The Conservative Resurgence – Chapter 23

1. **Democrats vs. Republicans**
   1. **Democrats – (Liberals)**
      1. Believed the government should play a role in improving lives of all American citizens
      2. Believed in higher taxes for rich.
      3. Believed in less military spending
      4. Pushed for social programs to help people.
         1. Specifically: poor, unemployed and elderly,
   2. **Republicans – (Conservatives)**
      1. Favored allowing free markets
      2. Believed in increase spending of military
      3. Favored private organizations and individuals to push it.
      4. Wanted to limit the regulation of industry.
         1. To stimulate the growth of the economy.
      5. Believed in lowering taxes for all Americans
2. **Rise of Ronald Reagan in 1980 as President**
   1. Background
   2. Pushed for Social Security changes
   3. Pushed for Higher Education, *“Nation at Risk”*
      * 1. As a result of lower standardized tests.
      1. He had charisma, and was a former Hollywood movie star
      2. **He supported a strong military**
      3. He was one time a spokesperson for General Electric
      4. He did not like high taxes. Warned the dangers of communism
      5. Was a Governor of California
      6. Won election in 1980 vs. Jimmy Carter
      7. Was re-elected in 1984 with slogan “**Its’ Morning in America”**
      8. Shortly after re-election he was shot in the chest by John Hinckley Jr.
         1. Reagan survived and joked to the Dr.’s operating on him, “I hope you’re not all Democrats”
   4. **Supply Side Economics AKA “Reganomics”**
      1. Theory that rests on if taxes are reduced, people will work more and have more money to spend. Making the economy grow
      2. Reagan reduced taxes by 25% over 3 years
         1. Economic Recovery Act of 1981
            1. Wealthy would use money they saved and invest in new businesses
      3. Reagan created deregulation
         1. Removal of government control over industry.
            1. Airline, telecommunications, and bank industries
      4. Reagan cuts government spending
         1. Budget Deficit
            1. It was the shortfall between the amount of money spent and the amount taken in.
         2. National Debt
            1. Amount of money the federal government owes
         3. Gramm Rudman-Hollings Act 1985
            1. Sought to balance the federal budget by 1990
3. **Reagan Foreign Policy**
   1. Committed to the building of **B-1 and B-2** bombers and MX missiles
      1. Supported massive military buildup
   2. Reagan **helped fight communism** **by supporting anti-communist rebels around the world**.
      1. **Afghanistan**
         1. Reagan funded and trained the, “mujahedeen” (anti-Soviet rebels)
            1. They were guerrillas using hit and run tactics
            2. Soviets could not win, they withdrew from Afghanistan
      2. **Nicaragua**
         1. Reagan’s administration funded **Contras** to fight the Sandinista Communist Government.
            1. **Sandinista** – threatened USA corporations in Nicaragua.
            2. **Contras –** rebel groups in Nicaragua
      3. **El Salvador**
         1. Reagan pushed for the Central American country to become democracy.
            1. Reagan supported a government in there to fight a communist uprising.

Reagan asked El Salvador to push for human rights to get more funding from USA

* + 1. **Middle East**
       1. **Lebanon**
          1. Lebanon supported terrorist groups.
          2. Sent 800 Marines to bring peace to a long lasting Civil War
          3. Things got bad when a truck loaded with explosives bombed Marine Headquarters in Beirut (Lebanon Capital).

Killed 241 Marines and Reagan left Lebanon.

* + - 1. **Libya**
         1. Libya supported terrorist groups

A terrorist group attacked Berlin

United States then bombed Libya leader “Muammar al-Qaddafi”

The air raid killed his daughter

* + - 1. **Iran-Contra Affair**
         1. Reagan sold weapons to Iran, in promise they would attack terrorist groups in Lebanon.
         2. Reagan administration then took the money and gave it to fund the Contras in Nicaragua.

Even though Congress banned funding Contras

Some of Reagan Administration were convicted, but overturned.

Reagan took full responsibility. But, was still popular.

1. **Ronald Reagan & George W. Bush Snr. Ends the Cold War**
   1. Soviet Union economy goes into a downward tailspin.
      1. New President Mikhail Gorbachev tried to create reforms.
         1. **Glasnost** – “a new openness”
            1. Referring to peace with USA
         2. **Perestroika** – reforming the Soviet System
            1. Moving away from a socialist economy
      2. Soviet Union realized they could not afford to match the USA military under Reagan
   2. **Gorbachev and Reagan meet**
      1. They met in Moscow, toured the sites, and held press conferences together of friendship.
         1. Gorbachev even allowed Reagan to talk to Moscow State University about Democracy.
      2. **Created START I Treaty**
         1. START I Treaty would reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world.
   3. **Berlin Wall Falls**
      1. In 1989, the Soviet Union opened the gates from **East (Communism) Berlin to West (Democracy) Berlin.** 
         1. People climbed the walls and ran through the gates in celebrations.
            1. Many people took sledgehammers to the wall.
            2. East and West Germany became a unified one country again.
      2. Soviet Union has economic problems and cannot control other countries.
         1. Rebels overthrow communist rule all around the world.
            1. Poland
            2. Hungary
            3. Czechoslovakia
            4. Bulgaria
            5. Romania
            6. Albania
            7. Yugoslavia
   4. **Soviet Union Falls Apart**
      1. Hard supporters of communism tried to overthrow Gorbachev for his reforms.
         1. Gorbachev was supported by Boris Yeltsin, he rallied in the streets of Moscow to support
      2. Soviet Union broke apart into 15 independent republics
         1. Boris Yeltsin controlled the largest, “Russian Federation”
   5. **Cold War Ends**
      1. **Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Bush** come together to **end the Cold War** by signing agreements to **eliminate certain kinds of nuclear weapons.**
2. **George W. Bush Snr. As President**
   1. **Background**
      1. Wins the election of 1988, “kinder gentler nation.”
      2. Promised not to raise taxes
      3. Veteran of WW2
      4. USA Ambassador to United Nations
      5. Director of the CIA
      6. Vice President of Ronald Reagan
   2. **Foreign Policy**
      * 1. Always backed the United Nations in decisions
        2. Pushed for democracy in South Africa with Nelson Mandela
      1. **Panama – War on Drugs**
         1. Fights the war on drugs vs. **Manuel Noriega** 
            1. **Manuel Noriega was a drug lord**
            2. Bush sends troops to Panama captures him and convicts him to 40 years in USA.
      2. **Bosnia – Operation Restore Hope**
         1. Pushed for human rights in Bosnia and create a cease fire in the country. Between 2 warlords
            1. Gave food, to thousands of starving Bosnians.
      3. **Persian Gulf War** 
         1. AKA **Operation Desert Storm -**
         2. It was to **stop Iraq leader, Saddam Hussein from invading** the neighboring country of **Kuwait.**
         3. Iraq **wanted the oil deposits in Kuwait**
            1. **Hussein invaded Kuwait** and took over the oil deposits
            2. Saddam Hussein and Iraq would control 20% of world’s oil supply.
         4. Bush demanded that Hussein withdraw his troops with support from the United Nations
            1. Bush led the charge and had backing called the, **“COALITION”**

**Britain, France, Egypt, Saudi Arabia & Japan**

This was all the countries that backed the USA that were a part of the UN.

* + - 1. The “Coalition” initiated **Operation Desert Storm**
         1. Led by General Collin Powell of the USA

Plan was to bomb Iraqi forces for 5 weeks

Coalition troops stormed Kuwait

Iraqi forces surrendered and burned Kuwait oil rigs.

* + - 1. Saddam Hussein went back to Baghdad, (The Capitol of Iraq)
         1. Bush chose not to invade and overthrow the ruthless dictator.