

## ■ Essential Question:

- To what extent did the two-term presidency of Ronald Reagan amount to a “revolution”?

## ■ Warm-Up Question:

- What was the “New Left” in the late 1960s & 1970s?
- How might Carter’s presidency have weakened the “New Left”?

# America by 1980

- By 1980, Americans were ready for new leadership:
  - The disaster in Vietnam, hostage crisis in Iran, & new tensions with the USSR left many people feeling like the U.S. was losing its power in the world
  - Stagflation was growing worse & unemployment remained high
  - Johnson & Nixon made many people lose trust in gov't, while Ford & Carter provided poor leadership in the 1970s

# The Conservative Movement

The 1980s saw the rise of a new conservative movement known as the “New Right”

## Goals of the Conservative Movement

- Shrink the size of the federal government and reduce spending
- Promote family values and patriotic ideals
- Stimulate business by reducing government regulations and lowering taxes
- Strengthen the national defense

By 1980, government entitlement programs cost \$300 billion yearly

Conservatives believed civil rights had gone too far & attacked affirmative action (reverse discrimination) & school busing plans



# The Conservative Movement



of a new conservative  
as the "New Right"

Devout Christians  
were disturbed by  
Evangelist Jerry Falwell  
the decline in morality  
formed the religious  
of the 1970s (hippies,  
group, the Moral  
sexual revolution, etc)  
Majority, to promote  
New Right promoted  
family values & to raise  
school prayer & tough  
punishment for crimes  
conservative politicians  
Attacked abortion, the  
ERA, & homosexuality

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Conservatives wanted business growth, lower taxes, & free enterprise (freedom from gov't interference in the economy)

The New Right hoped to restore the superpower status of the United States



# The Election of 1980

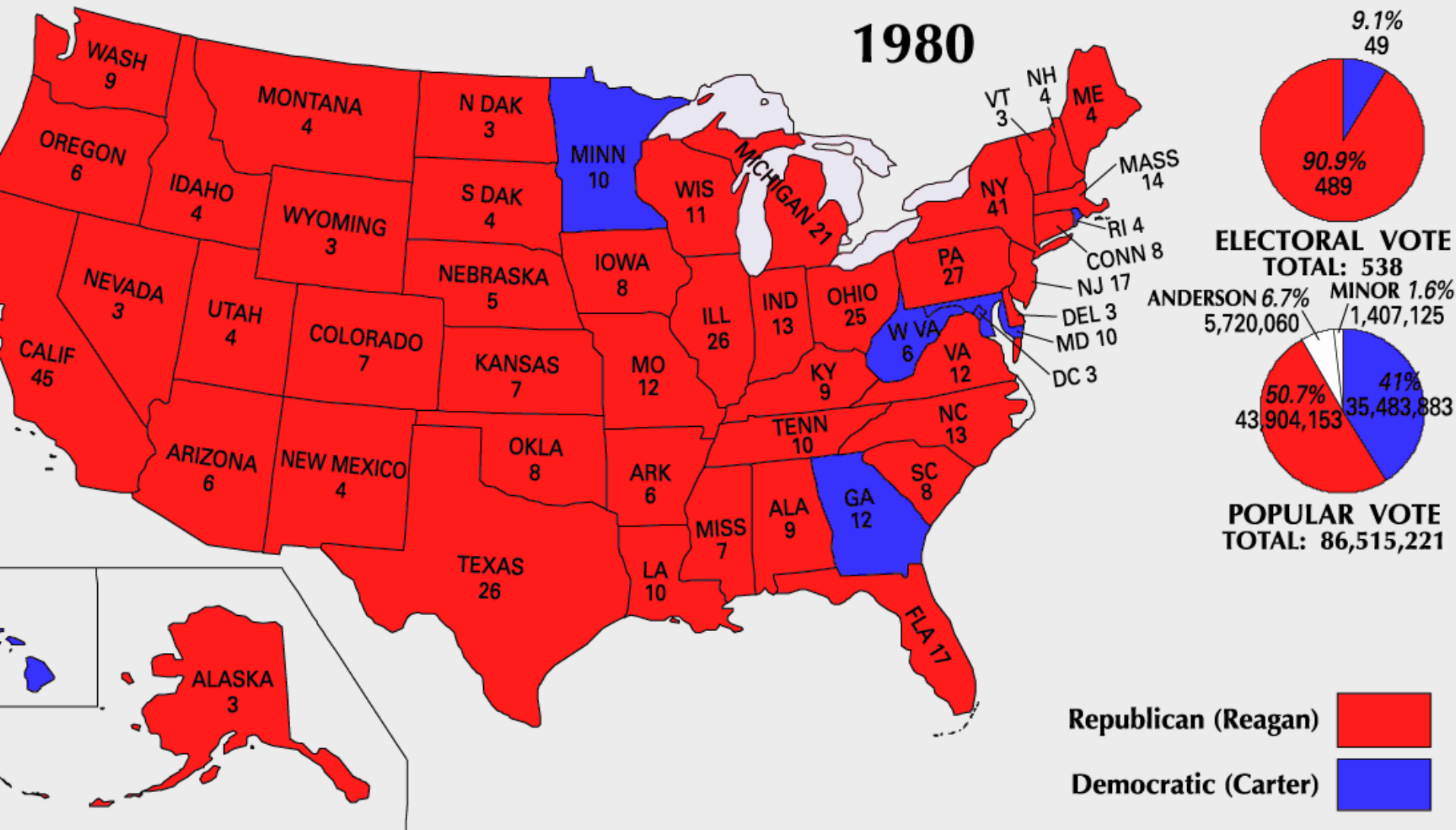
In 1980, conservative Republican Ronald Reagan ran for president

Reagan ran on a platform of lower taxes, less gov't, & family values

Reagan took advantage of Carter's failures with the economy & in foreign policy by asking "*Are you better off than you were four years ago?*"



# Reagan beat Carter in 1980





industries & the EPA led to  
inflation, lower prices,  
depletion of oil resources...  
environmental hazards

public welfare & job

economic deregulation &  
support for businesses by  
reduction of gov't agencies

- He appointed four conservatives to the Supreme Court, like Sandra Day O'Connor, the 1<sup>st</sup> female justice



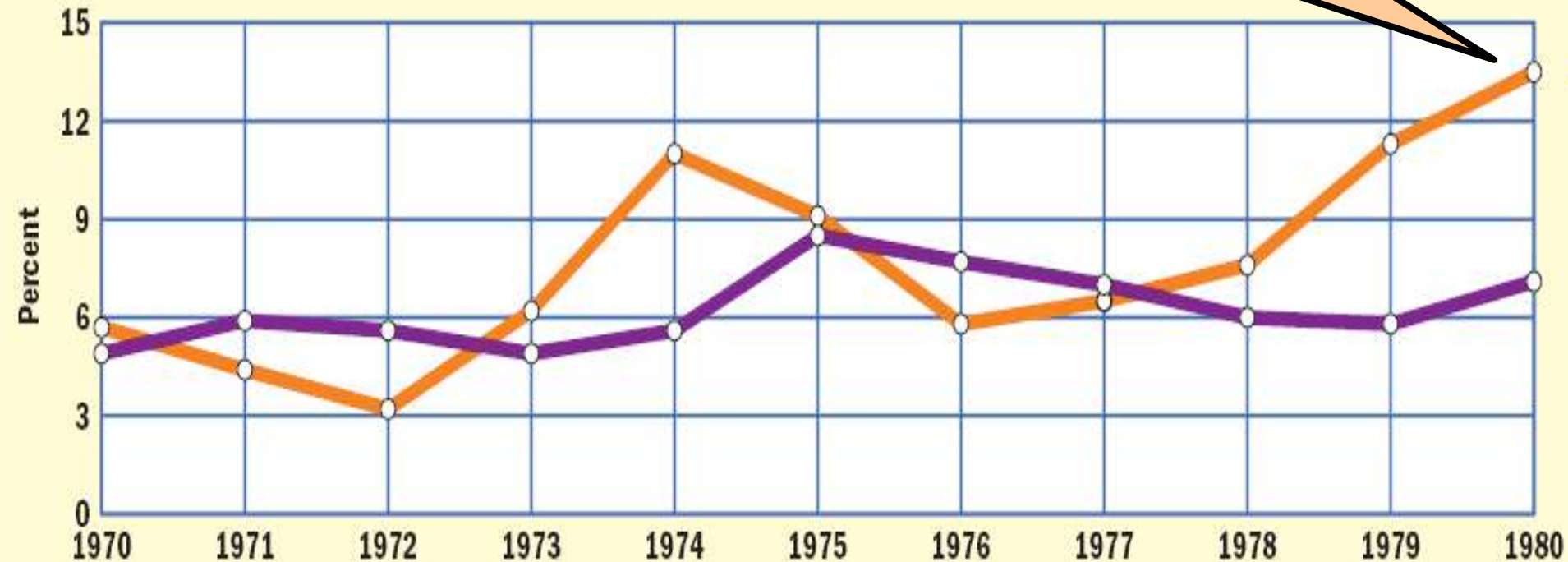
# Reaganomics

W  
fa

In 1980, interest rates were at 20% & the value of the dollar dropped to 36¢

crisis  
homy

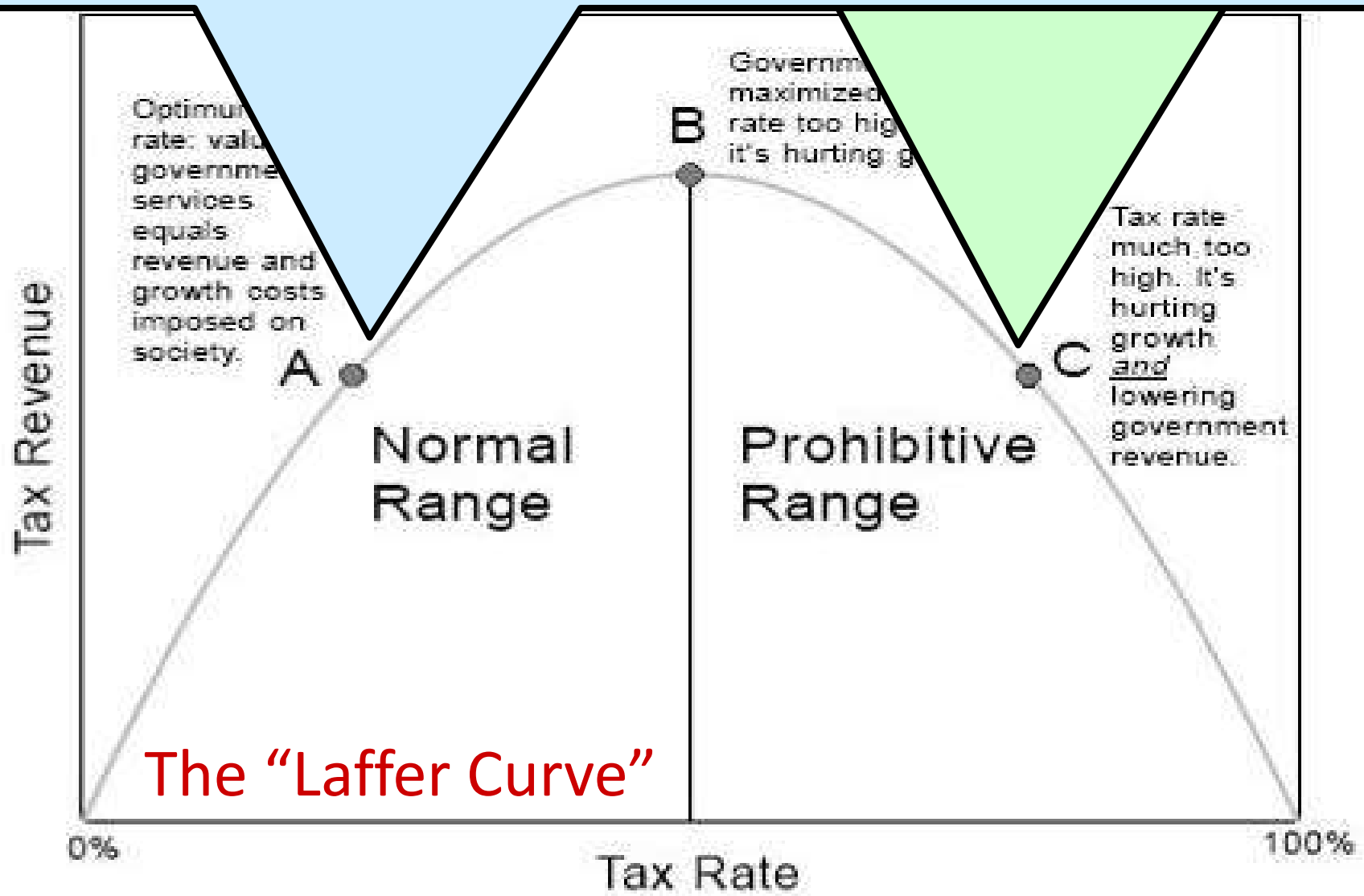
Unemployment and Inflation, 1970-1980



Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1980, 1995

Unemployment Rate Inflation Rate

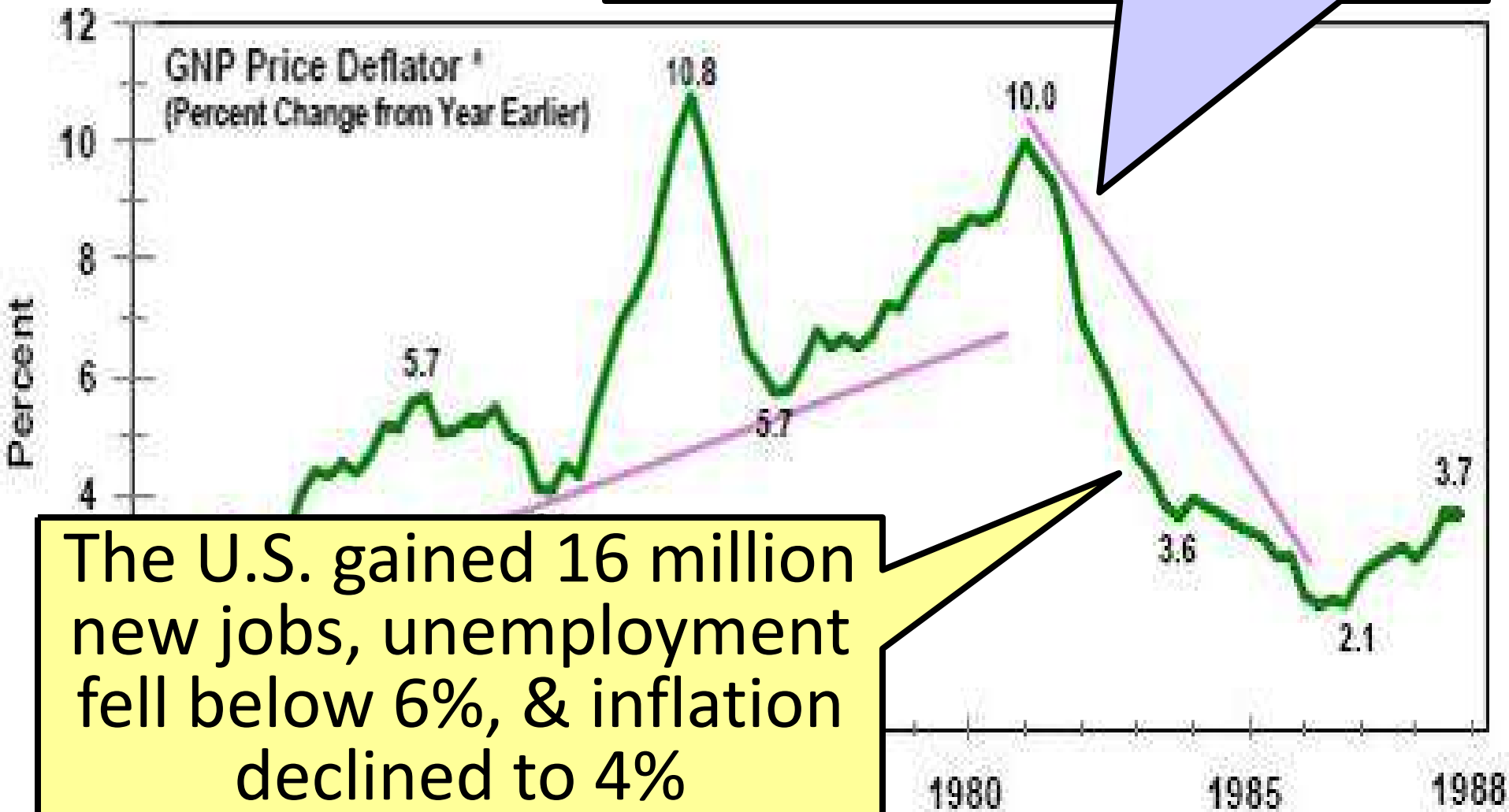
In 1981, Reagan urged Congress to pass a 25% tax cut over 3 years to stimulate spending, increase production, & lower prices



Re

Inflation, Unem

By 1983, "Reaganomics" worked, stagflation ended, & the economy boomed



# Defense Spending

In addition to downsizing the gov't & creating tax cuts, Reagan increased defense spending in order to restore America's place in the world

\$800

B-1 Bomber

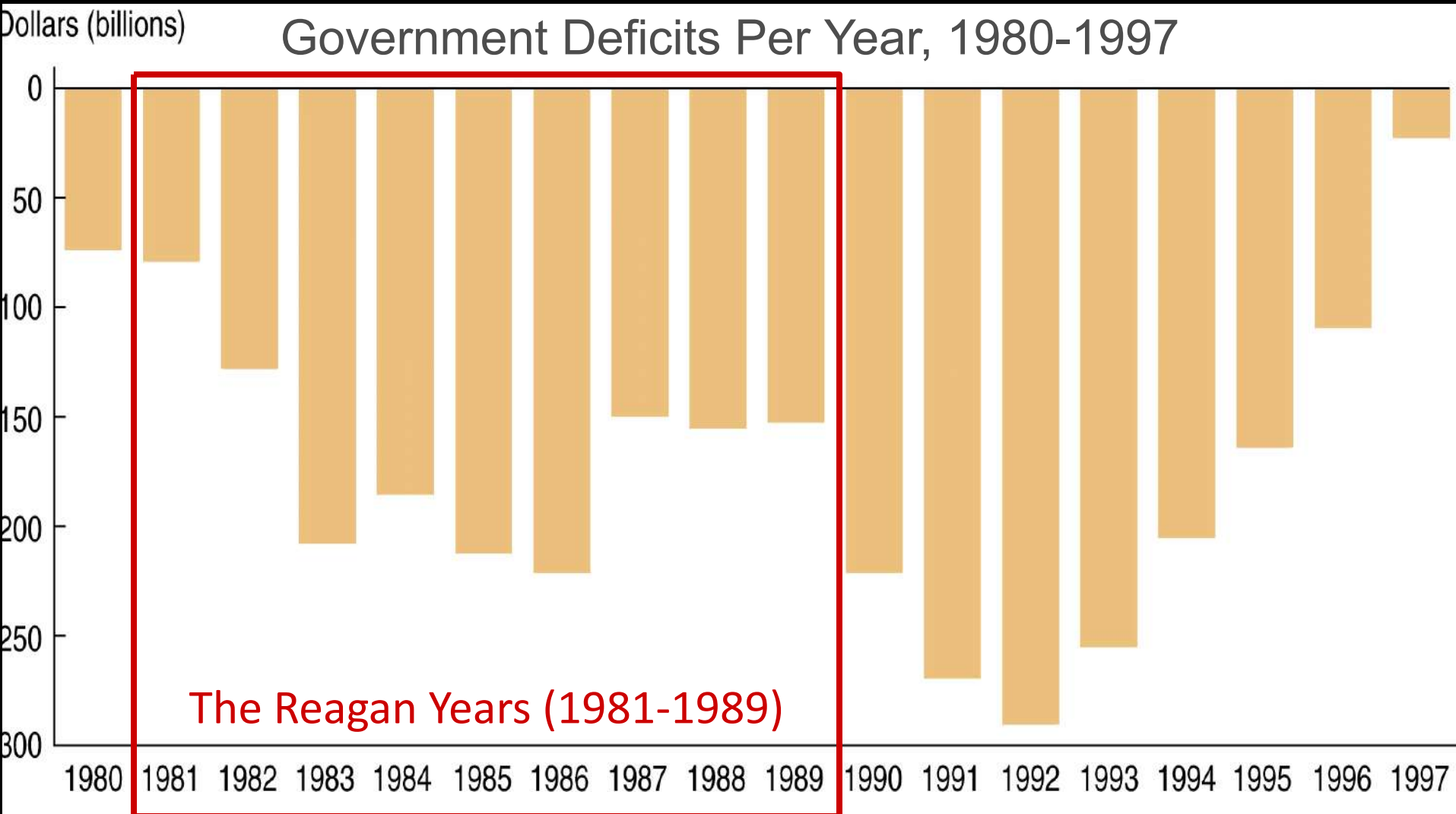


MX Missile System





But, because military spending increased but tax revenue decreased, the gov't experienced massive deficits due to “Reaganomics”



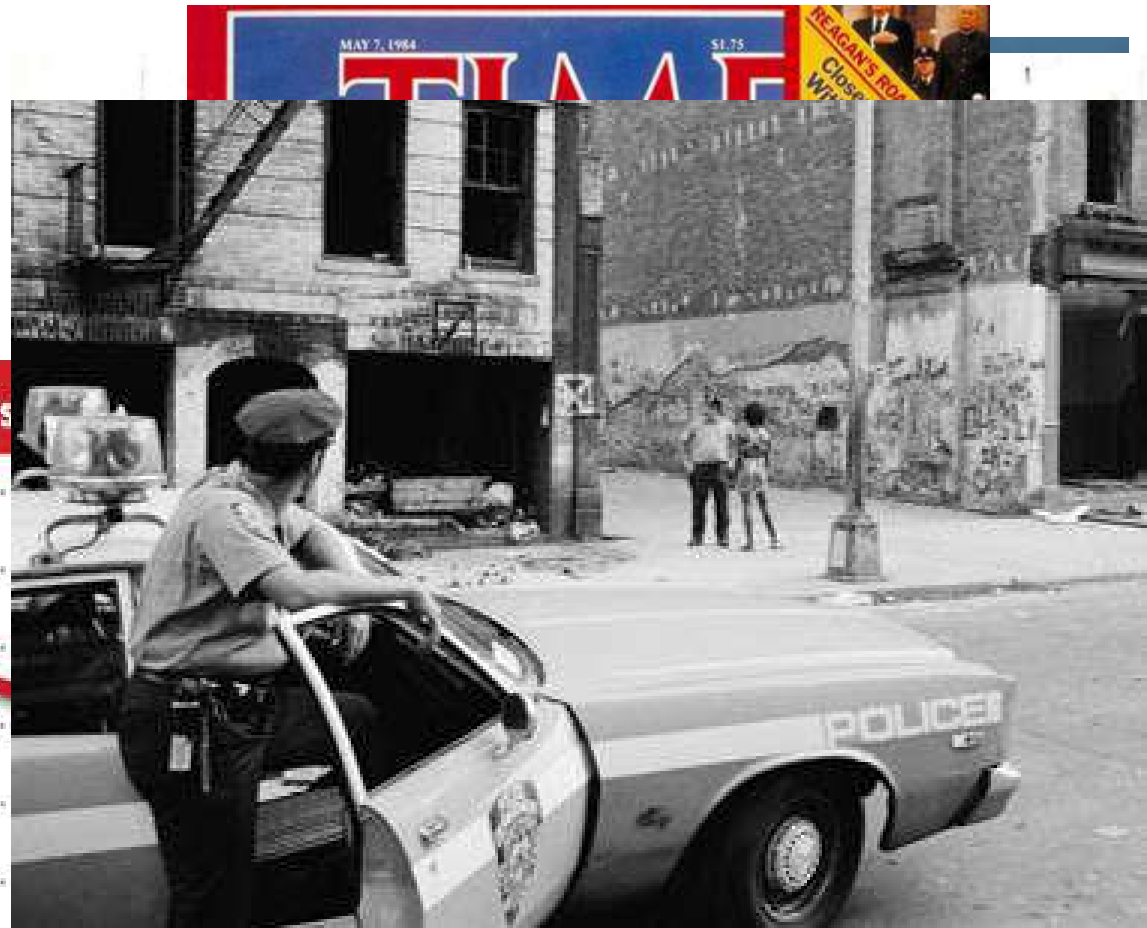
# Family Values & Social Concerns

Reagan's commitment to conservative values & cuts to social programs contributed to growing problems in the 1980s:

America saw increases in **school dropout rates**,

**Of 41 Participating Nations**

**23rd**  
In Reading



# Family Values & Social Concerns

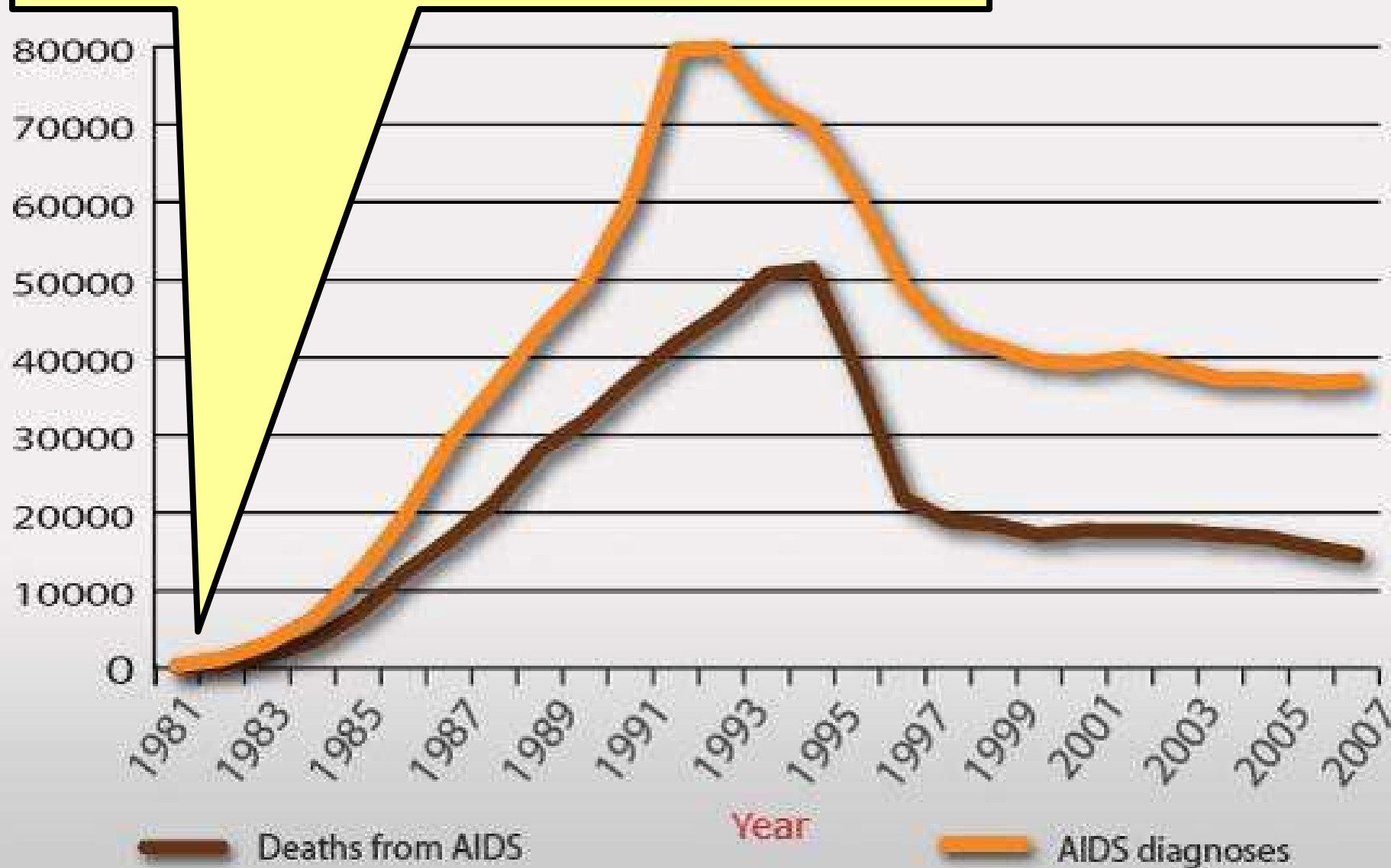
Reagan's commitment to conservative values & cuts to social programs contributed to growing problems in the 1980s:

The 1<sup>st</sup> documented cases of AIDS were reported, but the Reagan administration did not move swiftly because the disease was among gay men



# HIV/AIDS Statistics 1981-2007

The 1<sup>st</sup> AIDS cases were among gay men in San Francisco & NY in 1981



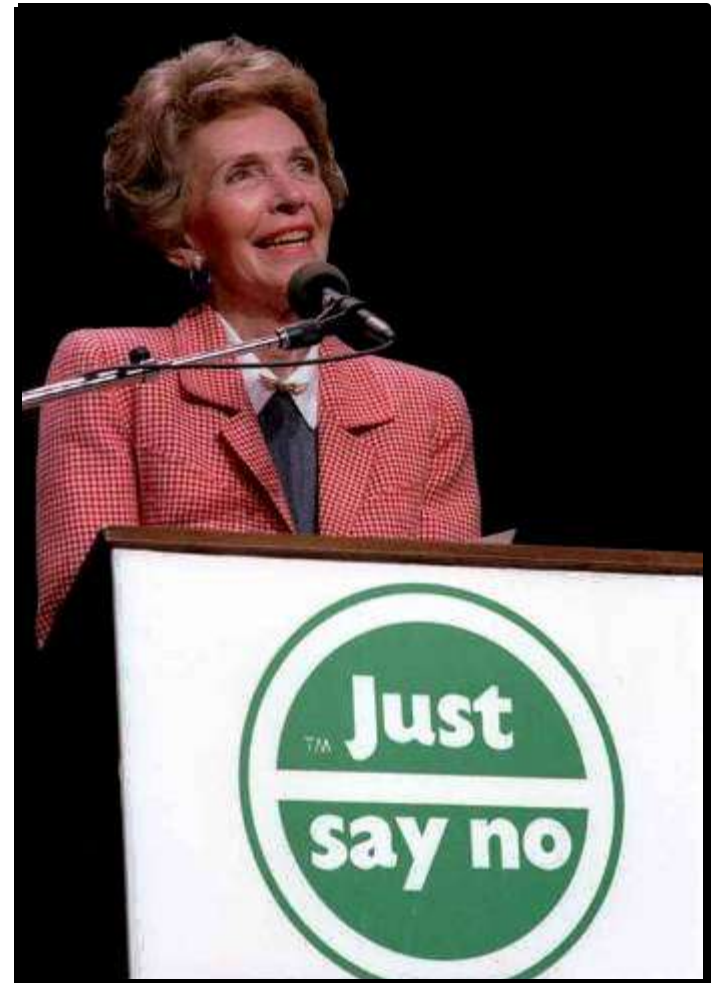


# Family Values & Social Concerns

Reagan's commitment to conservative values & cuts to social programs contributed to growing problems in the 1980s:

Crack cocaine was 1<sup>st</sup> introduced in the 1980s

The “crack epidemic” led Reagan to begin a “War on Drugs” & the “Just Say No” campaign



# The Election of 1984

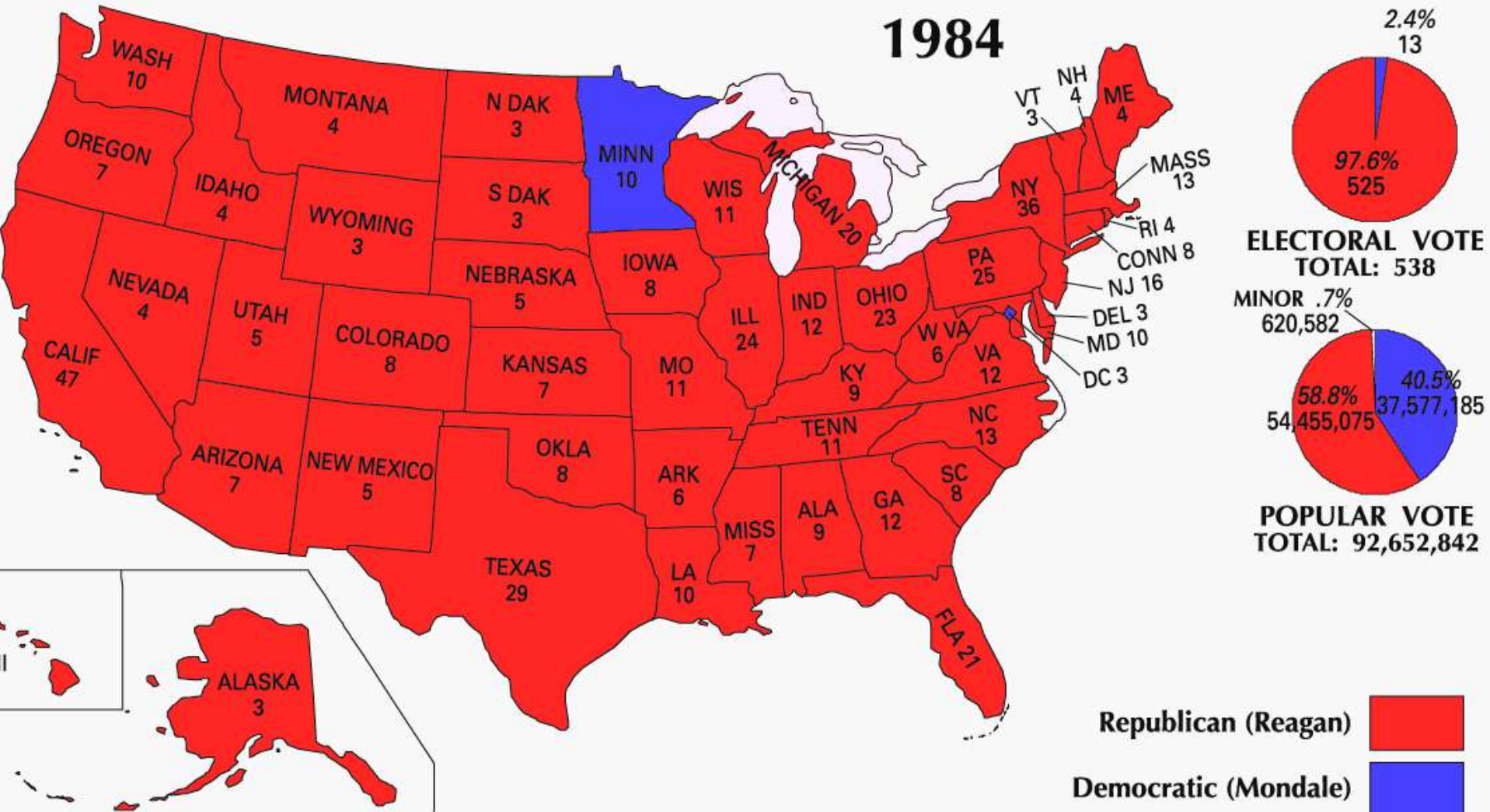
Despite the social problems, Reagan was popular among voters by the election of 1984



Ronald Reagan &  
VP George Bush



Reagan's victory in 1984 was powered by a "conservative coalition" of voters, including many "Reagan Democrats" (voted for Reagan for president but Democrats for other offices)



## ■ Essential Question:

- What were Ronald Reagan's contributions to American foreign policy in the 1980s?

## ■ Warm-Up Question:

- What was “Reaganomics”?
- What were the positive & negative effects of Reagan's domestic policies?



# Reagan & Foreign Policy

- Reagan wanted to restore U.S. foreign policy
  - Blamed Carter for allowing America's international prestige & influence to fall
  - Increased military spending
  - Confronted challenges in the Middle East & in Latin America
  - And win the Cold War with the Soviet Union





Reagan intervened in Lebanon  
when violence broke out  
between Israelis & Arabs in 1982



Meanwhile...

Reagan's response was to  
*"not negotiate with terrorists"*

But, anti-American hostility led  
a terrorist group to seize  
6 U.S hostages in Iran in 1983



Reagan In 1979, a communist group called the Sandinistas came to power in Nicaragua

Congress denied Reagan's plea to help Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries (Contras) take back power

Mexico City  
Veracruz

communist & military  
order in Latin America







Six  
hostages  
in Iran

The gov't then gave  
money from the profits  
of the arms sale to

The gov't illegally sold Iran weapons in  
exchange for the release of the 6 hostages  
(arms for hostages deal)

Contras in  
Nicaragua



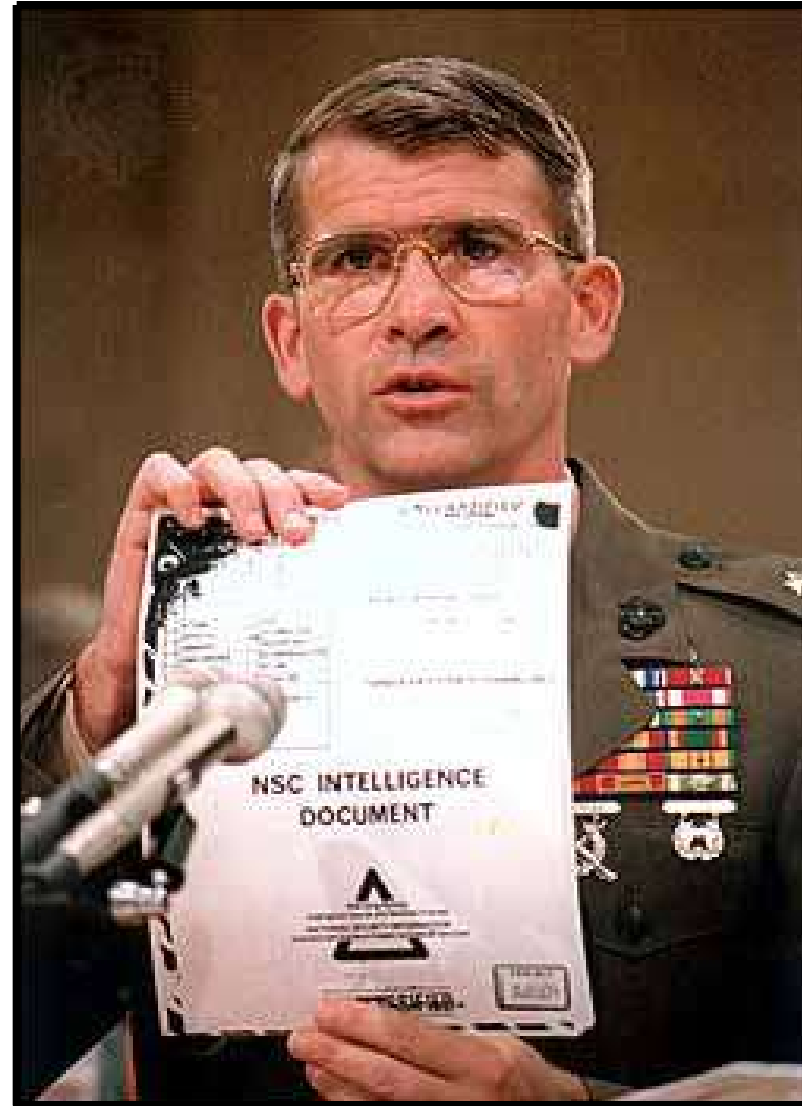


# The Iran-Contra Affair

In 1987, these illegal activities were discovered & the Iran-Contra Affair rocked the Reagan administration

Reagan said he had no knowledge of the scandal & Oliver North admitted to running the operation behind the president's back

Reagan escaped from the scandal ("Teflon president")



# Winning the Cold War

Reagan took a strong stand against communism & the Soviet Union

Reagan viewed the USSR as the "*focus of evil in the modern world*" & as a threat to U.S. security



His most "zero option" was a massive defensive missiles with a range of 5,720 miles. He called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) "Star Wars" program.

SDI would have cost the U.S. gov't trillions of dollars at a time when "Reaganomics" involved slashing budgets for social programs



# Winning the Cold War

As Reagan he was coming to power, communist nations (including the USSR) were beginning to face economic failure

In 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev took charge of the USSR & began creating moderate reforms to save Russia



Reagan was able to work with Gorbachev to reduce Cold War tensions

Glasnost: Freedom of speech & competitive elections

Business



In 1987, Reagan & Gorbachev signed the INF Treaty eliminating ICBMs in Europe



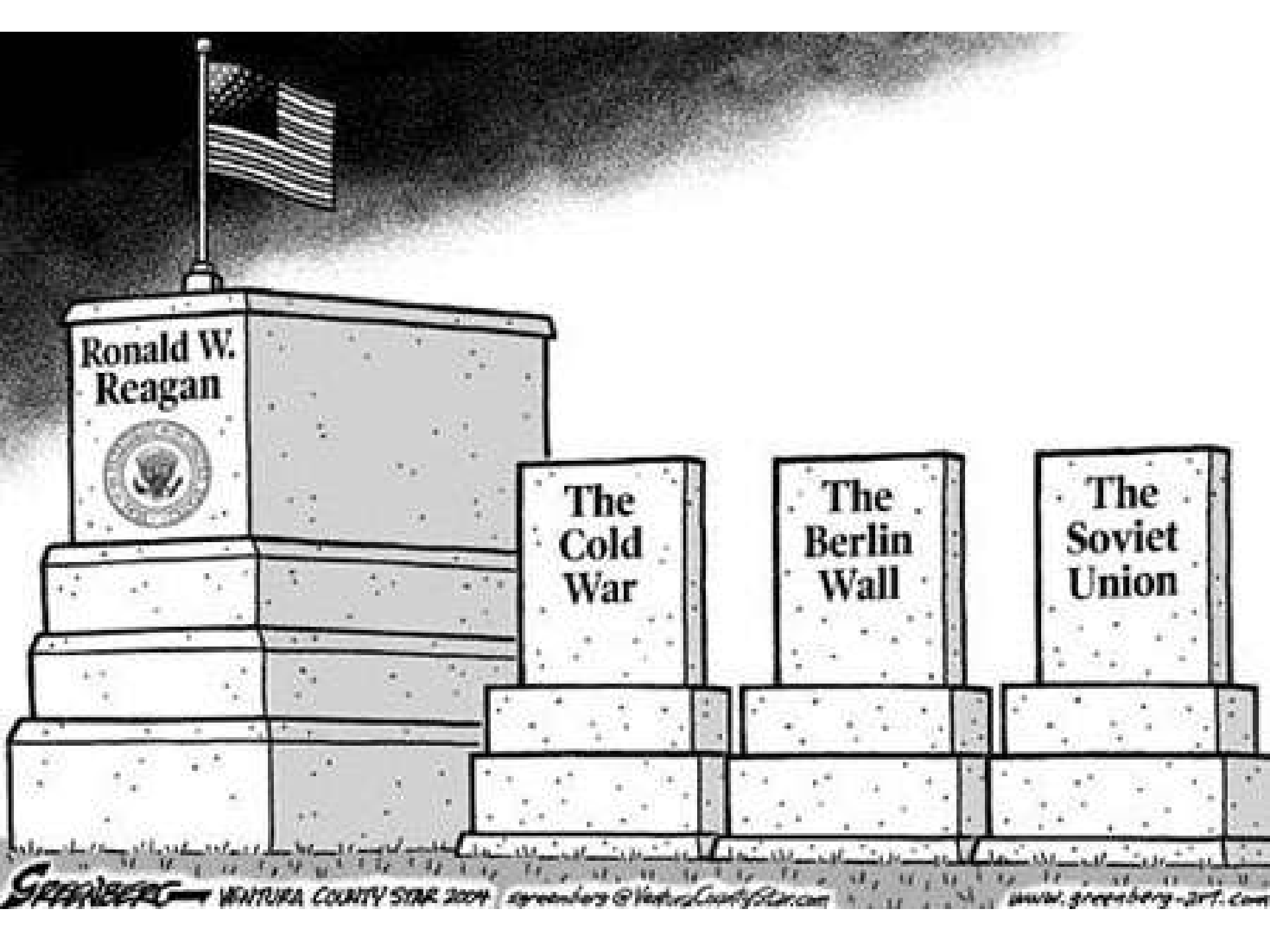
# Winning the Cold War

By the late 1980s, communism was failing across Eastern Europe

In 1990, states within the Soviet Union broke off & formed new democratic nations;  
In 1991, the USSR dissolved & the Cold War ended

In 1989 & 1990, Eastern European nations embraced democracy





Ronald W.  
Reagan



The  
Cold  
War

The  
Berlin  
Wall

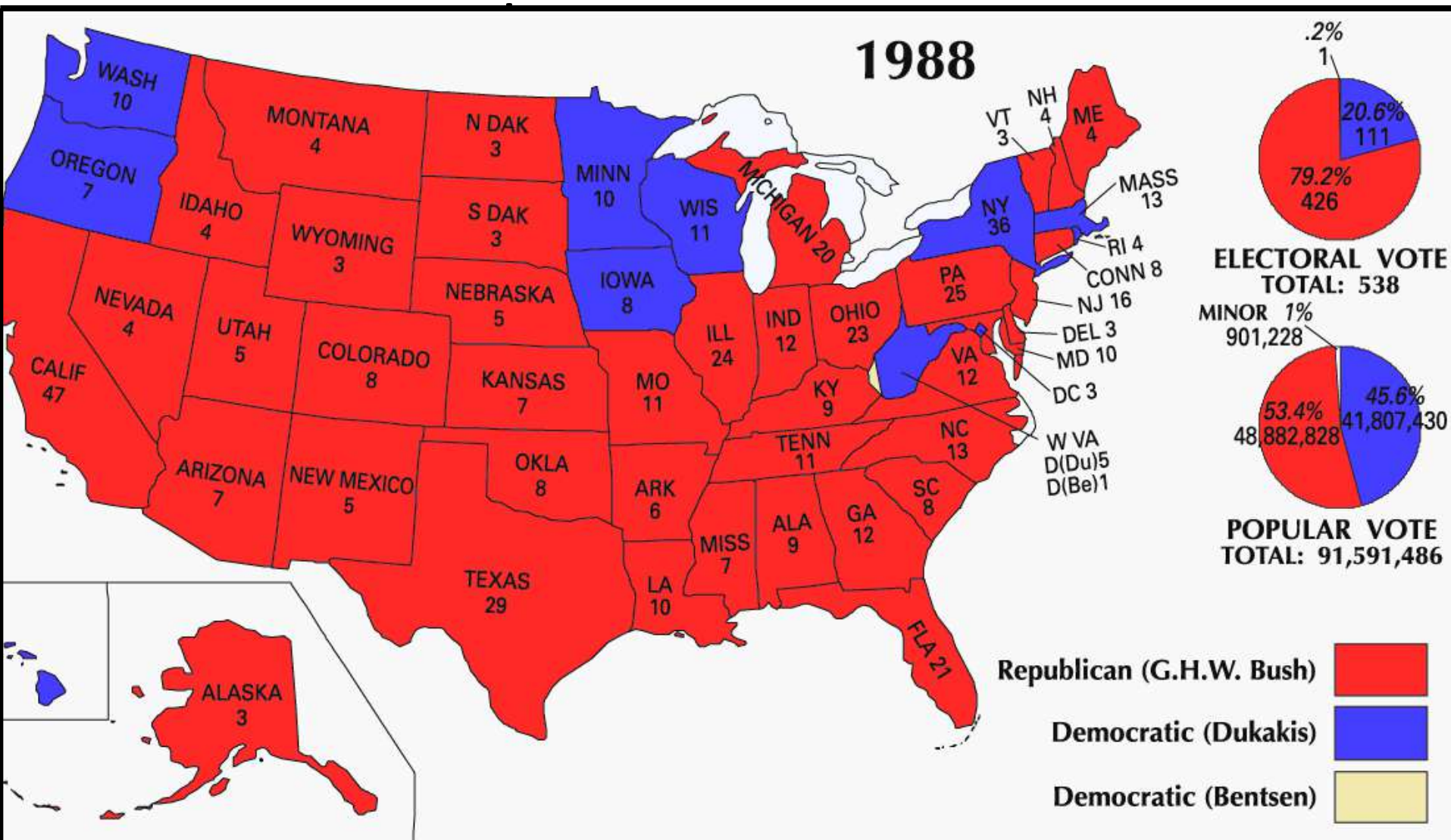
The  
Soviet  
Union

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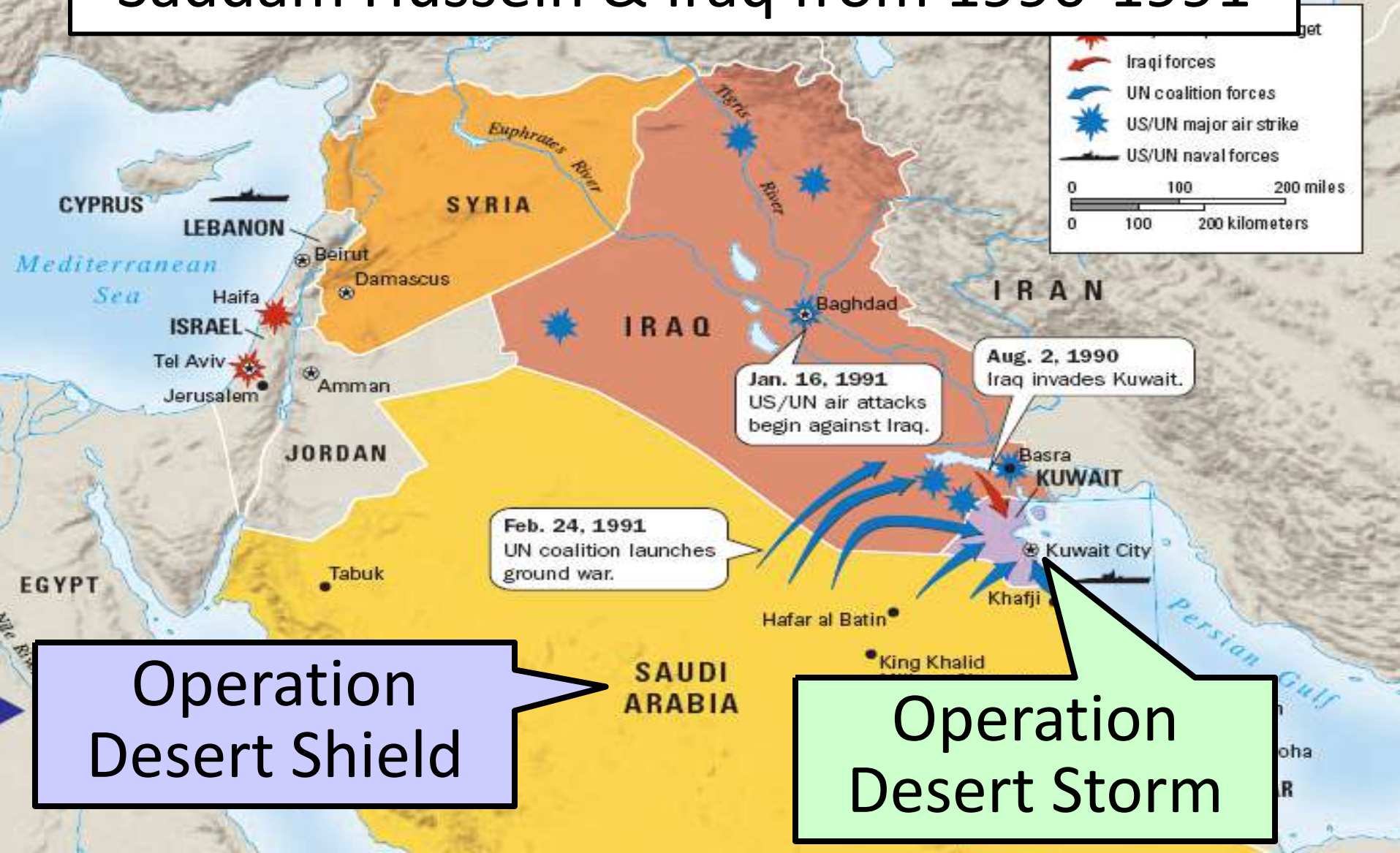
[www.greenberg-art.com](http://www.greenberg-art.com)

# George Bush





# The defining event of the Bush years was the Persian Gulf War against Saddam Hussein & Iraq from 1990-1991



# Conclusions

- Reagan's conservative policies & strong foreign policy changed America:
  - Reagan ended stagflation, restored the military, renewed family values, & won the Cold War
  - But, Reagan's policies reduced assistance programs, ignored social problems, & tripled the national debt





# Closure Activity (Option A): Song Lyric Analysis

Billy Joel

"We Didn't Start the Fire"

Examine the lyrics to this song  
to understand the key events from  
the 1940s to 1980s

# Closure Activity (Option B): Reagan Image Analysis

- In groups of three, examine each of the following 12 Reagan images:

For each image, complete this sentence, “*During the presidency of Ronald Reagan...*”

- After viewing all the images, be prepared for a class discussion

TOO BAD  
THE POLITICAL  
FORCE IS NOT  
WITH YOU, KID!

\$167 BILLION  
PENTAGON  
PROPOSAL FOR  
"STAR WARS"  
WEAPONS

SOCIAL  
PROGRAMS

SPITZ

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