is a disaster.



Mikhail S. Gorbachev after announcing his resignation last night as President of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet State, Born of a Dream, Dies

By MICHAEL K. O'NEILL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 — The Soviet Union, marked throughout its history by a succession of leaders, by a dream of a better world, and by a long and painful decline, died today after a long and painful decline. It was 74 years old.

Conceived in chaos and poverty and born in the midst of the Russian Revolution, the Soviet Union was a dream of a better world.

Communist Flag Is Removed; Yeltsin Gets Nuclear Controls

By FRANK R. CLINES

MOSCOW, Dec. 25 — Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, today announced his resignation as President of the Soviet Union, and the Communist flag was removed from the Kremlin. Yeltsin, the new President, today announced his resignation as President of the Soviet Union, and the Communist flag was removed from the Kremlin.

Yeltsin, the new President, today announced his resignation as President of the Soviet Union, and the Communist flag was removed from the Kremlin.

BUSH LAUDS VISION OF SOVIET LEADER

In Farewell, President Cites
Gorbachev's Historic Role

By MICHAEL A. WOOD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 — President Bush today lauded the vision of Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, and the historic role he played in the end of the Cold War.

Wars with Iraq



Operation Desert Storm (Jan -Feb, 1991)



<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/photodb/photos/120319-D-LN615-001.jpg>

Iraq invaded Kuwait on
August 2, 1990

America was concerned that Iraq
would gain control of land / oil fields
in Kuwait



http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Fires_Brigade/images/desert_big.jpg

America led a coalition of 34 other
countries to drive Iraq's troops out
of Kuwait

Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, was
allowed to remain in power

Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)

The terrorist organization al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the attacks of 9/11 - which killed over 3,000 people

In January 2002, President Bush called Iraq a “rogue nation” that financed and trained terrorists. Bush also claimed to Iraq had “weapons of mass destruction”

The U.S. led invasion of Iraq began in March 2003



America and its allies removed Saddam Hussein from power and have tried to bring a stable democratic government in Iraq

‘Mission Accomplished (May 1, 2003)

Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed.



Change we can believe in



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/President_Barack_Obama.jpg

A “responsible end” to the war in Iraq

Health Care Reform - coverage for all Americans

Repeal the Bush tax cuts for families making over \$250,000

Additional tax cuts for middle-class Americans

Economic recession (began at end of Bush presidency) - huge budget deficits / controversial health care program