Was the Reagan Revolution good for the nation?
How well do you know Ronald Reagan?

Take this short, 5-question true or false quiz.

1. T or F: Reagan had a very quiet, shy personality.
2. T or F: Reagan was nationally famous before he was President.
3. T or F: Reagan loved détente.
4. T or F: Reagan supported conservative, “hands off” policies.
5. T or F: Reagan was assassinated.
Homework

- Presearch on a Domestic or Foreign Policy topic
- Choose three concepts and provide a typed or handwritten synopsis of each. Should be on separate paper.
- 5pts.
- Use online sources – NO Wikipedia.
- Online text, government sites, History.com or Biography.com websites are good
About Ronald Reagan

- Took office at almost 70 years old
- Former Hollywood Actor
- Survived an assassination attempt

- Supply-side economics: Reaganomics
- Right wing Conservative
- 2 Terms in Office
A shift to the right (conservative movement) under President Reagan
Reagan’s Economic Policy

- Expanded **New Federalism** – by giving power to the states
  - Health, education, welfare $$$ to the states
  - Cut taxes and pro-business: **Reaganomics**
  - **Deregulation:** removed the government’s control on business to stimulate free enterprise

Government is not the solution to our problem. Government *is* our problem.
Reaganomics: Simplified

Cut taxes

More money for individuals and businesses

Spend more and save more

Companies hire more; increase supply

New workers pay taxes

There you have it: Taxes cut, taxes earned
Reaganomics Impact

- Widening gap between rich and poor
- “Trickle down” theory
- Widely criticized, but did help over time
  - Government spending increase
  - Military and defense buildup

These tax cuts are designed to “trickle down” from the upper classes and businesses down to the lower classes.
Federal Deficits

► What did Reaganomics do to the economy?
► What is money being spent on?
Liberals

- Both sides promise change.
- Government programs solve problems.
- Equal Opportunity and Equality

Conservatives

- Reduced government solves problems.
- Government is there so that no one is in need.
- Individualism and personal success/responsibility

Both sides promise change.
Carter was weakened by a number of things in the 1980 election, including the situation in Iran, but his biggest problem was the fracturing of the Democratic coalition. Just as Reagan was putting together his conservative coalition.
What were some criticisms of Reaganomics?
Reagan Domestic Policy

- Welfare
- HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- Civil Rights and Immigration

Deregulate it all!
Conservative Supreme Court

- Brought a strict Constitutionalist outlook to Supreme Court judiciary system.
- Interpret original intentions and wording
- Nominated Justice Sandra Day O’Connor

Born in 1787 and still kickin’

The Constitution should be read AS IT IS.
“Honey, I forgot to duck!”
- After assassination attempt, to his wife

“How can a President not be an actor?”
- when asked, “how could an actor become president?”

“I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of an emergency. Even in a cabinet meeting.”

“I hope you’re all Republicans…”
- to the doctors in the operating room after assassination attempt

I will NEVER deal with terrorists.
Reagan Foreign Policy

Did Reagan’s foreign policy actions mostly impact America positively or negatively?

1. SDI
2. Intervention
   a. Nicaragua
   b. Iran
   c. USSR

The Soviet Union is an evil empire that needs to be stopped.
Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)

Plan: deter nuclear war by “knocking down” incoming missiles
Could it be built?
Exorbitant costs

Nickname: Star Wars
Intervention in Central America

We need another way to show we are serious about anticommunism.

▪ Nicaragua
▪ Worry of Cuba/USSR influence
▪ A rebel group called the Sandinistas overthrow the government
▪ The US sends in forces to attack the Sandinistas: the Contras
▪ Congress kept uninformed

REAGAN DOCTRINE will support democracy in Asia, Latin Americas, Mid East
Reagan supported the Contras by funding operations to overthrow the Sandinistas
Congress questioned this
Banned military aid
Reagan continued it

- Armed over 10,000 rebels
- Also involved in Grenada, El Salvador, Guatemala
- Contras killed, kidnapped, tortured
The Iran-Contra Affair

- Reagan secretly sold arms to Iran
- In exchange for US hostages being held in Lebanon
- Weapons sales would help fund the Contras in Nicaragua
- Becomes a political scandal
Sells EXPENSIVE weapons to Iran

Takes US Hostages

Use the money to help the Contras

The USA

Contreras

THIS IS ILLEGAL

Iran

US hostages are in Lebanon

Lebanon

Breaks the news of the scandal
25 victims were Americans
Secret negotiations and ‘swap’ for hostages

- Defeated Ford in 1976 election
- Democratic Party
- Former governor of Georgia – a peanut farmer
- “Down to earth” feeling to White House
- While in office...
  - 1. National Energy Act
  - 2. Civil and Human Rights Achievements
  - 3. Problems & Success in the Middle East
Legacy of Iran-Contra

- Broken promises – “I would never deal with terrorists!”
- Illegal funding
- Lying to Congress
- Abuse of executive power

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Check for Understanding

1. What is SDI?
2. Why did the Reagan administration decide to fund the Contras?
3. How did Iran get involved?
4. Why was Reagan’s deal with Iran so negatively viewed?
New Changes in the Soviet Union

- Communism is not working
- New leader: Gorbachev
- Reforms to help Soviet economy
- Believed in communism, but not the arms race
- Negotiated with Reagan
Reagan and Gorbachev Negotiations

- Mostly back and forth
- Positive, “warm” relationship
- Agreed on the INF Treaty, which removed all missiles up to 3400 miles
  - Inspect both sides’ military bases
  - Best part: destroy those weapons

INF = Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces

1987 Speech to Gorbachev
What did the Berlin Wall look like on the interior?