

Unit 9 Important Dates and Chronological Review

Keep in mind that memorizing dates is not required, however understanding general chronology is important. Use this list to help you review sequencing. **Add notes/comments on major themes as you review to make the timeline complete, and highlight any information that you do not yet have in long term memory.**

CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

- 1980 **U.S. grain embargo on U.S.S.R.** and the **U.S. boycott of Olympics in Moscow** are part of Carter/Congress response to invasion of Afghanistan.
- U.S. entered economic recession.
- Carter tried to rescue hostages, but it ended in the deaths of 8 military men in an embarrassing accident. **Cyrus Vance** (Secretary of State) resigned in protest.
- Ronald Reagan** elected president.
- 1981 Hostages freed.
- U.S. deregulation** of oil prices and transportation began. Reagan believed "government isn't the solution to problems... government is the problem" and wanted to return more power to individuals and businesses.
- The first **AIDS** case was reported. Understanding of this disease occurs slowly through the next several years.
- John Hinckley tried to assassinate Reagan but failed.** White House Press Secretary, **James Brady**, is nearly killed and became disabled... later championing the **Brady Bill** (signed by Clinton in 1993) which required background checks before buying guns.
- Economic Recovery Tax Act** passed which implemented **Reagan's economic plan** (sometimes called Reaganomics or supply side economics or trickle down economics) which dramatically cut taxes.
- U.S. increased their intervention in civil war raging in **El Salvador**.
- CIA began to train Contra rebels in Nicaragua.**
- 1982 **START** (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) were beginning with the Soviets.
- Unemployment rate reached 10.8%.
- 1983 **Strategic Defense Initiative** was announced by Reagan. Critics dubbed it "**Star Wars**."
- Unemployment dropped to 9.6%.
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) failed to achieve ratification...** after extension and decade battle. 3 states short.
- Terror attack in **Lebanon**; Marine barracks, many killed. Civil war raged there between Christians and Muslims. Anti-American sentiment continued to increase (U.S. support for Israel the main culprit).
- U.S. invaded **Grenada** to prevent Cuban, communist attempt to take over the island. Reagan was determined not to allow the spread of communism even in a small island. **Reagan Doctrine** pledged to prevent the spread of communism and to go one step further... push it back.
- U.S. placed missiles in Western Europe. Reagan determined to pressure Soviets to backing down in the East.**
- Contradora Peace Plan** is proposed for Central America. Congress did not support Reagan plans. **Iran Contra Scandal** resulted.
- 1984 CIA placed mines in Nicaraguan harbor.
- Unemployment dropped to 7.1%
- Reagan reelected in landslide... defeated Walter Mondale and **Geraldine Ferraro**. (first female VP nominee)
- 1985 **Mikhail Gorbachev** rose to power in the U.S.S.R. and declared **perestroika and glasnost** policies which increased openness and began reforms.
- U.S. embargo enacted against **Nicaragua**.

- 1986 U.S. bombed **Libya**.
Tax Reform Act curbed tax shelters, lowered corporate tax rates, and eliminated special treatment for capital gains.
Immigration Reform and Control Act passed... provided amnesty for thousands.
 Democrats regained control of the Senate.
Iran-Contra Scandal broke. (arms sold to Iran; profits used to back Contras in Nicaragua)
- 1987 **Reagan and Gorbachev met and signed Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**.
Black Monday... stock market dropped 508 points in one day.
 U.S. budget reached trillion dollars for the first time.
- 1988 Palestinians revolted in West Bank (Israel).
 U.S. and Canada signed **Free Trade Agreement**.
Soviets withdraw from Afghanistan.
 AIDS awareness increased as *Understanding AIDS* mailed to 107 million households.
Terrorists bomb Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. 270 killed. Libya responsible.
 Summit in Moscow held to improve relations.
George H.W. Bush elected president.
- 1989 **Oliver North** convicted in Iran-Contra trial.
 Unemployment down to 5.6%.
Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound off the coast of Alaska. Captain was drunk. Environmentalists go bonkers.
Berlin Wall came down. Bush and Gorbachev met and Cold War ended.
Manuel Noriega declared a "state of war" between Panama and the U.S. Bush sent troops, captured Noriega.
- 1990 **Nelson Mandela** was freed from a South African prison after 27 years. He came to America and addressed a joint session of Congress.
Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Bush responded with a United Nations backed deadline of January 15th, 1991 for Hussein to withdraw.
Americans with Disabilities Act passed and signed by Bush.
- 1991 **Operation Desert Storm; Persian Gulf War... Kuwait liberated in 4 days of ground warfare which followed air strikes**.
 Unemployment rose to 6.8% Dow Jones increased above 3,000 for the first time.
Rodney King beaten by police, video captured it.
 Bush nominated **Clarence Thomas** to Supreme Court; replacing Thurgood Marshall. Anita Hill accused Thomas of sexual harassment... which Thomas called a "first class lynching" attempt.
 Gorbachev resigned; forced out of power; **Boris Yeltsin** elected first President of Russia and the U.S.S.R. broke up.
- 1992 Budget deficit hit \$290 billion.
H. Ross Perot ran for president as 3rd party "independent" focusing mainly on national debt. He captured the largest third party vote in history. **William "Bill" Clinton** elected.
 Jury acquitted police in Rodney King beating... **riots in L.A.** set new records for death and damage.
- 1993 **World Trade Center in NYC bombed**.
Family Medical Leave Act passed and signed by Clinton.

- 1993 **Janet Reno** became the first female Attorney General. She lost credibility following **Siege at Waco** in which her orders to infiltrate the compound of the **Branch Davidians** ended with mass suicide and destruction.
- Civil War raged in former Yugoslavia... **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.
- Clinton's "**Don't Ask Don't Tell**" rule allowed gays to enter the military.
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** passed which created long term plan to remove all trade barriers between Canada, U.S., and Mexico.
- 1994 Republicans took control of both houses of Congress. **Republican Revolution**. Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, announced a "Contract with America."
- Paula Corbin Jones** filed a civil lawsuit against Clinton accusing him of sexual harassment. Clinton avoids this until 1997 when the Supreme Court ruled that it can go forward because the president was not above the law. Jones settled case for \$800,000.
- 1995 **Whitewater Hearings** began in the Senate which centered on the suicide of **Vince Foster** and possible economic scandal involving Bill and Hillary Clinton.
- Oklahoma City Bombing... Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols acted out in revenge for Siege at Waco.**
- 1996 Clinton reelected
- The unibomber, Theodore Kaszinski is finally caught.
- Terrorists bomb Saudi Arabian military complex (American military complex)
- Small bomb exploded in Atlanta during **Olympics**.
- 1997 Settlement reached between **tobacco producers** and Attorney Generals of several states.
- Kenneth Starr**, independent counsel, continued Whitewater investigations. Several indictments resulted but none involving the Clintons.
- 1998 **Kenneth Starr turned his attention to the Jones case, Clinton's perjury and sexual misconduct. This led to 3 articles of impeachment, 2 of which passed the House (perjury and obstruction of justice). The Senate does not remove him from office.** (Senate acquittal in 1999)
- U.S. and Great Britain bombed Iraq for violating the 1991 Gulf War Agreement.
- 1999 **Wen Ho Lee** caught selling nuclear secrets to China.
- Johnny Chung, former Democratic fundraiser, revealed that China filtered funds into Clinton's 1996 reelection campaign.
- Clinton ordered federal agencies to end racial profiling.
- Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold massacre 13 then kill themselves at **Columbine High School** in Colorado.
- Senate rejected the **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty** and received world-wide criticism.
- 2000 **Microsoft** found guilty of violated **Sherman Anti-Trust Act**.
- Clinton failed to reach new peace agreement between Palestinians and Israel.
- Hillary Clinton** elected Senator from New York. The first former First Lady to become Senator.
- Green Party nominated **Ralph Nader** for president.
- George W. Bush** elected president. **Bush v. Gore** ended recount in Florida. Bush did win Florida (to receive electoral votes), but not popular vote. 4th time in history president elected without popular vote.
[other times this happened... John Quincy Adams fewer popular votes than Andrew Jackson in 1824. (went to House due to not having electoral majority); Rutherford B. Hayes fewer than Samuel J. Tilden in 1876. (went to House) Benjamin Harrison fewer than Grover Cleveland in 1888. George W. Bush fewer than Al Gore in 2000.]
- 2001 **Senate approved major tax cut.**
- 9-11 terror attack killed 3.000+**
Bush began wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the hunt for Osama bin Laden, created the Department of Homeland Security, supported the Patriot Act
- 2008 **Barack Obama** Elected