

The New Shift: 1980-2003

S.C. = Supreme Court

Date	Pres. ... Event	Beyond America	Foreign Policy	Government Institutions	US Eco. Dev.	Issue/Org. Dev.	Pol. Party Dev.
1976-11	Gerald R. Ford vs. Jimmy Carter ¹				Economic slow-down +inflation (stagflation)		
1977-08			Panama Canal control ends ²				
1978				Bakke case ³			
1978-09			Camp David Accords ⁴				
1979-01		Iran Revolution ⁵					
1979-11		Iran: hostage crisis ⁶					
1979-12		Afghanistan: Rev. against USSR					
1973				Roe v. Wade		"Right to life" groups ⁷ ; others ⁸	
1976				Hyde Amendment ⁹			
1979						Moral Majority est. ¹⁰ &TV ¹¹	
1980-04		Iranian hostages, failed rescue					
1980-11	Ronald W. Reagan ¹² vs. Jimmy Carter				Status ¹³ , "Supply-side economics" ¹⁴ – reduce fed. tax rates		Slogan ¹⁵ & TV ¹⁶ ; Party #s ¹⁷
1981			Nicaragua: Sandanistas ¹⁸	Attempt, Social Security cut ¹⁹		AIDS status ²⁰ ; A Nation at Risk ²¹	
				FCC deregulates radio ²²		Limbaugh and Stern ²³	
1981-01-20	Inauguration Day	Iranian hostages, release					
1981-03	Assassination attempt						
1981-07, 08				SC: Sandra Day O'Connor	PATCO strike ²⁴		
1982		Br: Falklands War ²⁵		Deregulation savings & loans ²⁶	Status ²⁷		

¹ Major asset in the election – Not Nixon (perceived as incorruptible)

² 13 years of negotiations. Effective 2000, US ends 1903 treaty; control to Panama. But Reagan's view was "We bought it, we paid for it, it's ours."

³ Supreme Court rejected quotas, supported use of race in admissions.

⁴ Egypt (Anwar Sadat) recognizes Israel right to exist; Israel (Menachim Begin) returns Sinai.

⁵ Shah flies; Ayatollah Khomeini returns. Reminder: 1953 CIA aid.

⁶ Failed rescue 1980-04.

⁷ Roman Catholic church, Protestant evangelicals

⁸ Operation Rescue and clinic blockades; bombings, assassination of doctors

⁹ Banned Medicaid paying for abortions

¹⁰ Rev. Jerry Falwell, VA

¹¹ Pat Robertson, 700 Club, Christian Broadcasting Network (CABLE); Jimmy and Tammy Baker, PTL (Praise the Lord) – later fraud convictions; Jimmy Swaggart – later sexual misconduct

¹² Principle with USSR – A combination of military purchases and spending to "bankrupt the Soviets by forcing them to spend much more on their own military budgets." (page 1110) Notice Status

¹³ Inflation = 12%; unemployment = 7%+; prime interest = near 20%. National debt \$74B

¹⁴ "Supply-side economics"—as Status shows—did not reduce the federal deficit.

¹⁵ "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?"

¹⁶ "Great Communicator." Teleprompter with prepared text; "packag[ing]" of the President by James Baker (chief of staff), Michael Deaver (media), Edwin Meese (policy, later during Iran-Contra, attorney general), Nancy Reagan (with astrologer)

¹⁷ Senate 53 to 46, 1st time since 1954

¹⁸ Reagan opposes, subsidy of rebellion against using El Salvador bases. House of Representatives rejects this use of funds. Also, see 1988.

¹⁹ Spring, attempt to cut early retiree benefits; failed in Congress. Fall, panel to investigate problem. Fall, 1982, changes made to restore finances.

²⁰ c. 1984 = 3,700 US deaths to date – AIDS was not a top priority of the Reagan administration.

²¹ On failure of public education

²² Federal Communications Commission ended limits on commercials and requirement for public affairs programs and community surveys.

²³ Rise of Rush Limbaugh in 1990s, est. 13M listeners; of Howard Stern

²⁴ Professional Air Traffic Controller strike; back-to-work orders; failure to obey meant dismissal

²⁵ Argentina invaded this former British colony. Britain crushes the Argentine army; increases Thatcher's popularity.

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1982-06		Israel: Invades Lebanon					
1982-11							Dem. increase in House
1983		Lebanon: Terrorist attack ²⁸			Poverty status ²⁹	Family status ³⁰	
1983-03			Star Wars: SDI ³¹				
1983-10			US: Invades Grenada				
1984			Nicaragua: Sandanistas ³²	Gramm-Rudman-Hollings ³³	Status ³⁴		
1984-11	Ronald W. Reagan vs. Walter Mondale ³⁵					AIDS status ³⁶ ; Yuppies ³⁷	
1986				W. Rehnquist, Chief Justice	Lower tax rate		
1986-01				Challenger disaster ³⁸			
1986-10			Gorbachev-Reagan ³⁹				
1986-11			CIA/NSC covert action: Iran-Contra exposed ⁴⁰				
1987				FCC: Ends Fairness Doctrine ⁴¹			
1987-10				SC: Bork ⁴²			
1988-11	George H. Bush vs. Michael Dukakis				Status ⁴³ -no choices but taxes		"Willie Horton" & TV ⁴⁴ "The vision thing" ⁴⁵
1989		Communist breakup ⁴⁶ Berlin Wall down USSR out of Afghanistan		Savings & loan collapse ⁴⁷ SC: David Souter		Technical status ⁴⁸	
1990			China: Tiananmen Square ⁴⁹		Status ⁵⁰ - New taxes		
1990-08, 11		Iraq: Invades Kuwait ⁵¹					Minor Rep. losses
1990-12			US: Noriega ⁵²				

²⁶ For the crash of this system at taxpayer expense, see the 1st Bush administration.

²⁷ **National debt = \$128B (up 1.7 X of 1980 debt of \$74B)** – Note the increasing rise of national debt shown in other Status items.

²⁸ US forces in multinational peacekeeping. Terrorist bomb kills 239 US Marines; US Marines withdrawn.

²⁹ Bureau of Census: 13 M children under 6 in poverty. Note: end of 1980s = 11X money for reducing poverty for children shifted to elderly, an increasingly more organized voting block.

³⁰ 1970 = 3.8M single parent families; 1992 = 10.5M. **Spending traits – Americans spent more than they made.**

³¹ **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)**. To stop – theoretically and never proved – missiles before they could hit the US.

³² US-supported Contras not succeeding against Sandanistas; El Salvador right wing's death squads. Congress does 2nd amendment US funding of Contras.

³³ Phil Gramm (TX), Warren Rudman (PA), and Fritz Hollings (SC) – Bill that automatically lowers federal expenditure across the board. The bill "promised to lower deficits without requiring lawmakers to choose among tough options."

³⁴ **National debt = \$186B**

³⁵ 1st woman candidate for Vice President, Geraldine Ferraro, Representative for the state of New York

³⁶ **1985 = 6,700 US deaths; 1987 = 15,500 per year**

³⁷ Among 1980s social changes = young urban professionals (yuppies) and "image is everything" (Andre Agassi) culture.

³⁸ Causes = systemic inattention, cost-cutting and schedule-making as goals, over-confidence

³⁹ 2nd of 2 positive meetings although no substantive changes

⁴⁰ National Security Council (NSC) used money from sale of arms to Iran as part of deal to free hostages (this time held in Lebanon). President Reagan approved. Profit from sale went to Nicaraguan contras (US-supported group established to try to stop Sandanistas). Exposed by CIA plane shot down by Sandanistas. Participants: Oliver North, John Poindexter (NSC advisor). Congressional immunity and publicity of hearings resulted in limited consequences for participants. Issues such as fear of a repeat of the impeachment of a president meant no consequences for the President.

⁴¹ What it used to do: Fairness Doctrine had required any broadcast (since public airwaves) to present both sides of opposing arguments.

⁴² Robert Bork's confirmation blocked over such prior positions as opposing *Roe v. Wade*. Anthony Kennedy later confirmed for spot.

⁴³ **National debt = \$156B** George H. Bush had campaigned with the phrase "Read my lips. No new taxes."

⁴⁴ Horton = escaped black convict, rape in another state used as TV commercial against Dukakis, MA governor.

⁴⁵ Bush phrase about goals that came to haunt him

⁴⁶ 1989 = free elections, Poland

⁴⁷ Deregulation in Reagan's term results in \$500B cost to taxpayers.

⁴⁸ **Computer revolution** from 1981 IBM PC (personal computer) to 1983 **Microsoft** Windows (**Bill Gates**) to 1984 Apple Macintosh. Sales = 1983 of 20K purchased/yr. to 500K/yr. **Internet revolution** from 1969 Pentagon project to 1980s usernet and email. **Cable revolution** beginning with 1981 MTV (Music Television) and Ted Turner's CNN (Cable News Network).

⁴⁹ US, limited response

⁵⁰ **National debt in 1990 = \$222B** George H. Bush makes the 1990 announcement of new taxes

⁵¹ Note that in spring 1990 US ambassador told Saddam Hussein US had "no position" on his issues with Kuwait.

⁵² US sends troops into Panama after Noriega, a former informant for the US on drugs. 1992 he is convicted of drug traffic.

Date	Pres. ... Event	Beyond America	Foreign Policy	Government Institutions	US Eco. Dev.	Issue/Org. Dev.	Pol. Party Dev.
1991		Russia: Coup attempt ⁵³	US: recognizes Bosnia ⁵⁴	SC: C. Thomas ⁵⁵			
1991-01		2) Coalition/Operation Desert Storm ⁵⁶	1) Congress on Iraq ⁵⁷				
1992				Stall, campaign finance reform ⁵⁸	Status ⁵⁹	AIDS status ⁶⁰	
1992-11	George H. Bush vs. William Clinton vs. Ross Perot ⁶¹						"New Democrat" ⁶² ; & TV ⁶³ "Inspector Perot" ⁶⁴
1993		Somalia debacle ⁶⁵		Whitewater scandal ⁶⁶ ; NAFTA ⁶⁷	Clinton tax increase; Status ⁶⁸	Health care plan ⁶⁹ & TV ⁷⁰	
1994					Status ⁷¹	Proposition 187 (CA) ⁷²	
1994						O.J. Simpson case & TV ⁷³	Focus groups ⁷⁴ ; Gingrich ⁷⁵
1995				D'Amato's ⁷⁶ failed probe			
1995-04						Oklahoma City bombing ⁷⁷	
1995-09, 10		Serbian peace ⁷⁸				"Million Man March" ⁷⁹	
1995-11				1 st gov't. closedown			Gingrich - rear door
1995-12+				2 nd gov't. closedown			
1996			State: Madeline Albright		Welfare change ⁸⁰		
1996-11	Robert Dole vs. William Clinton vs. Ross Perot (Reform)						
1997, 1998					Status ⁸¹	Technology status ⁸²	

⁵³ Attempted coup against Gorbachev. Yeltsin blocks, then rises to temporary power.

⁵⁴ Yugoslavian civil war: Serbs vs. Bosnians, Croats, Slovenes. US recognition of Bosnia as a sovereign nation; has later implications for the Clinton administration.

⁵⁵ Confirmation marred by Anita Hill scandal on sexual harassment while working at Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

⁵⁶ Ground action – 02/24/1991. Defeat of Hussein, but not removed from power.

⁵⁷ Following UN Security Council resolution on Iraq leaving Kuwait by 01/15/1991, Congress votes for use of US troops.

⁵⁸ Congressional campaigns as well as campaigns for the Presidency funded by corporations, unions, special interests.

⁵⁹ National debt = \$297B. General in 1990s = "downsizing"; decrease in middle class jobs and rise of service sector jobs at low pay and no or few benefits; "generation X" of 75M children of first wave of baby boomers, disillusioned.

⁶⁰ Research funding by 1992. 1992 = new cases 45K; 1993 = 83K.

⁶¹ Perot will campaign, withdraw, and then in October come back to the race.

⁶² Clinton campaign slogan

⁶³ Perot was allowed to debate in this election.

⁶⁴ Phrase used by some Perot employees

⁶⁵ 1992-12: Bush administration sent in 25K US troops on humanitarian mission (starving). 1993-10: UN mission shifts to "nation-building." US troops sent after local warlord, 18 Americans dead, televised mob's dragging dead, naked US pilot through streets. US Pullout by 1994-03.

⁶⁶ Whitewater real estate venture scandal, suicide of Vince Foster, a Presidential aide; later Paula Jones charged sexual harassment. 1st independent counsel (a Republican) found Foster's death to be a suicide; replaced by Kenneth Starr.

⁶⁷ North American Free Trade Agreement. Program nearly complete under Bush, but was signed and favored by Clinton. Program for free trade between Canada + Mexico + US. Perot forecasted loss of American jobs – a great "sucking sound."

⁶⁸ National debt = \$255B (from \$291B in 1992). Tax rates on wealthy = from 33 to 39.6%. Earned income credit for working poor = max. \$3,500 to keep them above poverty line.

⁶⁹ Proposed health care plan by Hillary Clinton task force rejected; health insurance lobbyists one of causes

⁷⁰ TV ads – "Harry and Louise"

⁷¹ National debt = \$203B (\$42B less in one year)

⁷² No benefits to illegal immigrants

⁷³ Continues through 1995. TV coverage was constant; became symbol.

⁷⁴ Testing of issues in focus groups to determine what the Republicans will select for the "Contract with America," platform for 1994

⁷⁵ Gingrich becomes Speaker of House; majority in House, Senate

⁷⁶ Simultaneous with Ken Starr's probe, Senator Alfonse d'Amato (NY) led probe but found nothing to use.

⁷⁷ Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols, part of militia movement, blew up a federal building.

⁷⁸ 1995 – US air power as part of NATO effort and outside aid from Muslims resulting in a counter-offensive by Muslims as well as Croats; result – Serbian "ethnic cleansing" blocked. Ceasefire terms negotiated among the three in Dayton, Ohio.

⁷⁹ Est. vary. Leader Louis Farrakhan (anti-semitic, anti-white) of the Nation of Islam. Division in the black community over his role.

⁸⁰ 07/1996 - AFDC (Aid for Dependent Children) replaced with block grant.

⁸¹ National debt = \$25B, lowest in 23 years. Unemployment decline to 4.8%. Reminder: reduction in national debt resulted in some referring to this as a surplus; however, the official national debt does not include the money owed for future commitments through Social Security.

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1998-01, 11						Monica Lewinsky scandal	Dem. increases
1998-12				House: 2 impeachment articles ⁸³			
1999-01				Senate – acquitted			
1999-03		Kosovo ⁸⁴					
2000					Immigration status ⁸⁵		
2000-10		USS Cole in Yemen					
2000-11, 12	George W. Bush vs. Albert Gore vs. Ralph Nader (Green)			SC: <i>Bush v. Gore</i> ⁸⁶			
2001-09-11			NY: Twin Towers ⁸⁷	Dept. of Homeland Security			
2002-11							Rep. control in Senate ⁸⁸
2003-03		UN: Resistance to Iraq war ⁸⁹					
2003-05		Bush: Declares combat over.					
2004-11	George W. Bush vs. John Kerry						
2008-11	John McCain vs. Barack Obama						

⁸² 1996, 18M (9%) used Internet regularly; 1998, 20M.
⁸³ Perjury in 1998-08 (grand jury); obstruction of justice over Lewinsky scandal.
⁸⁴ NATO airstrike to stop Serbian "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo Albanians
⁸⁵ 1970-2000 est. 20M, of these estimated 3M Muslims, 500K Buddhists, 500K Hindus
⁸⁶ 5-4 for no recount
⁸⁷ World Trade Center Towers. US countermoves against Afghanistan/Taliban government. Also subsequent reorganization of the federal government, including creation of Homeland Security Department.
⁸⁸ Senator James Jeffords (VT) had switched from being a Republican to being an Independent, thus previously giving the Democrats the majority.
⁸⁹ Position opposed by France, Germany, Russia, China.

Date	Pres. ... Event	Beyond America	Foreign Policy	Government Institutions	US Eco. Dev.	Issue/Org. Dev.	Pol. Party Dev.
20012-11	Mitt Romney vs. Barack Obama						

Issue	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000-2008	2008+
National Debt	Deficit 5 of 8 years	1968 -\$25 B – largest since WWII	\$74 B – end of Nixon and Carter 1971-wage freeze; off gold standard	▲ \$186B ▲ \$156B	See matrix below.		
President	1952-1956, 1956-1960 Dwight D. Eisenhower	1960-1963 John F. Kennedy 1963-1964, 1964-1968 L.B. Johnson	1968-1972, 1972-08/1974 R.M. Nixon; 08/1974-1976 Gerald Ford; 1976-1980 Jimmy Carter	1980-1984, 1984-1988 Ronald Reagan 1988-1992 George H. Bush	1992-1996, 1996-2000 William Clinton	2000-2004, 2004-2008 George W. Bush	2008-2012, 2012-2016 – Barack Obama
If born in 1945	a Baby Boomer is 5 years of age in 1950	15 years of age in 1960	25 years of age in 1970	a Baby Boomer is 35 years of age in 1980	45 years of age in 1990	55 years of age in 2000	65 years of age in 2010

1990	\$222B
1992	\$297B
1993	\$255B
1994	\$203B
1997	\$25B

WCJC Department: History – Dr. Bibus
Contact Information: 281.239.1577 or bibusc@wcjc.edu
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