

## Chapter 28

### New Directions for a Nation (1977-2000)

#### What You Will Learn

With Ronald Reagan's 1980 defeat of President Jimmy Carter, a conservative movement gained momentum. During George H. W. Bush's presidency, the Soviet Union collapsed, ending the Cold War and changing America's foreign policy goals. The Middle East continues to pose grave challenges to the nation's leaders.

#### Chapter 28 Focus Question

As you read this chapter, keep this question in mind: **How did major national and international events affect the nation?**

### Section 1

#### A Conservative Surge

##### Section 1 Focus Question

How did the growing conservative movement help reshape American politics? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about Jimmy Carter's difficult presidency.
- Read about the presidencies of Reagan and George H. W. Bush.
- Understand the prosperity and scandal of Clinton's presidency.
- Find out about the conservative agenda of George W. Bush.

#### Section 1 Summary

President Carter faced inflation at home and a hostage crisis abroad. Reagan began a conservative momentum in 1980. Clinton brought prosperity, but scandal weakened his presidency. George W. Bush made tax cuts and educational reforms.

##### Carter's Troubled Presidency

President Jimmy Carter was elected in 1976, and he had to confront inflation at home and difficult issues abroad. When Carter allowed the Shah of Iran to get medical care in the United States, revolutionaries seized the American embassy in Iran and held 53 American hostages. For over a year, Carter failed to gain the hostages' freedom, which weakened his presidency. ✓

##### The Conservative Movement ★

During the Carter years and after, liberals believed that the federal government could solve problems in the tradition of the New Deal. Political conservatives wanted to curb government power and lower taxes. Social conservatives felt that traditional

#### Key Events

1979

Militants take 53 Americans hostage in Iran.

1987

United States and Soviet Union agree on an arms control treaty.

1991

United States leads the coalition against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

#### Vocabulary Builder

Read the underlined sentence. Based on context clues, what do you think the word *confront* means?

#### ✓ Checkpoint

Name two challenges President Carter faced.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## ✓ Checkpoint

Name three points of the 1980 Republican Party platform.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



Tax cuts

2x4 = 8 yrs

## ✓ Checkpoint

Name two ways that Reagan cut the federal budget.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

"No NEW TAXES"  
Opps

## ✓ Checkpoint

Name two ways in which Clinton reduced the deficit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

family values, patriotism, and religion must be priorities. Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority organized around these principles. Conservatives gained control of the Republican Party by 1980, promising tax cuts, business deregulation, and a balanced budget, meaning that government spends only as much money as it collects. They nominated Ronald Reagan, who beat Carter. ✓

What's that?

### Reagan's Presidency

President Ronald Reagan, a former actor, became known as the (Great Communicator). He promoted a conservative agenda, pushing large tax cuts through Congress. By slashing federal jobs and social programs, he cut \$40 billion from the federal budget. He also deregulated industries, or scaled back federal rules for businesses. Reagan was a popular President elected for two terms, yet his tax cuts and spending on the military caused a huge federal deficit, in which government spent more money than it collected. Critics charged that he helped the wealthy but hurt the poor and the environment. Still, he limited the growth of federal government and cut inflation.

Reagan's Vice President, George H. W. Bush, was elected in 1988. After promising not to raise taxes, he realized later that he needed to do so in order to reduce the deficit. Conservatives were outraged. A recession, or temporary economic slump, took place. People blamed Bush's tax hike for rising unemployment. ✓

### "The Clinton Years and George W. Bush

In 1992, Bill Clinton defeated George H. W. Bush and became President. He ran as a "New Democrat," or more moderate than many liberals. By pushing through tax increases for the wealthy and reducing federal spending, Clinton reduced the size of the deficit. He also ended federal welfare payments, giving money to state and local antipoverty programs instead. Clinton's policies brought prosperity and, eventually, a government surplus, in which government collects more than it spends. A scandal during his second term weakened his presidency. Because he seemed to lie under oath, the House of Representatives voted to impeach him. The Senate did not convict Clinton, so he remained in office.

In 2000, Vice President Al Gore ran against George W. Bush. Although more people voted for Gore, Bush won the electoral vote in one of the most controversial elections in U.S. history. He pushed through tax cuts and education reforms. ✓

### Check Your Progress (No Child Left Behind)

1. What were the strengths of Reagan's presidency?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What were the strengths of Clinton's presidency?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3****A New Role in the World****Section 3 Focus Question**

How did the United States use its influence after the Cold War ended? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about U.S. goals for peace and democracy.
- Read about how the United States attempted to promote change in South Africa, Northern Ireland, China, and Cuba.
- Discover how the United States dealt with the problem of nuclear arms.

**Section 3 Summary**

President George H. W. Bush and President Clinton worked to achieve peace and the spread of democracy. The United States promoted change in South Africa, Northern Ireland, China, and Cuba. The United States also tried to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

**Promoting Democracy and Peace**

After the Cold War ended, the United States became the world's only superpower. President George H. W. Bush and President Clinton believed that it was important to use that power wisely, in the causes of peace and democracy.

For years, American lawmakers wanted to do something about South Africa and its policy of (apartheid) or racial separation and inequality. Despite a veto by President Reagan, Congress voted for sanctions, penalties applied against a country in order to pressure it to change its policies. The sanctions forbade U.S. businesses to invest in South Africa or to import its products. Other countries applied similar measures. In 1991, as a result of the sanctions and internal protests, South Africa ended apartheid. Free elections in 1994, which included nonwhites, put black leaders in office.

British-ruled Northern Ireland had also been a trouble spot for years, with violence between the Protestant majority and the Catholic minority. The United States helped negotiate a 1998 power-sharing agreement between these groups to help end violence.

In 1989, Chinese students and workers protested in [Tiananmen Square] for democratic reforms. The Communist government brutally assaulted the protesters. President George H. W. Bush responded by trying to persuade China to introduce reforms. Clinton continued to press China to change human rights policies.

Communist-led Cuba posed a different problem for the United States. After the Soviet Union broke apart, Cuba lost a major source of economic aid. When Cuba's economy crashed, the United States considered the possibility of resuming trade with its

**Key Events****1979**

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**SUPERPOWER**

Sanctions — penalties applied against a country in order to pressure it to change its policies

**Vocabulary Builder**

When a computer "crashes," it fails completely. When an economy crashes, what do you think happens to the value of the currency, or money?



### ✓ Checkpoint

Name the strategy the U.S. Congress used to pressure South Africa to change its policy of apartheid.

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### ✓ Checkpoint

Name one difference between the START treaties and the SALT treaty.

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neighbor. However, George W. Bush has vowed to maintain economic sanctions against Cuba in order to weaken its Communist dictator Fidel Castro. ✓

### Easing the Arms Race

The first arms control agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States was signed in 1972. Since then, both countries have worked on agreements to reduce their nuclear weapons.

**Arms Control Agreements Between  
United States and Soviet Union**

Treaty	Year Signed	Agreement
Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)	1972	Reduced number of nuclear warheads and long-range missiles to be built
SALT II	1977	None—Carter withdrew the treaty after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)	1991	Thirty percent reduction in existing nuclear weapons
START II	1993, revised 1997	Two-thirds reduction in existing long-range nuclear weapons

After the Cold War ended, new problems arose. The former Soviet Union had nuclear weapons in four now-independent republics. Each of these republics, including Russia, agreed to uphold the treaties that the Soviet Union had signed. The U.S. sent support so that the weapons could be safely stored or destroyed.

Britain, France, and China had held nuclear weapons for a long time. Israel had a nuclear weapon by the late 1960s. Nuclear arms continued to spread to other countries, increasing the danger of nuclear war. U.S. intelligence reports indicated that Iran, Iraq, and North Korea were trying to build nuclear weapons. Particularly worrisome was the fact that India and Pakistan, feuding neighbors, both built nuclear bombs. ✓

### Check Your Progress

1. Name a country that the United States has tried to influence, and describe the progress it has made.
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2. Why are nuclear weapons a continuing threat?
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**Section 4****Conflict in the Middle East****Key Events****1979**

Militants take 53 Americans hostage in Iran.

**1987**

United States and Soviet Union agree on an arms control treaty.

**1991**

United States leads the coalition against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

**✓ Checkpoint**

Give two reasons why OPEC is important.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- Judaism  
► Christianity  
► Islam
- } all arose in the Middle East

★ Middle East is important because of OIL.

**Section 4 Focus Question**

How have tensions in the Middle East posed concerns for the United States? To begin answering this question,

- Learn about the importance of the Middle East to the United States.
- Find out about the continuing conflict between Arabs and Israelis.
- Read about U.S. activity in the region.

**Section 4 Summary**

- ★ The Middle East is important as a site of major world religions and for its oil reserves. Conflicts between Arabs and Israelis who founded the state of Israel remain unresolved. The United States has been involved in negotiation and war in the region.

**A Vital Region**

The area first called the Middle East by Europeans includes Southwest Asia, Egypt, and Afghanistan. Its location has made it an important crossroads for Europe, Asia, and Africa. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all arose in the Middle East, and conflict between members of these faiths has gone on for centuries. Today the region is important due to its oil used for transportation and in industry. Oil production and price levels are set by the Arab nations that form the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The United States has a difficult role in the region. It has a strong relationship with Israel, but it has also tried to maintain relations with Arab nations that do not support Israel. ✓

**Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Many Jews began settling in Palestine in the late 1800s. They wanted to establish a Jewish state, putting them at odds with the Arabs who lived there. (With the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust, thousands more Jews settled in Palestine. Arab nations opposed their formation of the state of Israel in 1948, and war began. With Israel's victory, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs lost their homes, living in refugee camps in neighboring Arab nations.)

Other wars followed. Israel invaded Egypt in 1956, but left due to international pressure. In 1967 and 1973, Arab countries attacked Israel. However, Israel gained land in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria as a result of these wars, and Israelis settled in the newly acquired regions. Arabs called these lands "occupied territories."

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Progress was made in 1978 when President Carter brought Egyptian leader Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli leader Menachim Begin to Camp David in Maryland. They signed the Camp David Accords, with Egypt recognizing Israel, and Israel returning the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. However, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), led by Yasir Arafat, declared that Israel could not exist, and that there should be a Palestinian state run by Palestinians.

Other countries worked for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. When President Clinton hosted leaders from Israel and the PLO in 1993, they signed a peace agreement that gave Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank. In return, Arafat agreed to renounce violence and recognize Israel. Yet extremists on both sides did not want to comply with this agreement. When Arab extremists committed suicide bombings in Israel, the Israeli military was called in. Israeli troops surrounded Arafat's compound, believing he supported the bombers. Over the years, some Israelis and Palestinians have kept working for peace. A year after Arafat died in 2004, a cease-fire was declared. ✓

### Increasing Tensions

U.S. support for Israel has not been the only source of stress with Muslim nations. The revolutionaries who gained power in Iran were part of a new kind of Islam. These Islamists, including Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, limited women's rights and rejected westernization, or the adoption of ideas, culture, and technology from Western regions such as the United States and Europe. Islamists did not want American forces in Saudi Arabia. In some instances, they attacked Americans and other Westerners.

Iraq, ruled by dictator (Saddam Hussein), was another trouble spot. When Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, President George H. W. Bush worked with 28 other countries to make Iraq pull out of Kuwait. When Saddam Hussein refused, these countries launched an attack on Iraq, and the Persian Gulf War began. Within weeks, Hussein withdrew his forces from Kuwait. Afterward, the UN enforced sanctions against Iraq, but Hussein stayed in power. ✓

Desert Storm

### Check Your Progress

1. Why is the Middle East important to the United States?

2. How did President George H. W. Bush respond to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

### Vocabulary Builder

The underlined word comply means "to follow or obey." Why do you think extremists did not want to follow the terms of the agreement?

### ✓ Checkpoint

State the position taken by Palestinian Arabs in opposing the creation of the state of Israel.

### ✓ Checkpoint

List reasons that Islamists pose a problem for the United States.

WHY?