

Focus: To what extent is the federal gov't responsible for the welfare and security of the people?

From Nixon through Carter

Conservative Critiques of The Great Society

- The liberal shifts (political, economic, and social) of the 1960s led some Americans to believe that America was in the throes of revolutionary change.
- They criticized the Johnson administration and democrats for...
 - Creating a pattern of “government dependency”
 - Giving too many rights given to “deviant groups”
 - Blacks, women, gays, hippies
 - Success of segregationist George Wallace demonstrates this sentiment...
 - Giving government money to deviant groups
 - Creating huge national debt to fund these unnecessary programs



Election of 1968

- Democrats: Hubert Humphrey
 - Johnson decides not to run for re-election
 - Humphrey was Johnson's VP
 - Challenged for the nomination by Robert F. Kennedy (who was seen as more liberal, more youthful)
 - Kennedy shot by Sirhan Sirhan during the primary campaign
- Republicans: Richard Nixon
 - Had been Vice President under Eisenhower
 - Ran for President in 1960, but was defeated by JFK

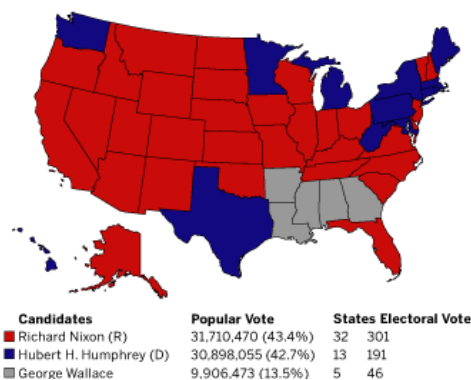


Nixon and the Silent Majority

- Nixon ran for president by appealing to what he called the “Silent Majority” of Americans.
 - Americans who were white, middle class, did not oppose the Vietnam War, were not in favor of expanded Civil Rights, and did not support government spending
- To these Americans he promised stability, law and order, a reduction in government spending and programs, and “peace with honor” in Vietnam.



ELECTION RESULTS



Nixon Begins Cutting and Hollowing the Government

- Many of Nixon's policies were designed in response to what he believed were the demands middle class conservative Americans to end the era of government funded “special privileges” for “deviant” groups.
- Early actions...
 - Blocked the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from cutting off federal funds from school districts that failed to integrate
 - Abolished the Office of Economic Opportunity, the centerpiece of the war on poverty
 - Many of the agencies that remained were “hollowed out”
- But, not all of Nixon's actions were conservative.
 - Proposed replacing welfare with a program that would have created a guaranteed annual income for all Americans

Economic Crises of the 1970s

- Soon after Nixon won re-election in 1972, three problems started to plague the US economy
 - Inflation
 - Inflation: Sustained increase in the prices of goods
 - The greatest cause was the increasing cost of energy!
 - Unemployment
 - Loss of Manufacturing Jobs
 - Caused by competition from abroad (ex. Japan) and outsourcing
 - Inequality
 - People in the top income brackets saw their incomes increase while people in the bottom income brackets saw their incomes decline

Stagflation

- The US began to settle into a period of stagflation (a combination of rising prices and general economic stagnation).
- Nixon's response:
 - Interest rate manipulation
 - Hollowing out of the Department of Energy to manage the oil crisis in the private sector
 - Wage and price freezes
- Largely not effective



Nixon resigns

- In 1973, Nixon resigned over the Watergate scandal
- Vice President Gerald Ford assumes the office of the Presidency 1973-1976
- Democrat Jimmy Carter defeats Ford in 1976

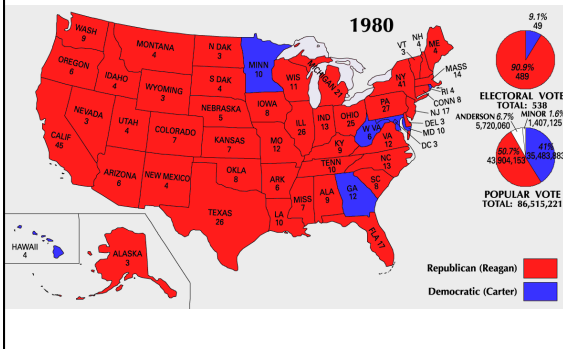


The Carter Presidency

- “Malaise Speech”
 - Bleak assessment of the national condition
 - If you are cold, put on a sweater...



Election of 1980



Ronald Reagan

- 1911-2004
- Actor
- Governor of California
- President from 1980-1988
- Launched “The Reagan Revolution”



Readings

- To analyze the economic changes with each and due to the Presidents since LBJ, you are going to complete a single reading, answer the given questions and then make a poster that answers the following questions

Poster Reading, year & President

- What issues relating to the economy and people's economic security & welfare are discussed?
- According to the reading, what is ____ role in the economy?
 - Gov't
 - Private Sector
 - Individuals
- According to the reading, what is the view of poverty and how is it different from how poverty has been viewed in the past?
- How does this reading (and period of time) compare/contrast the following

• Artisan's World	• 1920s
• Gilded Age	• Great Depression
• Progressive Era	• New Deal
