Ford, Carter, & Reagan Administrations
SWBAT

• Explain Ford & Carter’s domestic and foreign policies

Do Now:

• How was a shadow cast on Nixon’s presidency?
How did Ford become President?

• While Watergate was underway, Nixon’s VP- Spiro Agnew resigned after being charged with income tax evasion
  → Nixon appointed House of Representatives minority leader, Gerald Ford, as VP
  → Nixon resigned (avoiding impeachment)
  → Ford takes office as President

- 1st non-elected President in US history when Nixon resigned in 1974
- Ford pardoned President Nixon
Domestic Policy

• Offered amnesty to men who avoided military & violated draft laws during Vietnam War

• Addressed inflation after OPEC placed oil embargo on US for support of Israel
  → Price of oil & gas in US doubles
  → Worst recession since Great Depression
Foreign Policy

• Henry Kissinger (foreign policy advisor) worked with Ford on his foreign policy objectives
  → ended oil embargo
  → continued policy of détente with Soviet Union
  → oversaw withdrawal of US troops & end of the Vietnam War
Election of 1976

Map showing the distribution of electoral votes and popular vote in the 1976 United States presidential election. The map indicates which states voted for Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter and which voted for Republican candidate Gerald Ford. The map also shows the popular vote totals for each candidate.

• Appealed to American sense of honesty & integrity → wanted to return to “down home” values.

• Domestic Policy:
  - “Stagflation”- inflation of oil prices mixed with stagnation of economy & high unemployment.
- Energy Problems - US leading consumer of energy
  → trade deficit (import more than we export)
  → Carter implemented new energy plan
    (conserve, protect, & develop alternatives - nuclear)
Domestic Policy

- Corporate Bailouts - corporations hard-hit by inflation & decline in consumer purchasing

→ faced possible bankruptcy (incl. layoffs)

→ federal government authorized massive loans to keep them in business
Domestic Policy

- Environmental Problems:
  1. Three Mile Island - nuclear accident in Pennsylvania
  2. Acid Rain
  3. Toxic Waste
Foreign Policy

1. Camp David Accords, 1977: Egyptian President (Sadat) met with Israeli Prime Minister (Begin) at Camp David, MD → agreed to peace treaty → Egypt recognized Israel as a state & Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula
Foreign Policy

2. Helsinki Accords, 1977- US & other nations agree to respect basic human rights
- withhold aid from nations that violate human rights
Foreign Policy

3. Iran Hostage Crisis, 1979 - Iranian fundamentalists overthrew pro-American Shah (leader of Iran) → Shah came to US

- Islamic fundamentalists struck back → seizing the US embassy & holding 50+ Americans hostage for more than a year

- rescue mission unsuccessful

- finally released on day of Reagan’s inauguration
4. Problems with Détente:

- Soviets invaded Afghanistan
- US stopped grain shipments to Soviet Union & boycotted the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow
1980 Election

The 1980 United States presidential election was the 47th quadrennial presidential election, held on Tuesday, November 4, 1980. The Democratic Party candidate, Jimmy Carter, sought re-election but was defeated by the Republican Party candidate, Ronald Reagan. Carter had become the first sitting challenger to win a presidential election since 1920 when Warren G. Harding defeated Warren Harding. Carter is also the last Democratic Party candidate to win a presidential election.

- Republican, Conservative
- “Regan Revolution” reflects a “smaller” federal government
New Federalism

• Reagan supports policy started by Nixon
• Turns over government control of social programs to states
• Supports tax cuts for businesses, balanced budget, & increased spending for national defense
Domestic Policy

1. Supply-Side Economics (AKA Reaganomics) - cut taxes for business & wealthy → $ would be reinvested into new businesses → giving people jobs

**Similar to... trickle-down theory!**
Domestic Policy

2. Balanced Budget - cut social welfare programs (Medicare/Medicaid) & federal taxes, spend $ on defense → unable to balance the budget

3. SDI/ “Star Wars” - send satellites into space to shoot down incoming Soviet missiles → cost too much = fails
Domestic Policy

4. Immigration - Immigrant Reform & Control Act
   - GOAL = stop illegal immigration
   - makes it illegal to hire illegal immigrants
Domestic Policy

5. Trade Deficit - imports more goods than exports
- $150 billion trade deficit in 1984

A Widening Deficit
The United States trade deficit has grown sharply over the last decade.

TRADE SURPLUS

TRADE DEFICIT

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Source: U.S. National Debt Clock
http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock/
Foreign Policy

1. Détente – Reagan questioned détente; felt anti-communist & anti-Soviet Union - 2\textsuperscript{nd} term-renews détente
Foreign Policy

2. Soviet Union - Gorbachev comes to power → relations with SU improve b/c of policies of Glasnost & Perestroika

- Glasnost - political openness & freedom
- Perestroika - restructure economy & allow capitalism
Foreign Policy

3. Intervention in Central America-
- El Salvador- sent arms & advisors to back anticommunist forces in a civil war
- Nicaragua- Marxists came to power democratically & accepted aid from Cuba and Soviets
⇒ Reagan sends aid to Contras (anti-communist rebels)
Foreign Policy

- Grenada- Reagan sent in troops to prevent a “potential” communist revolution
Foreign Policy

4. Iran-Contra Affair, 1986-
   - Step 1- Presidential aids secretly authorize arms sales to Iran (in return Iran was to influence other nations holding US hostages)
   - Step 2- $ made from selling those weapons secretly went to the Contras (against Congress’ wishes)
Foreign Policy

5. Middle East & Terrorism - increase in random acts of terrorism; 300+ American marines were bombed in Lebanon

6. South Africa - US imposed strict economic sanctions on South Africa in response to apartheid
Wrap Up

• In the 1970s, the US faced many environmental problems. What steps did Nixon & Carter take to resolve these problems?

• Do any of these problems persist today? Explain.

• How was Carter’s presidency influenced by the shadow of Nixon’s?
Wrap Up

• Why do you think Reagan supported New Federalism?

• To what extent and in what ways did the “Reagan Revolution” constitute a challenge to the elements of the New Deal and Great Society?

• How effectively did the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 deal with the problems of illegal aliens in our nation? Explain.
• Jimmy Carter's Presidency
• Iranian Hostage Crisis Newsreport