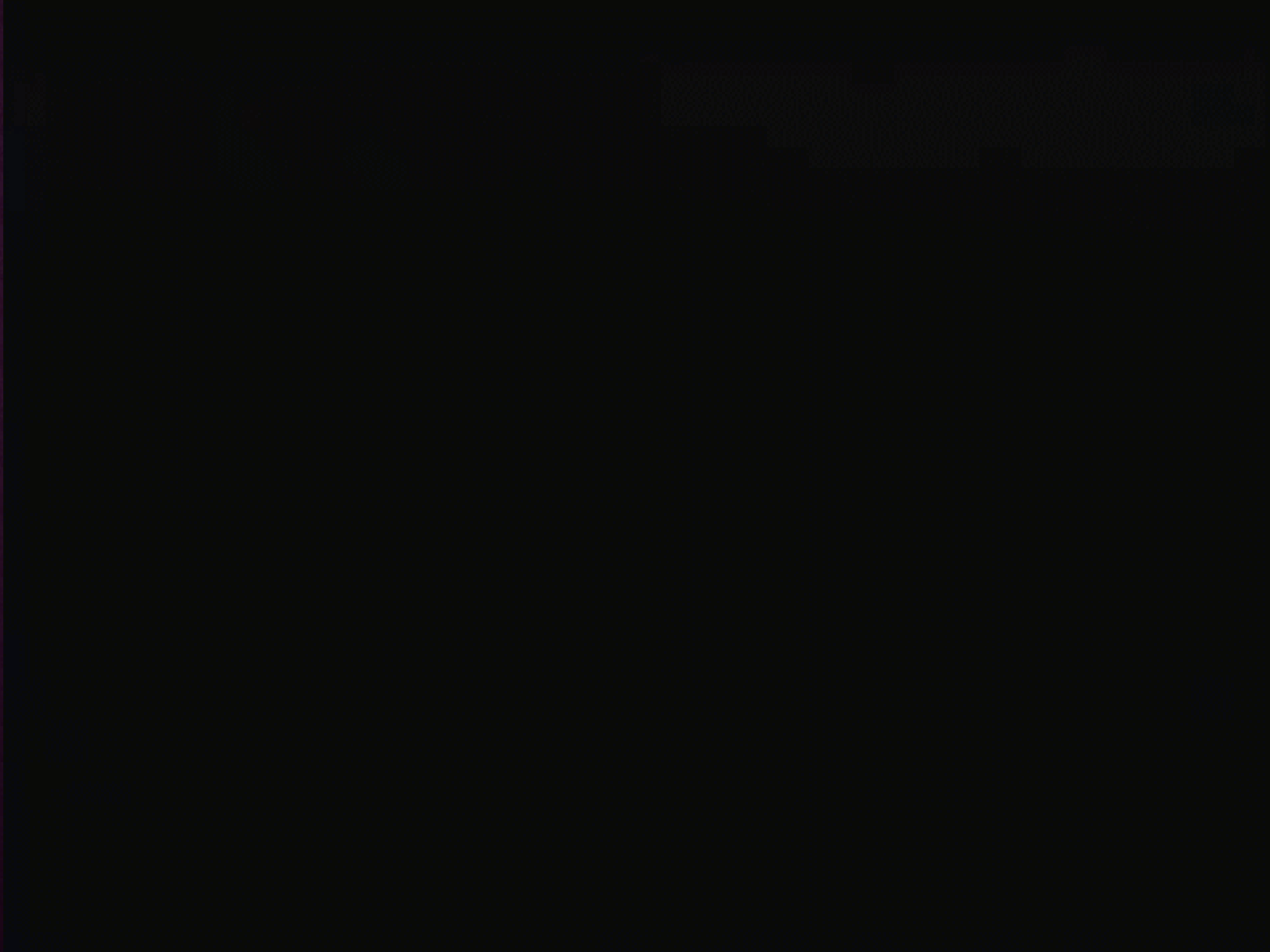


# **UNIT 8: CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES**

1970s, 1980s, 1990s, & September 11, 2001

# LATE 1970S



# ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE 1970S VIDEO ON P. 151-152

1. Why were Americans “unsure” of themselves in 1976?
2. What did Jimmy Carter represent to many Americans? Why weren’t young people interested in politics?
3. Describe disco and the nightclubs in which people danced.
4. What impact does the women’s rights movement have on marriages and families? How is this “unorthodox”?
5. What impact did the cold weather in 1977 have on the U.S. and our energy sources?
6. What impact did foreign competition have on the auto industry and the American worker?
7. Why were Japanese and German cars more attractive to Americans?
8. What was “Love Canal”? How did the people remedy their problem?
9. Why was there forced busing in urban schools? How was it received in America? How did it impact the schools?
10. What happened in San Francisco that galvanized the gay community?
11. Why were conservatives concerned that America was disintegrating by the late 1970s?
12. What happened in Iran in 1979? What were Khomeini’s ideas?
13. What impact did OPEC’s raising of oil prices have on the U.S.?
14. Describe Carter’s “malaise” speech! What was his message?
15. What did Iranians do in response to the U.S. giving the Shah of Iran refuge? What images did Americans see on television?
16. What did the Carter Administration do to try and free the hostages? What was the result?
17. Why was the U.S. hockey team’s victory in the 1980 Olympics so important for America?
18. Who is Ronald Reagan and why was he so appealing to Americans?



1980\$

with  
*Peter Jennings*

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# ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR NOTES WHILE WATCHING THE 1980S VIDEO ON P. 153-154

1. When were U.S. hostages of Iran freed and returned to America?
2. What happened to Ronald Reagan two months into his presidency?
3. What was the highest grossing film ever?
4. What is the Iran-Contra Affair?
5. What made our personal lives richer and easier?
6. What a “yuppie” of the 1980s?
7. What were Americans overwhelmed by in the 1970s?
8. What did President Reagan and President Bush declare a war on?
9. In the 1980s, how many babies were born with illegal drugs in their systems?
10. How many lived did AIDS in America affect during the 1980s?
11. What were the Chinese fighting for in the Tiananmen Square event?
12. Who were the Palestinians trying to free themselves from?
13. What were people fighting for in several countries, something that was “a work in progress”?
14. What was finally broken down that separated East and West Berlin since 1961?



# THE CLINTON YEARS

- Bill Clinton ran against George H.W. Bush in 1992, he won the **electoral** college but had less than 50% of the popular vote
- Clinton reformed **welfare** by adding limits on how long people could get financial aid and attempted to reform **healthcare** by offering a government funded health insurance, but this plan was not approved by Congress
- The economy was **booming** in the 1990s and the **internet** became a major means of communication
- Domestic terrorism struck in **1995** when terrorists detonated a bomb at a federal building in Oklahoma City





# CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY

- With the threat of **communism** gone, Clinton faced new challenges around the world
- A **peace** agreement between Palestine and Israel in 1993 was a huge success, but very little of the agreement was followed after the **assassination** of the Israeli leader
- President Bush had sent US forces to help the UN in **Somalia** but after US forces were killed in 1993, Clinton withdrew the US troops and this experience led him to choose not to send US forces to **Rwanda** in 1994 to stop the genocide taking place
- US troops were sent to Haiti in 1994 to lead the UN effort at removing the **dictator** and were able to peacefully change governments
- President Bush had setup the **NAFTA** agreement (North American Free Trade Agreement) and left it to President Clinton to get Congress to approve it, allowing Mexico, the US, and Canada to trade freely without **tariffs**

# CLINTON'S SCANDALS AND THE ELECTION OF 2000

- President Clinton was accused of improperly getting **loans** in a real estate project known as **Whitewater**, though no charges were filed against him
- Clinton was also accused of sexual harassment against a state employee in **Arkansas** and later with having inappropriate relations with a White House intern, **impeachment** proceedings took place, but the two-thirds vote to remove him from office was not met and he **finished** his term
- The Election of 2000 was a hard-fought battle between George W. **Bush** and Al **Gore**, with Bush winning the electoral vote and Gore winning the popular vote in the closest and most **controversial** election with recounts of ballots in Florida



# BUSH ADMINISTRATION

- Scandals in big business and the bursting of the **dot-com** bubble left the stock market falling and the **economy** slumping in the early 2000s
- President Bush passed a law to improve public **education** called No Child Left Behind which required states to develop academic standards and to **test** students annually on those standards
- Bush reformed **Medicare** to help the elderly pay for prescription medications and attempted to reform the Social Security system but that was not passed by Congress
- While Bush **limited** the nuclear weapon program in the US and urged other countries to follow suit, he also focused on a missile **defense** system
- Following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, Congress passed the USA **Patriot** Act to allow law enforcement to collect data about **suspected** terrorists
- Bush declared a war on **terror** and accused the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, of not destroying its weapons of mass destruction, leading to an invasion of **Iraq** in 2003