**Unit #17 - End of the Cold War and Globalization (1980’s to today)**

When **Ronald Reagan** became President after Jimmy Carter in 1981, he wanted to change the way the Cold War was fought. The new **Reagan Doctrine** increased military spending and not only wanted to contain communism, but begin **the roll back** of Communism – supporting people who want to be free in Communist countries. After 8 years of increased military, political and economic pressure, Russian Secretary General Gorbachev agreed to tear down the Berlin Wall in 1989 and began the process of reforming the Soviet Union and allowing free elections in the Eastern Bloc. Under President George H.W. Bush, America witnessed the complete collapse of the Soviet Union (1991) and its transformation from communism to democracy and capitalism. The Cold War was over – America had won!

With the Cold War over and the world no longer separated into two **blocs**, there was now a new phenomenon of **globalization –** increasedworld trade and connectedness between people and places. America though was still the leader in the globalized world and President George H.W. Bush referred to this as a **New World Order**. In 1991, America had to stop Iraq from taking over Kuwait and controlling a very large percent of the world’s oil during the **Persian Gulf War**. During President Bill Clinton’s administration, America was involved in many peace keeping missions in areas such as Africa, Haiti and Yugoslavia. President Clinton also increased globalization with the creation of **NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement.** However, President Donald Trump is renegotiating NAFTA and our other trade agreements and using the power of the tariff (tax on imports) to protect American businesses and jobs from outsourcing and foreign competition.

However, globalization brings problems, too. Free trade and **outsourcing** hurts the wages and job opportunities of American workers at home. Terrorism is the new type of warfare of the global age and terrorists in Al Qaeda successfully attacked America during the 1990’s and most infamously the attacks of September 11, 2001. Since those attacks, President George W. Bush went on the offensive and pursued terrorists around the world; fighting two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq – ending dictatorships and freeing a combined 55 million people. President Bush also kept Americans safe at home by passing **The Patriot Act**, which limits civil rights but helps to catch, detain and interrogate terrorists. The long hunt for Al Qaeda’s leader Osama Bin Laden ended in 2011 when Navy Seals killed him in May of that year. However, the war against terror is not over (fighting other organizations such as ISIS, Hamas and the Taliban) and America must stay vigilant in keeping herself and her friends around the world safe.

The domestic policies of the Presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Donald Trump followed mostly Republican values. Reagan believed in **supply side** or **trickle down** economics to **stimulate business (**similar to the policies of Harding and Coolidge in the 1920’s). President Clinton even adopted many Republican reforms (such as limiting welfare) when the Republicans won the House in 1996. After the Financial Crisis of 2007-2008 where America lost millions of dollars, unemployment reached about 10% and many large businesses and banks closed, President Barack Obama’s policies have followed the Democratic Party’s principals with an increased government spending and taxes to try to fix the economy (**Stimulus Plan**) and social issues (**The American Affordable Health Care Act [aka Obamacare)]**– trying to give all Americans health care). Although the economy began improving and is now doing very with the **Trump Tax Cuts**, the Federal Government still has an increasing **debt** (money we owe) –over 22 trillion dollars! Debate between Republicans and Democrats continues to get more and more heated and **partisan (firm belief in only their own side).** Republicans want to limit the size and spending (especially welfare payments) of government, increase military and homeland security spending, reduce taxes to stimulate growth and limit immigration, while Democrats want to increase the size and spending (especially welfare payments) of government, reduce military spending and not dramatically limit immigration. (for full information go to: Republicans: [www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com) Democrats: [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org) )

Other current issues in the modern era and living in a globalized world include the search for alternate energy beside oil to both remove our dependence on the Middle East and OPEC (Oil and Petroleum Exporting Nations), to reduce our trade deficit (buying more from other countries than we are selling them), immigration reform (fixing/limiting immigration) and climate change.

**Key Words**

**1) Ronald Reagan –** increased military spending to end Cold War and introduced **Reaganomics** (supply side economics) to increase the economy.

**2) Regan Doctrine –** increasing military spending and supporting people in Communist countries who want to be free

**3) Fall of Berlin Wall –** signals the beginning of the end of the Cold War and division of Europe

**4)**  **Supply-Side/Trickle Down Economics/Reaganomics –** cutting taxes and regulations for businesses to increase their ability to produce and employ people.

**5) Globalization –** the increase in free trade (no limitations to trade) and connectedness of people and places

**6) Outsourcing –** When American businesses send jobs overseas because it is cheaper

**7) Persian Gulf War (1991) –** War to protect Kuwait from Iraq and to make sure Iraq does not control a large percentage of the world’s oil supply

**8) NAFTA –** North American Free Trade Agreement. Free trade and no restrictions between America, Mexico and Canada.

**9) Terrorism –** using unconventional warfare and targeting civilians

**10) Al Qaeda –** terrorist organization responsible for attacking America on 9/11/01 and previously in ‘90’s

**11) 9/11 Attacks –** terrorist attacks on America that destroyed World Trade Center and damaged Pentagon. We respond with War in Afghanistan, War in Iraq and Patriot Act

**12) Patriot Act –** Limits Civil liberties such as privacy to capture and detain terrorists easier (national security is greater than civil liberties during wartime)

**13) Financial Crisis of 2007 –** When banks and businesses collapsed in 2007-2008 due to too much credit lending and housing crisis (too many mortgages)

**14) Monika Lewinsky Scandal –** When President Bill Clinton was accused of sexual relations with his intern and lied under oath (perjury) denying them

**15) President Clinton Impeachment Trial –** President Clinton was tried for lying under oath but acquitted

**16) OPEC –** trade alliance of all major oil producing countries

**17) 1973 Oil Embargo and oil crisis –** When OPEC refused to trade oil to the West which resulted in major gas shortages and **stagflation (high unemployment and high inflation)** during Carter’s Presidency

**18) Global Warming –** the earth is warming due to an increase in fossil fuel usage (supposedly)

**19) Stimulus Act –** President Obama’s domestic policy to spend close to 1 trillion dollars to help the economy grow (did not work that great)

**20) Obamacare –** nick name for the **Affordable Health Care Act --** President Obama’s domestic policy to make it mandatory for all Americans to have health care.

**Study Questions: Read the following article and answer the following questions in one paragraph each, using at least 5-7 sentences and two specifics from the article.**

1. **Why are the issues of the economy, health care and immigration divisive issues? Explain.**
2. **Which of these three issues is the most important issue to as a future voter and your family? Explain.**

Article: *Biggest Issues in Recent Elections, by Newsela Staff, 2018*

The results of the 2018 midterm elections may have life-changing effects on many Americans. According to a Reuters poll conducted between June 5 and October 9, there are three top concerns among registered voters.

One concern is the **economy**, which is the level of business activity and availability of jobs. A second is health care, or how people pay for medical needs. A third is immigration, or when people move to a new country.

Which issues voters care most about is often based on their political party. Among Democrats, health care was the most important issue. For Republicans, it was immigration and the economy.

**The Economy: More Than Half Give It A High Rating**

The United States has bounced back from the Great Recession over the past 10 years. This period of economic decline in the late 2000s and early 2010s is considered the worst time for businesses and Americans' savings since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

The group Gallup conducted a poll on Americans' confidence in the economy in early September. It found 51 percent of Americans rate the economy as "excellent" or "good."

Experts point out the importance of Americans' feelings about the economy. It can be one of the biggest **predictors** of who wins elections. The Trump administration and its Republican supporters can make a good argument for their record on the economy. Job numbers are on the rise. The number of people without jobs has fallen to its lowest level since 2000.

In 2017, Republicans in Congress passed the largest bill to change taxes in more than 30 years. Some people paid less money in taxes after it became law. Still, more than half of registered voters in a POLITICO/Morning Consult Poll said the bill had no effect on their paycheck.

The numbers look good for Republicans, especially when it comes to jobs. However, many Americans aren't feeling the benefits of a strong economy. According to a Monmouth University poll conducted in May, only 12 percent of Americans say their family has benefited a great deal from recent growth in the U.S. economy. Another 32 percent say they have received some benefit. A little more than half, however, said they have been helped either not much or not at all.

**Immigration: Now The Top Issue Of  The Two Parties**

The number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. was estimated to be **approximately**7 million in 2000. This is the number of immigrants living in the United States without permission. That number **surged** to more than 12 million in 2014, according to government data.

President Trump campaigned on promises of stricter immigration laws, including a promise to build a wall along the southern border of the United States. Data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection show that after Trump took office, fears at the southern border initially dropped, but soon lined up with historical trends.

A July poll from the Pew Research Center surveyed 2,002 adults. It showed Democrats and Republicans both found immigration the top issue they wanted candidates to talk about. The poll was done just after the issue of family separation gained a great deal of media attention.

The administration began implementing the **controversial** Zero Tolerance program in April. The law separated children from their parents or other adults with whom they arrived in the U.S. if they entered the country illegally. It was estimated that 3,000 children were separated from their parents. Facing a great deal of pressure, Trump ended the family separation law July 20.

What are voters looking for from the candidates when it comes to immigration? In a Pew survey of registered voters conducted in September, 39 percent of those supporting Republican candidates favored better border security and stronger law enforcement. Only 5 percent of those supporting Democratic candidates favored better security. Only 11 percent of Republican-leaning voters favored creating a way for those in the U.S. without permission to become citizens if they met requirements. Just under half of Democratic-leaning voters supported these citizenship procedures.

**Health Care: Republicans' Plan Stalls In Congress**

Health care has been a major topic of debate during Trump's first two years in office. During his campaign, Trump promised to replace Obamacare, also known as the Affordable Care Act. This was the health care law created during former President Barack Obama's term in office. The goal was to give more Americans insurance. Democrats praised the law for expanding insurance coverage to 20 million more Americans. However, to do this without putting insurance companies out of business, the law required that everyone get health insurance. Republicans did not like the part requiring health insurance and said it was an overreach of government power.

Obamacare was unpopular when it first passed, but during the Trump administration public opinion has changed. A poll by NBC News/The Wall Street Journal has tracked opinions of the law since it passed in 2009. In January 2017, more people viewed the health care law as a good idea than a bad idea. Last year, Republicans proposed a bill to replace Obamacare, called the American Health Care Act of 2017. The bill would have removed the individual requirement, but it ultimately failed in Congress.