

UNIT 8

Recent American History

1974–Present

45-50-minute classes | 13-16 classes

UNIT PREVIEW**Structure**

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Why Teach Recent American History

In more than one respect, the events of the last half-century have formed the day-to-day life of today's American students. We feel their consequences still at play in American politics, government, and culture. In order for students to gain some perspective on recent events, they must study the latest chapter of American history. In these years, the question of American identity—of what America *is*—resurfaced, even as America found herself in new territory as the world's lone superpower. Finding the answer to this question in the closing years of the Cold War, in the midst of an ongoing cultural revolution as globalization and new technologies have reshaped American society, has proved to be an enormous challenge. Students deserve to learn the contours of these competing ideas and to understand the scope of their own responsibilities as the generation in charge of the next chapter of America's story.

Enduring Ideas from This Unit

1. Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan presented two competing views of the role of government—views that have continued to define modern political alignments.
2. The victory of the United States over communism in the Cold War was largely due to the strength of America's principled commitment to freedom, a strong posture in foreign policy, the strong grassroots movement for liberty in eastern Europe, and the inherent flaws of the planned economies and totalitarian regimes the United States opposed.
3. The 1990s were an era of relatively strong bipartisanship on issues of fiscal responsibility and free-market principles.
4. The policy responses to the September 11th attacks moved from a tightly focused pursuit of retributive justice to two decades of expansive foreign wars and a large-scale expansion of U.S. intelligence agencies.
5. A struggle in politics and business between the “establishment elite” and middle- and lower-income Americans has defined much of American politics since the 2008 economic crisis.

What Teachers Should Consider

As we reflect on the present, we may have great firsthand insights that will elude the attention of future historians. But we also will have many blind spots. We won't have sufficient perspective to understand the causes of recent events or foresee their ultimate consequences. Those two advantages will be held by future historians. Therefore, in studying the American history of the last five decades, our claims to knowledge must be prudent and reserved, and we must be careful not to turn history class into a current-events debate. For this reason, our curriculum does not advise history instruction on events of the current or most recent presidential administrations and concludes with the 2016 presidential election.

In the late 1970s, America was at a crossroads. The Nixon administration had mixed success in reversing progressive policies (and in some cases actually expanded government influence), and it left the presidency itself in a damaged state following the Watergate scandal. Jimmy Carter's presidency reasserted progressive ideas, even as Carter himself adhered to more traditional religious and cultural views. But a combination of economic woes and a faltering standing in world affairs hobbled Carter's presidency with the perception that it was causing a national decline.

Ronald Reagan campaigned against Carter in 1980 on this theme, seeking a restoration of the principles on which America was founded. His message and personality resonated with many Americans, helping him to decisively win the presidency in both 1980 and 1984. Reagan's policies as president largely remained true to his campaign message. Overall, he sought to reduce the size of the federal government, he brought stability to the economic landscape, and he confronted the Soviet Union with a firm policy of “peace through strength.” The result was an astounding political victory leading to a partisan realignment.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ushered in a new era in American history. The American economy continued to strengthen, while on the world stage, America embraced a post-Cold War role as the world's policeman, engaging in military campaigns in small nations on multiple continents.

The terror attacks on September 11, 2001, were a great shock, and they cast a shadow forward for the next two decades—and beyond. The American response to the attacks resulted in massive military expenditures and the end of balanced budgets. The quest to hunt terrorists wherever they could be found led to two long wars in the Middle East, even as American nation-building efforts in that region foundered. The growth in size and power of American intelligence agencies marked a new phase in the power of the federal government in the American regime.

The financial crisis of 2008 marked another turning point in recent American history. The size and power of the federal government and the national debt continued to grow. The income gaps between Americans grew ever sharper. America's principles and the virtues of statesmanship, so abundant in the past, were suddenly in short supply in the partisanship that emerged during the late 1990s and early 2000s. This class shift aligned with a cultural shift, and the 2016 election increasingly became about the struggles over these issues.

The United States is still very much in the throes of this struggle today, and it remains to be seen what the outcome will be.

How Teachers Can Learn More

TEXTS

The Cold War, John Lewis Gaddis

Revolution 1989, Victor Sebestyen

A History of the Modern Middle East, William Cleveland and Martin Bunton

American Heritage: A Reader, ed. Hillsdale College History Faculty

ONLINE COURSES | Online.Hillsdale.edu

The Great American Story

American Heritage

Lesson Planning Resources

TEACHER RESOURCES

Restless Giant, James Patterson

A Teacher's Guide to Land of Hope, Wilfred McClay and John McBride

A Student Workbook for Land of Hope, Wilfred McClay and John McBride

STUDENT RESOURCES

Land of Hope, Wilfred McClay

PRIMARY SOURCES

First Inaugural Address, Ronald Reagan
Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate, Ronald Reagan
Remarks at Moscow State University, Ronald Reagan
Contract with America, Republican National Committee
Address to a Joint Session of Congress, George W. Bush
Address at Cairo University, Barack Obama
Remarks to the People of Poland, Donald Trump
Remarks at Mount Rushmore, Donald Trump

LESSON PLANS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND FORMATIVE QUIZ

Lesson 1 — Crossroads, at Home and Abroad

1974–1989

3-4 classes

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students learn about the ongoing woes America faced during the 1970s and then the principles and policies of the Reagan administration, both at home and toward the Soviet Union near the end of the Cold War.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Create a note outline based on the following:

Student Texts

Land of Hope

Pages 393-407

Primary Sources

See below.

Teacher Texts

A Teacher's Guide to Land of Hope

Pages 364-368

A Student Workbook for Land of Hope

Pages 240-242

Online.Hillsdale.edu

The Great American Story

Lectures 23-24

American Heritage

Lecture 10

STUDENT PREPARATION

Assignment: Students read *Land of Hope*, pages 393-407, and either complete the reading questions handout in the *Student Workbook for Land of Hope* (pages 240-242) or prepare for a reading quiz (provided below).

CORE CONTENT IN THIS LESSON

Geography & Places

Saigon

Grenada

Egypt

Libya

Israel

Taiwan

Iran

Berlin

Afghanistan

Persons

Gerald Ford

Sandra Day O'Connor

Jimmy Carter

Muammar Gaddafi

Anwar el-Sadat

Margaret Thatcher

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

Pope John Paul II

Ronald Reagan

Mikhail Gorbachev

Terms and Topics

pardon	“Big Government”
stagflation	Reaganomics
taxation	Economic Recovery Tax Act
regulation	Social Security
Khmer Rouge	national debt
Fall of Saigon	Department of Education
bicentennial	Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)
Carter Doctrine	Solidarity
Camp David Accords	Euromissile crisis
Iranian Revolution	glasnost
Iranian Hostage Crisis	perestroika
abortion	Berlin Wall
social conservatives	Strategic Arms Reduction
libertarians	Treaty (START)
limited government	

Primary Sources

First Inaugural Address, Ronald Reagan
 Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate, Ronald Reagan
 Remarks at Moscow State University, Ronald Reagan

To Know by Heart

“From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. But if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?” —Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address

“Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.” —Ronald Reagan

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” —Ronald Reagan

“[T]he nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I’m from the government and I’m here to help.” —Ronald Reagan

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” —Ronald Reagan, Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate

Timeline

1975-1976	Reunification of Vietnam
1978-1979	Iranian Revolution
1979-1981	Iran hostage crisis
1980	Ronald Reagan elected president
1985-1987	Iran-Contra Affair
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall

Images

Historical figures and events
Footage and images from the fall of Saigon
Footage of hostages in Iran
Images and footage from the Solidarity movement in Poland

STORIES FOR THE AMERICAN HEART

- Biography of Ronald Reagan
- Stephen Klinkhammer's account of the fall of Saigon
- How the Camp David Accords came about
- How the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis unfolded
- Hamilton Jordan's accounts of the Iranian Hostage Crisis
- Debates between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan
- The arming of the Taliban against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan
- William Harwood's eyewitness account of the *Challenger* disaster

QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MIND

- What caused stagflation during the 1970s?
- What happened in Vietnam after the American forces withdrew? What can this teach us about military involvement in other countries?
- What were Jimmy Carter's foreign policy successes and failures?
- What role did the Supreme Court play in the changing culture of the 1970s?
- Who made up the Reagan coalition that led to his 1980 election victory?
- How did Ronald Reagan change the role of the federal government?
- How did Reagan's economic policies foster a stronger economy during the 1980s?
- How did the policies and words of the Reagan administration successfully confront the Soviet Union?
- Questions from the U.S. Civics Test:
 - Question 108: Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?
 - Question 109: During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?
 - Question 126: Name three national U.S. holidays.

KEYS TO THE LESSON

The Watergate scandal and the resignation of Richard Nixon were the culmination of a decade of tremendous turmoil in the United States. Beginning in 1963 with President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Vietnam War abroad and the cultural revolution at home brought America to a kind of crossroads. Jimmy Carter tried to change the tone of politics, putting forward more positive visions for the presidency at home and for America in the world. Against this backdrop, Ronald Reagan argued for a recovery of America's founding principles and the nation's vital role in opposing communism internationally. In the 1980 election, American voters chose Reagan's path, which led to a robust economic recovery and the eventual fall of the Soviet Union.

Teachers might best plan and teach Crossroads, at Home and Abroad with emphasis on the following approaches:

- Help students to appreciate the collective psychological state of the American citizenry in the wake of the Watergate scandal, Vietnam, the cultural revolution, the riots, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, they should be reminded of the lingering fear of a nuclear war. The ideals of America and the American way of life seemed to have been undermined or exposed as an illusion for many Americans. In many respects, it was unfamiliar territory for the country.
- Discuss the general policy of news media in the United States following the 1960s and 1970s. Vietnam and Watergate led the media and much of the public to be skeptical of official government narratives and the authority of elected figures.
- Consider the presidency of Gerald Ford and the timely role he played against this backdrop of uncertainty and upheaval. Ford deserves credit for the sense of calm and competence he exuded, helping to alleviate the high level of distrust in public figures.
- Review with students the events that followed the United States' withdrawal of military from Vietnam, including the fall of Saigon and the Cambodian genocide. Students should consider the great responsibilities and risks involved in military operations within the domestic struggles of another country, especially for noncombatants, American soldiers, and allies.
- Examine the rise and appeal of Jimmy Carter, including his more casual approach to the presidency, his focus on environmentalism, and the Carter Doctrine. Note both his successes, such as the Camp David Accords, and his failures, such as the Iranian hostage crisis, the Arab Oil Embargo, and stagflation. Students should be able to articulate the main causes and events for each.
- Outline with students the main principles of Ronald Reagan's candidacy and campaign message. Note in particular Reagan's appeals to the principles of the American Founders, his arguments against what he termed "big government," and his steadfast determination to oppose communism and the Soviet Union as moral evils. Show how these views contrasted with the prevailing spirit of the late 1970s.
- Explain the new economic policies of the Reagan administration, the extent to which they were responsible for controlling inflation and revitalizing the American economy, and the ways in which Ronald Reagan departed from a policy of a limited federal government.
- Identify the major principles and achievements of Ronald Reagan regarding foreign policy, especially in opposition to the Soviet Union. Explain that Reagan was convinced that the Soviet Union was not only morally wrong but also an existential threat to American interests. This conviction was combined with a fierce defense of American principles and increased military and economic pressure to curb the advances of the Soviet Union in international affairs. Students should also understand how Reagan's policies toward the Soviet Union worked with Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II, and the Solidarity movement in Poland to champion freedom in eastern Europe.

STRENGTHENING UNDERSTANDING: POST-LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Explain the policies and outcomes of the Carter administration (2-3 paragraphs).

Assignment 2: Explain the policies and outcomes of the Reagan administration (2-3 paragraphs).

Name_____

Date_____

Reading Quiz

Recent American History | Lesson 1
Land of Hope, Pages 393-407

DIRECTIONS: Answer each question.

1. What did historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. argue about President Nixon and the Watergate scandal in his 1973 book entitled *The Imperial Presidency*?
2. Provide an example of President Carter's immediate efforts to reject the "imperial presidency."
3. What was the foreign policy disaster that led to the erosion of President Carter's credibility?
4. What were the effects of President Reagan's Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981?
5. What was the Euromissile crisis and how did President Reagan handle it?

Lesson 2 — America after the Cold War

1989–2001

3–4 classes

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students learn about the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States' subsequent involvement in the global economy across the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations, and the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Create a note outline based on the following:

Student Texts

Land of Hope
Primary Sources

Pages 408-417
See below.

Teacher Texts

A Teacher's Guide to Land of Hope
A Student Workbook for Land of Hope

Pages 376-380
Pages 250-251

Online.Hillsdale.edu

The Great American Story
American Heritage

Lecture 25
Lecture 10

STUDENT PREPARATION

Assignment: Students read *Land of Hope*, pages 408-417, and either complete the reading questions handout in the *Student Workbook for Land of Hope* (pages 250-251) or prepare for a reading quiz (provided below).

CORE CONTENT IN THIS LESSON

Geography & Places

Middle East
Iraq
Kuwait
Persian Gulf
Panama

Somalia
Haiti
Balkans
Ground Zero
Shanksville, Pennsylvania

Persons

George H. W. Bush
Boris Yeltsin
Saddam Hussein
Colin Powell
Clarence Thomas

Ross Perot
Pat Buchanan
Bill Clinton
Newt Gingrich
Bill Gates

George W. Bush
Al Gore
Dick Cheney

Osama bin Laden

Terms and Topics

Tiananmen Square massacre
Berlin Wall
Operation Desert Storm
UN Security Council
Invasion of Panama
Waco massacre
Whitewater controversy
European Union
globalism
nongovernmental
 organizations (NGOs)
Violent Crime Control Act
mass incarceration
terrorism
jihad
The Internet
personal computer
North American Free Trade
 Agreement (NAFTA)
illegal immigration
outsourcing

“Rust Belt”
“Sun Belt”
“Contract with America”
Welfare Reform Act
block grant
budget surplus
pop music
rap
1995 Oklahoma City bombing
impeachment
2000 election
World Trade Center
The Pentagon
Flight 93
al-Qaeda
War on Terror
Taliban
Battle of Tora Bora
Patriot Act
No Child Left Behind Act

Primary Sources

Contract with America, Republican National Committee
Address to a Joint Session of Congress, George W. Bush

To Know by Heart

“The era of big government is over.” —Bill Clinton

Timeline

1990-1991	Gulf War
1991	Dissolution of the Soviet Union
2001	9/11 attacks

Images

Historical figures and events
 Footage from the Tiananmen Square massacre, including “Tank Man”
 The fall of the Berlin Wall
 Footage from the Gulf War
 Images and uniforms of American and Iraqi soldiers and al-Qaeda terrorists
 Military equipment and weaponry
 Early computers, cell phones, and websites
 Footage from fighting in the Balkans
 Footage and images from the 9/11 attacks
 Footage of President Bush’s “bullhorn speech”

STORIES FOR THE AMERICAN HEART

- Heroic deeds of soldiers in the Gulf War
- The *Los Angeles Times*’ reporting on the Rodney King riots
- The missed opportunities against Osama bin Laden in the 1990s
- Bill Clinton’s impeachment trial
- Heroic deeds of citizens, police, and firefighters on 9/11, including the passengers on Flight 93
- Fighting in the first months in Afghanistan

QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MIND

- What were the Chinese protesting in Tiananmen Square? What happened?
- What events in Europe and within the Soviet Union led to the fall of the Berlin Wall?
- Why did the United States fight the Gulf War? What was the outcome?
- What were some of the appeals of Bill Clinton in 1992?
- How did American jobs and businesses change during the 1990s and early 2000s, especially in small towns, the “Rust Belt,” and the “Sun Belt”?
- What legislation and policies did Bill Clinton and Congress use during the 1990s to balance the federal budget and spur economic growth?
- How did American culture and demographics further change during the 1990s?
- What happened on September 11, 2001? Why did it happen?
- What policy events from the 1980s and 1990s paved the way for the September 11 attacks?
- What were America’s responses to the September 11 attacks, both militarily and at home?
- Questions from the U.S. Civics Test:
 - Question 100: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
 - Question 114: Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?
 - Question 115: What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

KEYS TO THE LESSON

The collapse of the Soviet Union marked an American victory in the Cold War. Decades of high-stakes maneuvering—in economics, in policy, and on the battlefield—culminated in this event which had for much of the Cold War seemed impossible. But now, coming off this great victory and the prosperity of the Reagan years, America was poised to be the sole superpower in the world, one that would seek to promote self-government and free enterprise at home and abroad. The 1990s continued the economic

gains of the 1980s, while America's military and intelligence apparatus turned toward the affairs of smaller countries in the Caribbean, the Balkans, and the Middle East. The new global economy brought advantages and challenges to Americans. But the relative calm with which America approached the start of the 21st century was suddenly disrupted by the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, which would dramatically shift American foreign policy and the American way of life.

Teachers might best plan and teach America after the Cold War with emphasis on the following approaches:

- Walk students through the final events leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union and what the world has since learned about life in the Soviet Union, the atrocities of communism, and its economic failures.
- Consider the status of America, both on the world stage and economically, at the start of the 1990s. The order that victory in World War II seemed to have promised but which the Cold War delayed appeared finally to have arrived.
- Study with students the impetus for fighting the Gulf War and the shifting spheres for foreign policy.
- Review the presidency of Bill Clinton, especially the extent to which he and the Republican Congress worked together during the 1990s and the effects these policies had on the budget, economic growth, trade, and domestic manufacturing.
- Examine changing attitudes and practices in America regarding marriage rates, birth rates, divorce rates, religious participation, crime, and welfare during the 1990s.
- Explain to students the technological changes that occurred during the 1990s, especially the widespread development of personal computers and the Internet and their effects on Americans' communications and lifestyle.
- Teach about the conflicts in Haiti and the Balkans during the 1990s, including America's and NATO's involvement.
- Detail the events leading up to the September 11 attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Cover the history of that day in detail, including the many acts of heroism exhibited by selfless American citizens.
- Outline with students the major policy actions and events in response to the September 11 attacks, including the military campaigns in Afghanistan, changes to airport security, and the expansion of intelligence agencies and powers, especially under the Patriot Act.
- Have students think through the various advantages and disadvantages each side had in the Afghanistan War.
- Highlight the key contributions of both leaders and common soldiers in Afghanistan.

STRENGTHENING UNDERSTANDING: POST-LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Explain how the American economy and demographics changed during the 1990s (2-3 paragraphs).

Assignment 2: Describe what happened on September 11, 2001, and explain the United States' response in the months and years that followed (2-3 paragraphs).

Name_____

Date_____

Reading Quiz

Recent American History | Lesson 2
Land of Hope, Pages 408-417

DIRECTIONS: Answer each question.

1. Describe President George H. W. Bush's demeanor during the collapse of the Soviet Union. Why did he respond this way?
2. What was the action taken by the Bush administration that the book describes as supporting Francis Fukuyama's claim that the end of the Cold War marked "the end of history"?
3. During his early presidency, what was President Clinton's most notable achievement?
4. What was President Clinton's strategy for remaining popular during the end of his first term?
5. Describe George W. Bush's posture towards potential acts of terror following the September 11th attacks. Provide an example of the Bush administration's action.

Name_____

Date_____

Unit 8 — Formative Quiz

Recent American History | Lessons 1-2
10-15 minutes

DIRECTIONS: Answer each question in at least one complete sentence.

1. What happened in Vietnam after the American forces withdrew? What can this teach us about military involvement in other countries?
2. What were Jimmy Carter's foreign policy successes and failures?
3. How did Ronald Reagan change the role of the federal government?
4. What events in Europe and within the Soviet Union led to the fall of the Berlin Wall?
5. What were some of the appeals of Bill Clinton in 1992?

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Lesson 3 — Twenty-First Century America

2001–2016

3–4 classes

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students learn about the War on Terror and the Iraq War, as well as the domestic successes and struggles of the following 15 years.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Create a note outline based on the following:

Student Texts

Land of Hope
Primary Sources

Pages 417-428
See below.

Teacher Texts

A Teacher's Guide to Land of Hope
A Student Workbook for Land of Hope

Pages 380-381, 385-395
Pages 251-252, 256-257

Online.Hillsdale.edu

The Great American Story
American Heritage

Lecture 25
Lecture 10

STUDENT PREPARATION

Assignment: Students read *Land of Hope*, pages 416-428, and either complete the reading questions handout in the *A Student Workbook for Land of Hope* (pages 251-252 & 256-257) or prepare for a reading quiz (provided below).

CORE CONTENT IN THIS LESSON

Geography & Places

Fallujah
Benghazi
North Korea

Persons

Mark Zuckerberg
Barack Obama
Edward Snowden

Hillary Clinton
Donald Trump

Terms and Topics

neoconservative
“weapons of mass
destruction” (WMD)
de-Ba’athification

improvised explosive device
(IED)
Google
iPhone

social media	establishment
Facebook	<i>Citizens United v. FEC</i>
<i>Harry Potter</i>	Tea Party movement
celebrities	school choice
Iraq War troop surge	Afghanistan troop surge
national debt	Benghazi attack
personal debt	Chinese Communist Party
subprime mortgages	IRS targeting
housing crisis	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
bailout	(ISIS)
Great Recession	<i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>
Affordable Care Act	Twitter
("Obamacare")	nationalism

Primary Sources

Address at Cairo University, Barack Obama
 Remarks to the People of Poland, Donald Trump
 Remarks at Mount Rushmore, Donald Trump

To Know by Heart

"There is not a liberal America and a conservative America—there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America—there's the United States of America." —Barack Obama

"[O]n both sides of the Atlantic, our citizens are confronted by yet another danger—one firmly within our control[:] ... the steady creep of government bureaucracy that drains the vitality and wealth of the people. The West became great not because of paperwork and regulations but because people were allowed to chase their dreams and pursue their destinies." —Donald Trump, Remarks to the People of Poland

"Against every law of society and nature, our children are taught in school to hate their own country, and to believe that the men and women who built it were not heroes, but that [they] were villains. The radical view of American history is a web of lies—all perspective is removed, every virtue is obscured, every motive is twisted, every fact is distorted, and every flaw is magnified until the history is purged and the record is disfigured beyond all recognition." —Donald Trump, Remarks at Mt. Rushmore

Timeline

2001–2021	Afghanistan War
2003–2011	Iraq War
2008	Housing market collapse
2008–2009	Great Recession

Images

Historical figures and events
 Images and uniforms of American and Iraqi soldiers
 Footage and photographs of scenes from Iraq
 Maps: alliances, overall strategies, specific battles

Military equipment and weaponry
Destruction from the Iraq War
Antiwar protests
First iPhone
Tea Party protests
Images of China's economic and military growth
Images of ISIS

STORIES FOR THE AMERICAN HEART

- Heroic deeds of soldiers in the Iraq War and Afghanistan War
- Some of the atrocities committed by ISIS

QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MIND

- Why did the United States invade Iraq?
- What roles did the defense industry and neoconservative policy have in the start and in the long-term goal of the Iraq War?
- What role did de-Ba'athification and the discharge of the Iraqi Army have in the course of the war in Iraq?
- What was fighting like in Iraq after the initial invasion?
- How did smartphones and social media change the flow of information, the economy, and communication in the United States?
- What caused the 2008 housing market collapse?
- How did Congress's response to the 2008 financial crisis help or hinder economic recovery?
- How did ISIS come into existence and overrun much of Iraq, Syria, and Libya?
- Question from the U.S. Civics Test:
 - Question 116: Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

KEYS TO THE LESSON

The September 11 attacks opened a new era in American history, one that has defined much of American foreign policy and politics until the present. The power of the presidency and of the federal government continued to grow during the War on Terror and the Iraq War begun in 2003. At home, America experienced a revived antiwar movement and then an economic crash in 2008. During the presidencies of Barack Obama and Donald Trump, American political alignments became increasingly partisan and divisive. All the while, the advent of smartphones and social media revolutionized the way Americans communicate and share ideas. As the American economy continued to globalize, China's growth in economic and political power, the growing influence of nongovernmental organizations, and the power of technology companies all presented a new chapter in American history.

Teachers might best plan and teach Twenty-First Century America with emphasis on the following approaches:

- Review with students the debates leading up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Students should understand the arguments at the time, the disposition of the American citizenry against the

backdrop of the September 11 attacks, and the information that has since been revealed about the origins of the conflict.

- Have students think through and compare the various advantages and disadvantages each side had in the Iraq War and how these shifted during the war. Of special importance was the de-Ba'athification of Iraq and the dismissal of the Iraqi Army.
- Highlight the key contributions of both leaders and common soldiers in the Iraq War.
- Explain the origins of the 2008 housing bubble and the economic crash and recession that followed, including the effect of subprime mortgages and the role of federal policy, the banking industry, personal debt, the government bailouts and stimulus, and uncertain federal fiscal and monetary policy in the years that followed.
- Outline for students the main political debates involving the Affordable Care Act, the Tea Party movement, and the Occupy protests.
- Review American foreign policy during the late Bush administration and the Obama administration. Noteworthy events to cover in some detail include the 2007 troop surge in Iraq, Barack Obama's address at Cairo University and the Arab Spring, the NATO bombing campaign in Libya, the attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, and the rise of ISIS.
- Introduce the unexpected electoral victory of Donald Trump in 2016 and the political shift in the populace that led to his election.

STRENGTHENING UNDERSTANDING: POST-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

Assignment: Explain the major foreign and domestic events in the United States since 2003 (4–5 paragraphs).

Name_____

Date_____

Reading Quiz

Recent American History | Lesson 3
Land of Hope, Pages 416-428

DIRECTIONS: Answer each question.

1. What effect did the recession of 2008 have on the general public's opinion of government? Why?
2. What problems did President Obama's healthcare plan attempt to address?
3. What political activist movement led to a Republican House majority in 2010, effectively stopping President Obama's legislative plans for the rest of his presidency?
4. What rising idea did President Trump emphasize during his time in office?
5. According to the book, what is the great unresolved bipartisan problem that best illustrates the dysfunction of our current political system?

APPENDIX A

Study Guide

Test

Writing Assignment

Study Guide — Recent American History Test

Unit 8

Test on _____

TIMELINE

When given chronological dates, match events from a list to the years or dates that they happened.

1975-1976	Reunification of Vietnam
1978-1979	Iranian Revolution
1979-1981	Iran hostage crisis
1980	Ronald Reagan elected president
1985-1987	Iran-Contra Affair
1989	Fall of the Berlin Wall
1990-1991	Gulf War
1991	Dissolution of the Soviet Union
2001	9/11 attacks
2001–2021	Afghanistan War
2003–2011	Iraq War
2008	Housing market collapse
2008–2009	Great Recession

GEOGRAPHY AND PLACES

Identify each on a map and/or tell where it is and explain its significance.

Saigon	Berlin	Balkans
Egypt	Middle East	Ground Zero
Israel	Iraq	Shanksville, Pennsylvania
Iran	Kuwait	Fallujah
Afghanistan	Persian Gulf	Benghazi
Grenada	Panama	North Korea
Libya	Somalia	
Taiwan	Haiti	

PERSONS

Identify each, provide biographical details, and explain what he or she thought or did in specific periods or events.

Gerald Ford	Ronald Reagan	Mikhail Gorbachev
Jimmy Carter	Sandra Day O'Connor	George H. W. Bush
Anwar el-Sadat	Muammar Gaddafi	Boris Yeltsin
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini	Margaret Thatcher	Saddam Hussein
	Pope John Paul II	Colin Powell

Clarence Thomas
 Ross Perot
 Pat Buchanan
 Bill Clinton
 Newt Gingrich

Bill Gates
 George W. Bush
 Al Gore
 Dick Cheney
 Osama bin Laden

Mark Zuckerberg
 Barack Obama
 Edward Snowden
 Hillary Clinton
 Donald Trump

TERMS AND TOPICS

Identify each and explain its significance to the period of history studied.

stagflation
 taxation
 Khmer Rouge
 Fall of Saigon
 bicentennial
 Carter Doctrine
 Camp David Accords
 Iranian Revolution
 Iranian Hostage Crisis
 abortion
 social conservatives
 libertarians
 limited government
 “Big Government”
 Reaganomics
 Economic Recovery Tax Act
 Social Security
 national debt
 Department of Education
 Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)
 Solidarity
 Euromissile crisis
 glasnost
 perestroika
 Berlin Wall
 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)
 Tiananmen Square massacre
 Operation Desert Storm
 UN Security Council

Invasion of Panama
 Waco massacre
 Whitewater Controversy
 European Union
 globalism
 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
 Violent Crime Control Act
 terrorism
 jihad
 The Internet
 personal computer
 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
 illegal immigration
 outsourcing
 “Rust Belt”
 “Sun Belt”
 “Contract with America”
 Welfare Reform Act
 budget surplus
 Oklahoma City bombing
 impeachment
 2000 election
 World Trade Center
 The Pentagon
 Flight 93
 al-Qaeda
 War on Terror
 Taliban
 Battle of Tora Bora

Patriot Act
 No Child Left Behind Act
 neoconservative
 “weapons of mass destruction” (WMD)
 de-Ba’athification
 improvised explosive device (IED)
 Google
 iPhone
 social media
 Facebook
 Iraq War troop surge
 national debt
 personal debt
 subprime mortgages
 housing crisis
 bailout
 Great Recession
 Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”)
 Tea Party movement
 Afghanistan troop surge
 Benghazi attack
 Chinese Communist Party
 IRS targeting
 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)
Obergefell v. Hodges
 Twitter
 nationalism

PRIMARY SOURCES

Based on annotations and notes from seminar conversations, be able to answer questions on each primary source. While you will not necessarily be asked why each primary source was created, what it did or argued, and what its effects were, being able to answer these kinds of questions will make you well prepared.

First Inaugural Address, Ronald Reagan
Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate, Ronald Reagan
Remarks at Moscow State University, Ronald Reagan
Contract with America, Republican National Committee
Address to a Joint Session of Congress, George W. Bush
Address at Cairo University, Barack Obama
Remarks to the People of Poland, Donald Trump
Remarks at Mount Rushmore, Donald Trump

TO KNOW BY HEART

Fill in missing words and/or identify the speaker and context.

“From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. But if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?” —Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” —Ronald Reagan, Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate

“Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.” —Ronald Reagan

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” —Ronald Reagan

“[T]he nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I’m from the government and I’m here to help.” —Ronald Reagan

“The era of big government is over.” —Bill Clinton

“There is not a liberal America and a conservative America—there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America—there’s the United States of America.” —Barack Obama

“[O]n both sides of the Atlantic, our citizens are confronted by yet another danger—one firmly within our control[:] ... the steady creep of government bureaucracy that drains the vitality and wealth of the people. The West became great not because of paperwork and regulations but because people were allowed to chase their dreams and pursue their destinies.” —Donald Trump, Remarks to the People of Poland

STORIES FOR THE AMERICAN HEART

In your own words, retell each episode in narrative form. Consider your audience to be middle school students.

- Biography of Ronald Reagan
- How the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis unfolded
- Hamilton Jordan’s accounts of the Iranian Hostage Crisis

- Debates between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan
- The arming of the Taliban against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan
- William Harwood's eyewitness account of the *Challenger* disaster
- Heroic deeds of soldiers in the Gulf War
- The *Los Angeles Times*' reporting on the Rodney King riots
- Bill Clinton's impeachment trial
- Heroic deeds of citizens, police, and firefighters on 9/11, including the passengers on Flight 93
- Fighting in the first months in Afghanistan
- Heroic deeds of soldiers in the Iraq War and Afghanistan War

QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MIND

Based on notes from lessons and seminar conversations, answer each of the following.

Lesson 1 | Crossroads, at Home and Abroad

- ☐ What caused stagflation during the 1970s?
- ☐ What happened in Vietnam after the American forces withdrew? What can this teach us about military involvement in other countries?
- ☐ What were Jimmy Carter's foreign policy successes and failures?
- ☐ What role did the Supreme Court play in the changing culture of the 1970s?
- ☐ Who made up the Reagan coalition that led to his 1980 election victory?
- ☐ How did Ronald Reagan change the role of the federal government?
- ☐ How did Reagan's economic policies foster a stronger economy during the 1980s?
- ☐ How did the policies and words of the Reagan administration successfully confront the Soviet Union?

Lesson 2 | America after the Cold War

- ☐ What were the Chinese protesting in Tiananmen Square? What happened?
- ☐ What events in Europe and within the Soviet Union led to the fall of the Berlin Wall?
- ☐ Why did the United States fight the Gulf War? What was the outcome?
- ☐ What were some of the appeals of Bill Clinton in 1992?
- ☐ How did American jobs and businesses change during the 1990s and early 2000s, especially in small towns, the "Rust Belt," and the "Sun Belt"?
- ☐ What legislation and policies did Bill Clinton and Congress use during the 1990s to balance the federal budget and spur economic growth?
- ☐ How did American culture and demographics further change during the 1990s?
- ☐ What happened on September 11, 2001? Why did it happen?
- ☐ What policy events from the 1980s and 1990s paved the way for the September 11th attacks?
- ☐ What were America's responses to the September 11th attacks, both militarily and at home?

Lesson 3 | Twenty-First Century America

- ☐ Why did the United States invade Iraq?
- ☐ What roles did the defense industry and neoconservative policy have in the start and in the long-term goal of the Iraq War?

- ☐ What role did de-Ba'athification and the discharge of the Iraqi Army have in the course of the war in Iraq?
- ☐ What was fighting like in Iraq after the initial invasion?
- ☐ How did smartphones and social media change the flow of information, the economy, and communication in the United States?
- ☐ What caused the 2008 housing market collapse?
- ☐ How did Congress's response to the 2008 financial crisis help or hinder economic recovery?
- ☐ How did ISIS come into existence and overrun much of Iraq, Syria, and Libya?

Name_____

Date_____

Test — Recent American History

Unit 8

TIMELINE

Write the letter of each event next to the date or years it took place.

1975-1976	_____	A. Dissolution of the Soviet Union
1978-1979	_____	B. Afghanistan War
1980	_____	C. Iranian Revolution
1979-1981	_____	D. Iran hostage crisis
1985-1987	_____	E. Great Recession
1989	_____	F. Fall of the Berlin Wall
1990-1991	_____	G. Reunification of Vietnam
1991	_____	H. Iran-Contra Affair
2001	_____	I. Housing market collapse
2001-2002	_____	J. Ronald Reagan elected president
2003-2021	_____	K. Iraq War
2008	_____	L. 9/11 attacks
2008-2009	_____	M. Gulf War

GEOGRAPHY & PLACES

Answer the following questions based on readings, class notes, and the Cold War map below.

1. What was the name of South Vietnam's capital that fell in 1975, marking the true end of the Vietnam War?

2. What body of water is the namesake of the 1991 war that followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?
3. What was the name of the Iraqi city the United States invaded in April 2003?

PERSONS, TERMS, AND TOPICS

Fill in the blanks.

4. President George W. Bush declared the _____ in response to the September 11th attacks.
5. President _____ exuded a sense of calm and competence during the post-Watergate uncertainty and upheaval, and thus helped to alleviate Americans' high distrust in public figures.
6. The _____ was a foreign policy created in the late 1970s aimed at defending the United States' security interests in the Persian Gulf region.
7. President George W. Bush's administration left a lasting impact on public K-12 education via the passage of the _____ in 2001.
8. The potential presence of _____ in Iraq played a significant role in the United States' decision to invade the country in 2003.
9. The _____ was a major legislative focus of President Barack Obama's first term in office.
10. After Mikhail Gorbachev was named premier of the Soviet Union in 1985, he aimed to restructure its political and economic systems, largely through the two policies of _____ and _____.
11. _____ famously used a PR strategy called "triangulation" during his presidency to claim many policy successes.

12. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan introduced the _____ in order to restore the American economy.
13. _____ was president of Iraq during the U.S. invasion in 2003.
14. _____ was a major economic problem throughout the 1970s, caused by the presence of inflation and flat economic growth.
15. The Great Recession of 2008 began with a widespread housing crisis fueled by the large number of _____ present in the real estate and financial systems.
16. In 1991, the United States successfully fought the _____ in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the same year.
17. President Reagan's actions in response to the _____ of 1983 demonstrated his resolve to aggressively confront the Soviet Union, even against substantial opposition.
18. _____ was a whistleblower responsible for leaking a large amount of highly classified information from the National Security Agency in 2009.
19. President _____ narrowly emerged victorious in the controversial 2000 presidential election over his Democratic opponent, Al Gore.

KNOW BY HEART

Fill in missing words and/or identify the speaker/author.

20. "Mr. Gorbachev, _____!" —Ronald Reagan, Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate
21. "The era of big government is over." — _____

22. “_____ is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children through _____. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” —Ronald Reagan
23. “The most terrifying words in the English language are: I’m from _____ and I’m _____.” —Ronald Reagan
24. “[T]here is a new _____ that demands absolute allegiance. If you do not _____ its language, perform its _____, _____ its mantras, and follow its _____, then you will be censored, banished, blacklisted, persecuted, and punished.” —_____, Remarks at Mt. Rushmore

STORIES FOR THE AMERICAN HEART

In your own words, retell each episode in narrative form. Consider your audience to be middle school students.

25. The 1980 presidential debates between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan

26. The heroic deeds of passengers on Flight 93

QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MIND

Answer each of the following. Complete sentences are not necessary, but correct spelling and writing should be employed, and responses must fully answer each question.

27. What caused stagflation during the 1970s?

28. What role did the Supreme Court play in changing the culture of the 1970s?

29. Who made up the Reagan coalition that led to his 1980 election victory?

30. How did Ronald Reagan's economic policies foster a stronger economy during the 1980s?

31. How did the policies and words of the Reagan administration successfully confront the Soviet Union?

32. Who were the Chinese protesting in Tiananmen Square? What happened?

33. Why did the United States fight the Gulf War? What was the outcome?
34. How did American jobs and businesses change during the 1990s and early 2000s, especially in small towns, the “Rust Belt,” and the “Sun Belt”?
35. How did American culture and demographics further change during the 1990s?
36. What happened on September 11, 2001? Why did it happen?
37. What were America’s responses to the above event, both militarily and at home?
38. Why did the United States invade Iraq?
39. What roles did the defense industry and neoconservative policy have in the start of and in the long-term goals of the Iraq War?
40. What was fighting like in Iraq after the initial invasion?
41. What caused the 2008 housing market collapse?
42. How did Congress’ response to the 2008 financial crisis help or hinder economic recovery?

Writing Assignment — Recent American History

Unit 8

Due on _____

DIRECTIONS

Citing events and primary sources in your argument, write an essay of 500–800 words answering the following question:

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, how did American foreign policy shift from its Cold War principles to respond to the problems of the contemporary world?

APPENDIX B

Primary Sources

Ronald Reagan

Republican National Committee (RNC)

George W. Bush

Barack Obama

Donald Trump

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

First Inaugural Address

SPEECH

January 20, 1981

U.S. Capitol Building | Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND

In the midst of rising hostilities between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the actor-turned-politician Ronald Reagan ran a robust campaign against incumbent Jimmy Carter. Reagan won the election with the most electoral votes against any incumbent in U.S. history.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What problems in America does Reagan address?
2. What solutions to these problems does he propose?
3. Who are the “heroes” that Reagan mentions and to whom do they belong?
4. What is the relationship between the government and the people?
5. Where is the inauguration held and why is the location important?

Ronald Reagan. “First Inaugural Address (1981)”. January 20, 1981. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/first-inaugural-address-6/>.

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Senator Hatfield, Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President, Vice President Bush, Vice President Mondale, Senator Baker, Speaker O'Neill, Reverend Moomaw, and my fellow citizens: To a few of us here today, this is a solemn and most momentous occasion; and yet, in the history of our Nation, it is a commonplace occurrence. The orderly transfer of authority
5 as called for in the Constitution routinely takes place as it has for almost two centuries and few of us stop to think how unique we really are. In the eyes of many in the world, this every-4-year ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle.

Mr. President, I want our fellow citizens to know how much you did to carry on this tradition. By your gracious cooperation in the transition process, you have shown a
10 watching world that we are a united people pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other, and I thank you and your people for all your help in maintaining the continuity which is the bulwark of our Republic.

The business of our nation goes forward. These United States are confronted with an
15 economic affliction of great proportions. We suffer from the longest and one of the worst sustained inflations in our national history. It distorts our economic decisions, penalizes thrift, and crushes the struggling young and the fixed-income elderly alike. It threatens to shatter the lives of millions of our people.

Idle industries have cast workers into unemployment, causing human misery and
20 personal indignity. Those who do work are denied a fair return for their labor by a tax system which penalizes successful achievement and keeps us from maintaining full productivity.

But great as our tax burden is, it has not kept pace with public spending. For decades, we have piled deficit upon deficit, mortgaging our future and our children's future for the
25 temporary convenience of the present. To continue this long trend is to guarantee tremendous social, cultural, political, and economic upheavals.

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You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means, but for only a limited period of time. Why, then, should we think that collectively, as a nation, we are not bound by that same limitation?

5 We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow. And let there be no misunderstanding—we are going to begin to act, beginning today.

The economic ills we suffer have come upon us over several decades. They will not go away in days, weeks, or months, but they will go away. They will go away because we, as Americans, have the capacity now, as we have had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom.

10 In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.

From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. But if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then
15 who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? All of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.

We hear much of special interest groups. Our concern must be for a special interest group that has been too long neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries or ethnic and racial
20 divisions, and it crosses political party lines. It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and our factories, teach our children, keep our homes, and heal us when we are sick—professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies, and truckdrivers. They are, in short, “We the people,” this breed called Americans.

25 Well, this administration’s objective will be a healthy, vigorous, growing economy that provides equal opportunity for all Americans, with no barriers born of bigotry or

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discrimination. Putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work. Ending inflation means freeing all Americans from the terror of runaway living costs. All must share in the productive work of this “new beginning” and all must share in the bounty of a revived economy. With the idealism and fair play which are the core of our
5 system and our strength, we can have a strong and prosperous America at peace with itself and the world.

So, as we begin, let us take inventory. We are a nation that has a government—not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our Government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and
10 reverse the growth of government which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed.

It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people. All of us need to be
15 reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government.

Now, so there will be no misunderstanding, it is not my intention to do away with government. It is, rather, to make it work—work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother
20 it; foster productivity, not stifle it.

If we look to the answer as to why, for so many years, we achieved so much, prospered as no other people on Earth, it was because here, in this land, we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any
25 other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price.

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It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel and are proportionate to the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government. It is time for us to realize that we are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams. We are not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline. I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope.

We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter—and they are on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the Government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

I have used the words “they” and “their” in speaking of these heroes. I could say “you” and “your” because I am addressing the heroes of whom I speak—you, the citizens of this blessed land. Your dreams, your hopes, your goals are going to be the dreams, the hopes, and the goals of this administration, so help me God.

We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your makeup. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen, and loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick, and provide opportunities to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal in fact and not just in theory?

Can we solve the problems confronting us? Well, the answer is an unequivocal and emphatic “yes.” To paraphrase Winston Churchill, I did not take the oath I have just

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taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy.

5 In the days ahead I will propose removing the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government. Progress may be slow—measured in inches and feet, not miles—but we will progress. Is it time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. And these will be our first priorities, and on these principles, there will be no compromise.

10 On the eve of our struggle for independence a man who might have been one of the greatest among the Founding Fathers, Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans, “Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of.... On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves.”

15 Well, I believe we, the Americans of today, are ready to act worthy of ourselves, ready to do what must be done to ensure happiness and liberty for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

20 And as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbors and allies who share our freedom, we will strengthen our historic ties and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.

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As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it—now or ever.

5 Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act. We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail if need be, knowing that if we do so we have the best chance of never having to use that strength.

10 Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.

15 I am told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I am deeply grateful. We are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting and good, I think, if on each Inauguration Day in future years it should be declared a day of prayer.

This is the first time in history that this ceremony has been held, as you have been told, on this West Front of the Capitol. Standing here, one faces a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history. At the end of this open mall are those shrines to the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

20 Directly in front of me, the monument to a monumental man: George Washington, Father of our country. A man of humility who came to greatness reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood. Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence flames with his eloquence.

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And then beyond the Reflecting Pool the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

5 Beyond those monuments to heroism is the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with its row on row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David. They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

10 Each one of those markers is a monument to the kinds of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno and halfway around the world on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

15 Under one such marker lies a young man—Martin Treptow—who left his job in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, “My Pledge,” he had written these words: “America must win this war. Therefore, I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.”

20 The crisis we are facing today does not require of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does require, however, our best effort, and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds; to believe that together, with God’s help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us.

25 And, after all, why shouldn’t we believe that? We are Americans. God bless you, and thank you.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate

SPEECH

June 12, 1987

Brandenburg Gate | West Berlin, Germany

BACKGROUND

President Reagan delivered this speech alongside the Berlin Wall. The wall was erected in 1961 in order to divide democratic and communist Europe.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Why have American presidents chosen to speak in Berlin?
2. What is the Marshall plan?
3. What differences does Reagan note about life under democracy and life under communism?
4. What does Reagan demand from General Secretary Gorbachev? Why?

Ronald Reagan. "Remarks on East-West Relations at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin". Presidential Message, June 12, 1987. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/speech-at-brandenburg-gate/>

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. . . Twenty-four years ago, President John F. Kennedy visited Berlin, speaking to the people of this city and the world at the city hall. Well, since then two other presidents have come, each in his turn, to Berlin. And today I, myself, make my second visit to your city.

- 5 We come to Berlin, we American Presidents, because it's our duty to speak, in this place, of freedom. . . .

Behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city, part of a vast system of barriers that divides the entire continent of Europe. From the Baltic, south, those barriers cut across Germany in a gash of barbed wire, concrete, dog runs, and guard towers.

- 10 Farther south, there may be no visible, no obvious wall. But there remain armed guards and checkpoints all the same – still a restriction on the right to travel, still an instrument to impose upon ordinary men and women the will of a totalitarian state. Yet it is here in Berlin where the wall emerges most clearly; here, cutting across your city, where the news photo and the television screen have imprinted this brutal division of a continent upon
15 the mind of the world. Standing before the Brandenburg Gate, every man is a German, separated from his fellow men. Every man is a Berliner, forced to look upon a scar.

- . . . Today I say: As long as this gate is closed, as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand, it is not the German question alone that remains open, but the question of freedom for all mankind. Yet I do not come here to lament. For I find in Berlin a message of hope,
20 even in the shadow of this wall, a message of triumph.

- In this season of spring in 1945, the people of Berlin emerged from their air-raid shelters to find devastation. Thousands of miles away, the people of the United States reached out to help. And in 1947 Secretary of State – as you've been told – George Marshall announced the creation of what would become known as the Marshall plan. Speaking
25 precisely 40 years ago this month, he said: "Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos."

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In the Reichstag a few moments ago, I saw a display commemorating this 40th anniversary of the Marshall plan. I was struck by the sign on a burnt-out, gutted structure that was being rebuilt. I understand that Berliners of my own generation can remember seeing signs like it dotted throughout the Western sectors of the city. The sign read simply: “The Marshall plan is helping here to strengthen the free world.” A strong, free world in the West, that dream became real. Japan rose from ruin to become an economic giant. Italy, France, Belgium – virtually every nation in Western Europe saw political and economic rebirth; the European Community was founded.

In West Germany and here in Berlin, there took place an economic miracle . . .

. . . From devastation, from utter ruin, you Berliners have, in freedom, rebuilt a city that once again ranks as one of the greatest on Earth. . .

In the 1950’s, Khrushchev predicted: “We will bury you.” But in the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being unprecedented in all human history. In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of the most basic kind – too little food. Even today, the Soviet Union still cannot feed itself. After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.

And now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom from state control. Are these the beginnings of profound changes in the Soviet state? Or are they token gestures, intended to raise false hopes in the West, or to strengthen the Soviet system without changing it? We welcome change and

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openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace.

5 There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

I understand the fear of war and the pain of division that afflict this continent – and I pledge to you my country’s efforts to help overcome these burdens. . . .

10 In Europe, only one nation and those it controls refuse to join the community of freedom. Yet in this age of redoubled economic growth, of information and innovation, the Soviet Union faces a choice: It must make fundamental changes, or it will become obsolete. Today thus represents a moment of hope. We in the West stand ready to cooperate with the East to promote true openness, to break down barriers that separate people, to create
15 a safer, freer world.

And surely there is no better place than Berlin, the meeting place of East and West, to make a start. . . .

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Remarks at Moscow State University

SPEECH

May 31, 1988

Moscow State University | Moscow, Russia

BACKGROUND

President Reagan delivered this address to students at Moscow State University in Russia, standing under a bust of Vladimir Lenin. His speech was also broadcast across the Soviet Union, making him the first U.S. president to address the Soviet people directly.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What bloodless revolution does Reagan speak of?
2. What is the key to freedom?
3. Why is government planning of the economy a poor substitute for individualism?
4. What is the “standard by which governments are measured?”
5. What progress has Reagan seen between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and what does he hope to see in the future?

Ronald Reagan. “Remarks at Moscow State University”. Presidential Message, May 31, 1988. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/remarks-at-moscow-state-university/>.

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...Thank you, Rector Logunov, and I want to thank all of you very much for a very warm welcome. It's a great pleasure to be here at Moscow State University, and I want to thank you all for turning out. I know you must be very busy this week, studying and taking your final examinations. So, let me just say zhelayu yam uspekha [I wish you success]...

- 5 Let me say it's also a great pleasure to once again have this opportunity to speak directly to the people of the Soviet Union. Before I left Washington, I received many heartfelt letters and telegrams asking me to carry here a simple message, perhaps, but also some of the most important business of this summit: It is a message of peace and good will and hope for a growing friendship and closeness between our two peoples.
- 10 As you know, I've come to Moscow to meet with one of your most distinguished graduates. In this, our fourth summit, General Secretary Gorbachev and I have spent many hours together, and I feel that we're getting to know each other well. Our discussions, of course, have been focused primarily on many of the important issues of the day, issues I want to touch on with you in a few moments. But first I want to take a
- 15 little time to talk to you much as I would to any group of university students in the United States. I want to talk not just of the realities of today but of the possibilities of tomorrow.

- Standing here before a mural of your revolution, I want to talk about a very different revolution that is taking place right now, quietly sweeping the globe without bloodshed or conflict. Its effects are peaceful, but they will fundamentally alter our world, shatter
- 20 old assumptions, and reshape our lives. It's easy to underestimate because it's not accompanied by banners or fanfare. It's been called the technological or information revolution, and as its emblem, one might take the tiny silicon chip, no bigger than a fingerprint. One of these chips has more computing power than a roomful of old-style computers.

- 25 As part of an exchange program, we now have an exhibition touring your country that shows how information technology is transforming our lives—replacing manual labor with robots, forecasting weather for farmers, or mapping the genetic code of DNA for

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medical researchers. These microcomputers today aid the design of everything from houses to ears to spacecraft; they even design better and faster computers. They can translate English into Russian or enable the blind to read or help Michael Jackson produce on one synthesizer the sounds of a whole orchestra. Linked by a network of
5 satellites and fiber-optic cables, one individual with a desktop computer and a telephone commands resources unavailable to the largest governments just a few years ago.

Like a chrysalis, we're emerging from the economy of the Industrial Revolution—an economy confined to and limited by the Earth's physical resources—into, as one economist titled his book, "The Economy in Mind," in which there are no bounds on
10 human imagination and the freedom to create is the most precious natural resource. Think of that little computer chip. Its value isn't in the sand from which it is made but in the microscopic architecture designed into it by ingenious human minds. Or take the example of the satellite relaying this broadcast around the world, which replaces thousands of tons of copper mined from the Earth and molded into wire. In the new
15 economy, human invention increasingly makes physical resources obsolete. We're breaking through the material conditions of existence to a world where man creates his own destiny. Even as we explore the most advanced reaches of science, we're returning to the age-old wisdom of our culture, a wisdom contained in the book of Genesis in the Bible: In the beginning was the spirit, and it was from this spirit that the material
20 abundance of creation issued forth.

But progress is not foreordained. The key is freedom—freedom of thought, freedom of information, freedom of communication. The renowned scientist, scholar, and founding father of this university, Mikhail Lomonosov, knew that. "It is common knowledge," he said, "that the achievements of science are considerable and rapid, particularly once the
25 yoke of slavery is cast off and replaced by the freedom of philosophy." You know, one of the first contacts between your country and mine took place between Russian and American explorers. The Americans were members of Cook's last voyage on an expedition searching for an Arctic passage; on the island of Unalaska, they came upon

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the Russians, who took them in, and together with the native inhabitants, held a prayer service on the ice.

The explorers of the modern era are the entrepreneurs, men with vision, with the courage to take risks and faith enough to brave the unknown. These entrepreneurs and their small enterprises are responsible for almost all the economic growth in the United States. They are the prime movers of the technological revolution. In fact, one of the largest personal computer firms in the United States was started by two college students, no older than you, in the garage behind their home. Some people, even in my own country, look at the riot of experiment that is the free market and see only waste. What of all the entrepreneurs that fail? Well, many do, particularly the successful ones; often several times. And if you ask them the secret of their success, they'll tell you it's all that they learned in their struggles along the way; yes, it's what they learned from failing. Like an athlete in competition or a scholar in pursuit of the truth, experience is the greatest teacher.

And that's why it's so hard for government planners, no matter how sophisticated, to ever substitute for millions of individuals working night and day to make their dreams come true. The fact is, bureaucracies are a problem around the world. There's an old story about a town—it could be anywhere—with a bureaucrat who is known to be a good-for-nothing, but he somehow had always hung on to power. So one day, in a town meeting, an old woman got up and said to him: "There is a folk legend here where I come from that when a baby is born, an angel comes down from heaven and kisses it on one part of its body. If the angel kisses him on his hand, he becomes a handyman. If he kisses him on his forehead, he becomes bright and clever. And I've been trying to figure out where the angel kissed you so that you should sit there for so long and do nothing." [Laughter]

We are seeing the power of economic freedom spreading around the world. Places such as the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan have vaulted into the technological era, barely pausing in the industrial age along the way. Low-tax agricultural policies in the subcontinent mean that in some years India is now a net exporter of food. Perhaps most

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exciting are the winds of change that are blowing over the People's Republic of China, where one-quarter of the world's population is now getting its first taste of economic freedom. At the same time, the growth of democracy has become one of the most powerful political movements of our age. In Latin America in the 1970's, only a third of the population lived under democratic government; today over 90 percent does. In the Philippines, in the Republic of Korea, free, contested, democratic elections are the order of the day. Throughout the world, free markets are the model for growth. Democracy is the standard by which governments are measured.

...Freedom doesn't begin or end with elections...Go to any American town, to take just an example, and you'll see dozens of churches, representing many different beliefs—in many places, synagogues and mosques—and you'll see families of every conceivable nationality worshipping together. Go into any schoolroom, and there you will see children being taught the Declaration of Independence, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights—among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—that no government can justly deny; the guarantees in their Constitution for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. Go into any courtroom, and there will preside an independent judge, beholden to no government power. There every defendant has the right to a trial by a jury of his peers, usually 12 men and women—common citizens; they are the ones, the only ones, who weigh the evidence and decide on guilt or innocence. In that court, the accused is innocent until proven guilty, and the word of a policeman or any official has no greater legal standing than the word of the accused. Go to any university campus, and there you'll find an open, sometimes heated discussion of the problems in American society and what can be done to correct them. Turn on the television, and you'll see the legislature conducting the business of government right there before the camera, debating and voting on the legislation that will become the law of the land. March in any demonstration, and there are many of them; the people's right of assembly is guaranteed in the Constitution and protected by the police. Go into any union hall, where the members know their right to strike is protected by law. As a matter of fact, one of the many jobs I had before this one was being

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president of a union, the Screen Actors Guild. I led my union out on strike, and I'm proud to say we won.

But freedom is more even than this. Freedom is the right to question and change the established way of doing things. It is the continuing revolution of the marketplace. It is the understanding that allows us to recognize shortcomings and seek solutions. It is the right to put forth an idea, scoffed at by the experts, and watch it catch fire among the people. It is the right to dream—to follow your dream or stick to your conscience, even if you're the only one in a sea of doubters. Freedom is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on the truth, but that every individual life is infinitely precious, that every one of us put on this world has been put there for a reason and has something to offer.

America is a nation made up of hundreds of nationalities. Our ties to you are more than ones of good feeling; they're ties of kinship. In America, you'll find Russians, Armenians, Ukrainians, peoples from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They come from every part of this vast continent, from every continent, to live in harmony, seeking a place where each cultural heritage is respected, each is valued for its diverse strengths and beauties and the richness it brings to our lives. Recently, a few individuals and families have been allowed to visit relatives in the West. We can only hope that it won't be long before all are allowed to do so and Ukrainian-Americans, Baltic-Americans, Armenian-Americans can freely visit their homelands, just as this Irish-American visits his.

Freedom, it has been said, makes people selfish and materialistic, but Americans are one of the most religious peoples on Earth. Because they know that liberty, just as life itself, is not earned but a gift from God, they seek to share that gift with the world. "Reason and experience," said George Washington in his Farewell Address, "both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. And it is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government." Democracy is less a system of government than it is a system to keep government limited,

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unintrusive; a system of constraints on power to keep politics and government secondary to the important things in life, the true sources of value found only in family and faith.

But I hope you know I go on about these things not simply to extol the virtues of my own country but to speak to the true greatness of the heart and soul of your land. Who, after
5 all, needs to tell the land of Dostoyevski about the quest for truth, the home of Kandinski and Scriabin about imagination, the rich and noble culture of the Uzbek man of letters Alisher Navoi about beauty and heart? The great culture of your diverse land speaks with a glowing passion to all humanity. Let me cite one of the most eloquent contemporary passages on human freedom. It comes, not from the literature of America, but from this
10 country, from one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, Boris Pasternak, in the novel “Dr. Zhivago.” He writes: “I think that if the beast who sleeps in man could be held down by threats—any kind of threat, whether of jail or of retribution after death—then the highest emblem of humanity would be the lion tamer in the circus with his whip, not the prophet who sacrificed himself. But this is just the point—what has for centuries raised
15 man above the beast is not the cudgel, but an inward music—the irresistible power of unarmed truth.”

...Today the world looks expectantly to signs of change, steps toward greater freedom in the Soviet Union. We watch and we hope as we see positive changes taking place. There are some, I know, in your society who fear that change will bring only disruption and
20 discontinuity, who fear to embrace the hope of the future—sometimes it takes faith...

...But change would not mean rejection of the past. Like a tree growing strong through the seasons, rooted in the Earth and drawing life from the Sun, so, too, positive change must be rooted in traditional values—in the land, in culture, in family and community—and it must take its life from the eternal things, from the source of all life, which is faith.
25 Such change will lead to new understandings, new opportunities, to a broader future in which the tradition is not supplanted but finds its full flowering. That is the future beckoning to your generation.

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At the same time, we should remember that reform that is not institutionalized will always be insecure. Such freedom will always be looking over its shoulder. A bird on a tether, no matter how long the rope, can always be pulled back. And that is why, in my conversation with General Secretary Gorbachev, I have spoken of how important it is to
5 institutionalize change—to put guarantees on reform. And we've been talking together about one sad reminder of a divided world: the Berlin Wall. It's time to remove the barriers that keep people apart.

I'm proposing an increased exchange program of high school students between our countries...Nothing would please us more than for the Soviet people to get to know us
10 better and to understand our way of life.

Just a few years ago, few would have imagined the progress our two nations have made together. The INF treaty, which General Secretary Gorbachev and I signed last December in Washington and whose instruments of ratification we will exchange tomorrow—the first true nuclear arms reduction treaty in history, calling for the elimination of an entire
15 class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles. And just 16 days ago, we saw the beginning of your withdrawal from Afghanistan, which gives us hope that soon the fighting may end and the healing may begin and that that suffering country may find self-determination, unity, and peace at long last.

...Nations do not distrust each other because they are armed; they are armed because
20 they distrust each other. If this globe is to live in peace and prosper, if it is to embrace all the possibilities of the technological revolution, then nations must renounce, once and for all, the right to an expansionist foreign policy. Peace between nations must be an enduring goal, not a tactical stage in a continuing conflict.

...People do not make wars; governments do. And no mother would ever willingly
25 sacrifice her sons for territorial gain, for economic advantage, for ideology. A people free to choose will always choose peace.

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Americans seek always to make friends of old antagonists. After a colonial revolution with Britain, we have cemented for all ages the ties of kinship between our nations. After a terrible Civil War between North and South, we healed our wounds and found true unity as a nation. We fought two world wars in my lifetime against Germany and one
5 with Japan, but now the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan are two of our closest allies and friends.

Some people point to the trade disputes between us as a sign of strain, but they're the frictions of all families, and the family of free nations is a big and vital and sometimes boisterous one. I can tell you that nothing would please my heart more than in my
10 lifetime to see American and Soviet diplomats grappling with the problem of trade disputes between America and a growing, exuberant, exporting Soviet Union that had opened up to economic freedom and growth.

And as important as these official people-to-people exchanges are, nothing would please me more than for them to become unnecessary, to see travel between East and West
15 become so routine that university students in the Soviet Union could take a month off in the summer and, just like students in the West do now, put packs on their backs and travel from country to country in Europe with barely a passport check in between. Nothing would please me more than to see the day that a concert promoter in, say, England could call up a Soviet rock group, without going through any government
20 agency, and have them playing in Liverpool the next night. Is this just a dream? Perhaps, but it is a dream that is our responsibility to have come true.

Your generation is living in one of the most exciting, hopeful times in Soviet history. It is a time when the first breath of freedom stirs the air and the heart beats to the accelerated rhythm of hope, when the accumulated spiritual energies of a long silence
25 yearn to break free. I am reminded of the famous passage near the end of Gogol's "Dead Souls." Comparing his nation to a speeding troika, Gogol asks what will be its destination. But he writes, "There was no answer save the bell pouring forth marvelous sound."

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We do not know what the conclusion will be of this journey, but we're hopeful that the promise of reform will be fulfilled. In this Moscow spring, this May 1988, we may be allowed that hope: that freedom, like the fresh green sapling planted over Tolstoy's grave, will blossom forth at last in the rich fertile soil of your people and culture. We may be
5 allowed to hope that the marvelous sound of a new openness will keep rising through, ringing through, leading to a new world of reconciliation, friendship, and peace.

Thank you all very much, and da blagoslovit vas gospod—God bless you.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Contract with America

PARTY PLATFORM

September 27, 1994

BACKGROUND

This document was released during the mid-term elections of 1994 to explain what the Republicans would do if they gained control of Congress. The Republican party would go on to win fifty-four seats to gain control of the House of Representatives for the first time in forty years.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What does the Republican Party seek to do with this contract?
2. What are the eight reforms proposed that are “aimed at restoring the faith and trust of the American people in their government?”
3. What will the 104th Congress do in its first 100 days?

Republican National Committee. “Contract with America”. Platform, September 27, 1994. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/contract-with-america-2/>.

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As Republican members of the House of Representatives and as citizens seeking to join that body we propose not just to change its policies, but even more important, to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives.

5 That is why, in this era of official evasion and posturing, we offer instead a detailed agenda for national renewal, a written commitment with no fine print.

10 This year's election offers the chance, after four decades of one-party control, to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way Congress works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive, and too easy with the public's money. It can be the beginning of a Congress that respects the values and shares the faith of the American family.

Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act "with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right." To restore accountability to Congress. To end its cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves.

15 On the first day of the 104th Congress, the new Republican majority will immediately pass the following major reforms, aimed at restoring the faith and trust of the American people in their government:

- ☐ FIRST, require all laws that apply to the rest of the country also apply equally to the Congress;
- ☐ SECOND, select a major, independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of Congress for waste, fraud, or abuse;
- ☐ THIRD, cut the number of House committees, and cut committee staff by one-third;
- ☐ FOURTH, limit the terms of all committee chairs;
- ☐ FIFTH, ban the casting of proxy votes in committee;

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- ☐ SIXTH, require committee meetings to be open to the public;
- ☐ SEVENTH, require a three-fifths majority vote to pass a tax increase;
- ☐ EIGHTH, guarantee an honest accounting of our federal budget by implementing zero base-line budgeting.

Thereafter, within the first one hundred days of the 104th Congress, we shall bring to the House floor the following bills, each to be given full and open debate, each to be given a clear and fair vote and each to be immediately available this day for public inspection and scrutiny.

1. The Fiscal Responsibility Act: A balanced budget/tax limitation amendment and a legislative line-item veto to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses.
2. The Taking Back Our Streets Act: An anticrime package including stronger truth-in-sentencing, “good faith” exclusionary rule exemptions, effective death penalty provisions, and cuts in social spending from this summer’s “crime” bill to fund prison construction and additional law enforcement to keep people secure in their neighborhoods and kids safe in their schools.
3. The Personal Responsibility Act: Discourage illegitimacy and teen pregnancy by prohibiting welfare to minor mothers and denying increased AFDC [Aid to Families with Dependent Children] for additional children while on welfare, cut spending for welfare programs, and enact a tough two-years-and-out provision with work requirements to promote individual responsibility.
4. The Family Reinforcement Act: Child support enforcement, tax incentives for adoption, strengthening rights of parents in their children’s education, stronger child pornography laws, and an elderly dependent care tax credit to reinforce the central role of families in American society.

5. The American Dream Restoration Act: A \$500 per child tax credit, begin repeal of the marriage tax penalty, and creation of American Dream Savings Accounts to provide middle-class tax relief.
6. The National Security Restoration Act: No U.S. troops under UN command and restoration of the essential parts of our national security funding to strengthen our national defense and maintain our credibility around the world.
7. The Senior Citizens Fairness Act: Raise the Social Security earnings limit which currently forces seniors out of the workforce, repeal the 1993 tax hikes on Social Security benefits and provide tax incentives for private long-term care insurance to let older Americans keep more of what they have earned over the years.
8. The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act: Small business incentives, capital gains cut and indexation, neutral cost recovery, risk assessment/cost-benefit analysis, strengthening the Regulatory Flexibility Act and unfunded mandate reform to create jobs and raise worker wages.
9. The Common Sense Legal Reform Act: “Loser pays” laws, reasonable limits on punitive damages, and reform of product liability laws to stem the endless tide of litigation.
10. The Citizen Legislature Act: A first-ever vote on term limits to replace career politicians with citizen legislators.

Further, we will instruct the House Budget Committee to report to the floor and we will work to enact additional budget savings, beyond the budget cuts specifically included in the legislation described above, to ensure that the federal budget deficit will be less than it would have been without the enactment of these bills.

Respecting the judgment of our fellow citizens as we seek their mandate for reform, we hereby pledge our names to this Contract with America.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Address to a Joint Session of Congress

SPEECH

September 20, 2001
U.S. Congress | Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND

After the terrorist group al Qaeda launched attacks on the United States, resulting in about 3,000 deaths, President George W. Bush called a joint session of Congress to explain to them and the American people how the United States would respond.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How has the world come together in the days following 9/11?
2. What came under attack on 9/11?
3. What is al Qaeda and what does it stand for?
4. What demands does the United States place on the nations of the world?
5. What office does President Bush create?
6. What kind of war does the U.S. seek to fight and how will it accomplish this goal?
7. What outcome does President Bush hope to see after the U.S.'s war on terror?

George W. Bush. "Address to a Joint Session of Congress". Speech, September 20, 2001. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/address-to-a-joint-session-of-congress/>.

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Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

In the normal course of events, Presidents come to this chamber to report on the state of the Union. Tonight, no such report is needed. It has already been delivered by the American people.

- 5 We have seen it in the courage of passengers, who rushed terrorists to save others on the ground—passengers like an exceptional man named Todd Beamer. And would you please help me to welcome his wife, Lisa Beamer, here tonight.

- 10 We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers—in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people who have made the grief of strangers their own.

My fellow citizens, for the last nine days, the entire world has seen for itself the state of our Union—and it is strong.

- 15 Tonight we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.

- 20 I thank the Congress for its leadership at such an important time. All of America was touched on the evening of the tragedy to see Republicans and Democrats joined together on the steps of this Capitol, singing “God Bless America.” And you did more than sing; you acted, by delivering \$40 billion to rebuild our communities and meet the needs of our military.

Speaker Hastert, Minority Leader Gephardt, Majority Leader Daschle and Senator Lott, I thank you for your friendship, for your leadership and for your service to our country.

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And on behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our National Anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, on the streets of Paris, and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

5 We will not forget South Korean children gathering to pray outside our embassy in Seoul, or the prayers of sympathy offered at a mosque in Cairo. We will not forget moments of silence and days of mourning in Australia and Africa and Latin America.

10 Nor will we forget the citizens of 80 other nations who died with our own: dozens of Pakistanis; more than 130 Israelis; more than 250 citizens of India; men and women from El Salvador, Iran, Mexico and Japan; and hundreds of British citizens. America has no truer friend than Great Britain. Once again, we are joined together in a great cause—so honored the British Prime Minister has crossed an ocean to show his unity of purpose with America. Thank you for coming, friend.

15 On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars—but for the past 136 years, they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war—but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks—but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day—and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack.

20 Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking: Who attacked our country? The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda. They are the same murderers indicted for bombing American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and responsible for bombing the USS Cole.

25 Al Qaeda is to terror what the mafia is to crime. But its goal is not making money; its goal is remaking the world—and imposing its radical beliefs on people everywhere.

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The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics—a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam. The terrorists’ directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military and
5 civilians, including women and children.

This group and its leader—a person named Osama bin Laden—are linked to many other organizations in different countries, including the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. There are thousands of these terrorists in more than 60 countries. They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to
10 camps in places like Afghanistan, where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction.

The leadership of al Qaeda has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country. In Afghanistan, we see al Qaeda’s vision for
15 the world. Afghanistan’s people have been brutalized—many are starving and many have fled. Women are not allowed to attend school. You can be jailed for owning a television. Religion can be practiced only as their leaders dictate. A man can be jailed in Afghanistan if his beard is not long enough.

The United States respects the people of Afghanistan—after all, we are currently its
20 largest source of humanitarian aid—but we condemn the Taliban regime. It is not only repressing its own people, it is threatening people everywhere by sponsoring and sheltering and supplying terrorists. By aiding and abetting murder, the Taliban regime is committing murder.

And tonight, the United States of America makes the following demands on the Taliban:
25 Deliver to United States authorities all the leaders of al Qaeda who hide in your land. Release all foreign nationals, including American citizens, you have unjustly imprisoned. Protect foreign journalists, diplomats and aid workers in your country. Close

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immediately and permanently every terrorist training camp in Afghanistan, and hand over every terrorist, and every person in their support structure, to appropriate authorities. Give the United States full access to terrorist training camps, so we can make sure they are no longer operating.

- 5 These demands are not open to negotiation or discussion. The Taliban must act, and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate.

- I also want to speak tonight directly to Muslims throughout the world. We respect your faith. It's practiced freely by many millions of Americans, and by millions more in countries that America counts as friends. Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those
10 who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah. The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists, and every government that supports them.

- Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until
15 every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated.

Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what we see right here in this chamber—a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms—our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other.

- 20 They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa.

- These terrorists kill not merely to end lives, but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and
25 forsaking our friends. They stand against us, because we stand in their way.

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We are not deceived by their pretenses to piety. We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century. By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions—by abandoning every value except the will to power—they follow in the path of fascism, and Nazism, and totalitarianism. And they will follow that path all the way, to where it ends: in history’s unmarked grave of discarded lies.

Americans are asking: How will we fight and win this war? We will direct every resource at our command—every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war—to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network.

10 This war will not be like the war against Iraq a decade ago, with a decisive liberation of territory and a swift conclusion. It will not look like the air war above Kosovo two years ago, where no ground troops were used and not a single American was lost in combat.

Our response involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen.

15 It may include dramatic strikes, visible on TV, and covert operations, secret even in success. We will starve terrorists of funding, turn them one against another, drive them from place to place, until there is no refuge or no rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, 20 any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime.

Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack. We will take defensive measures against terrorism to protect Americans. Today, dozens of federal departments and agencies, as well as state and local governments, have responsibilities 25 affecting homeland security. These efforts must be coordinated at the highest level. So tonight I announce the creation of a Cabinet-level position reporting directly to me—the Office of Homeland Security.

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And tonight I also announce a distinguished American to lead this effort, to strengthen American security: a military veteran, an effective governor, a true patriot, a trusted friend—Pennsylvania’s Tom Ridge. He will lead, oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism, and respond to any attacks that may come.

These measures are essential. But the only way to defeat terrorism as a threat to our way of life is to stop it, eliminate it, and destroy it where it grows.

Many will be involved in this effort, from FBI agents to intelligence operatives to the reservists we have called to active duty. All deserve our thanks, and all have our prayers.

And tonight, a few miles from the damaged Pentagon, I have a message for our military: Be ready. I’ve called the Armed Forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud.

This is not, however, just America’s fight. And what is at stake is not just America’s freedom. This is the world’s fight. This is civilization’s fight. This is the fight of all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance and freedom.

We ask every nation to join us. We will ask, and we will need, the help of police forces, intelligence services, and banking systems around the world. The United States is grateful that many nations and many international organizations have already responded—with sympathy and with support. Nations from Latin America, to Asia, to Africa, to Europe, to the Islamic world. Perhaps the NATO Charter reflects best the attitude of the world: An attack on one is an attack on all.

The civilized world is rallying to America’s side. They understand that if this terror goes unpunished, their own cities, their own citizens may be next. Terror, unanswered, cannot only bring down buildings, it can threaten the stability of legitimate governments. And you know what—we’re not going to allow it.

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Americans are asking: What is expected of us? I ask you to live your lives, and hug your children. I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat.

I ask you to uphold the values of America, and remember why so many have come here.

- 5 We are in a fight for our principles, and our first responsibility is to live by them. No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith.

- 10 I ask you to continue to support the victims of this tragedy with your contributions. Those who want to give can go to a central source of information, libertyunites.org, to find the names of groups providing direct help in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The thousands of FBI agents who are now at work in this investigation may need your cooperation, and I ask you to give it.

I ask for your patience, with the delays and inconveniences that may accompany tighter security; and for your patience in what will be a long struggle.

- 15 I ask your continued participation and confidence in the American economy. Terrorists attacked a symbol of American prosperity. They did not touch its source. America is successful because of the hard work, and creativity, and enterprise of our people. These were the true strengths of our economy before September 11th, and they are our strengths today.

- 20 And, finally, please continue praying for the victims of terror and their families, for those in uniform, and for our great country. Prayer has comforted us in sorrow, and will help strengthen us for the journey ahead.

- 25 Tonight I thank my fellow Americans for what you have already done and for what you will do. And ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, I thank you, their representatives, for what you have already done and for what we will do together.

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Tonight, we face new and sudden national challenges. We will come together to improve air safety, to dramatically expand the number of air marshals on domestic flights, and take new measures to prevent hijacking. We will come together to promote stability and keep our airlines flying, with direct assistance during this emergency.

- 5 We will come together to give law enforcement the additional tools it needs to track down terror here at home. We will come together to strengthen our intelligence capabilities to know the plans of terrorists before they act, and find them before they strike.

We will come together to take active steps that strengthen America's economy, and put our people back to work.

- 10 Tonight we welcome two leaders who embody the extraordinary spirit of all New Yorkers: Governor George Pataki, and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. As a symbol of America's resolve, my administration will work with Congress, and these two leaders, to show the world that we will rebuild New York City.

- 15 After all that has just passed—all the lives taken, and all the possibilities and hopes that died with them—it is natural to wonder if America's future is one of fear. Some speak of an age of terror. I know there are struggles ahead, and dangers to face. But this country will define our times, not be defined by them. As long as the United States of America is determined and strong, this will not be an age of terror; this will be an age of liberty, here and across the world.

- 20 Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom—the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time—now depends on us. Our nation—this generation—will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our
25 efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.

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It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, life will return almost to normal. We'll go back to our lives and routines, and that is good. Even grief recedes with time and grace. But our resolve must not pass. Each of us will remember what happened that day, and to whom it happened. We'll remember the moment the news came—where we were and
5 what we were doing. Some will remember an image of a fire, or a story of rescue. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever.

And I will carry this: It is the police shield of a man named George Howard, who died at the World Trade Center trying to save others. It was given to me by his mom, Arlene, as a proud memorial to her son. This is my reminder of lives that ended, and a task that
10 does not end.

I will not forget this wound to our country or those who inflicted it. I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people.

The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear,
15 justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them.

Fellow citizens, we'll meet violence with patient justice—assured of the rightness of our cause, and confident of the victories to come. In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom, and may He watch over the United States of America.

20 Thank you.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Address at Cairo University

SPEECH

June 4, 2009

Major Reception Hall, Cairo University | Cairo, Egypt

BACKGROUND

When Barack Obama was campaigning for the presidency in 2008, he promised the world that he would address Muslims from a Muslim capital shortly after being elected, with the aim of resolving tensions between the United States and Islam.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What are the principles shared by the United States and Islam?
2. What are the issues that President Obama seeks to address?
3. What is the President's "first duty?"
4. What are the human rights that ought to be upheld by every nation?
5. What religious books does Obama quote?

Barack Obama. "Address at Cairo University". Presidential Message, June 04, 2009. From Teaching American History. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/address-at-cairo-university-2/>.

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... I've come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap and share common principles – principles of justice and progress, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings. . . .

... [H]uman history has often been a record of nations and tribes and, yes, religions subjugating one another in pursuit of their own interests. Yet in this new age, such attitudes are self-defeating. Given our interdependence, any world order that elevates one nation or group of people over another will inevitably fail. . . .

... [L]et me speak as clearly and as plainly as I can about some specific issues that I believe we must finally confront together.

The first issue that we have to confront is violent extremism in all of its forms. In Ankara, I made clear that America is not, and never will be, at war with Islam. We will, however, relentlessly confront violent extremists who pose a grave threat to our security, because we reject the same thing that people of all faiths reject: the killing of innocent men, women, and children. And it is my first duty as President to protect the American people. . . .

[The President next discussed Palestine, and nuclear proliferation.]

The fourth issue that I will address is democracy. . . . No system of government can or should be imposed by one nation on any other.

That does not lessen my commitment, however, to governments that reflect the will of the people. Each nation gives life to this principle in its own way, grounded in the traditions of its own people. America does not presume to know what is best for everyone, just as we would not presume to pick the outcome of a peaceful election. But I do have an unyielding belief that all people yearn for certain things: the ability to speak your mind and have a say in how you are governed, confidence in the rule of law and the equal administration of justice, government that is transparent and doesn't steal from the people, the freedom to live as you choose. These are not just American ideas, they are human rights. And that is why we will support them everywhere.

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Now, there is no straight line to realize this promise, but this much is clear: Governments that protect these rights are ultimately more stable, successful, and secure. Suppressing ideas never succeeds in making them go away. America respects the right of all peaceful and law-abiding voices to be heard around the world, even if we disagree with them. And
5 we will welcome all elected, peaceful governments, provided they govern with respect for all their people.

This last point is important, because there are some who advocate for democracy only when they're out of power. Once in power, they are ruthless in suppressing the rights of others. So no matter where it takes hold, government of the people and by the people sets a single
10 standard for all who would hold power. You must maintain your power through consent, not coercion; you must respect the rights of minorities and participate with a spirit of tolerance and compromise; you must place the interests of your people and the legitimate workings of the political process above your party. Without these ingredients, elections alone do not make true democracy.

The fifth issue that we must address together is religious freedom. Islam has a proud tradition of tolerance. We see it in the history of Andalusia and Cordoba during the Inquisition. I saw it firsthand as a child in Indonesia, where devout Christians worshiped freely in an overwhelmingly Muslim country. That is the spirit we need today. People in every country should be free to choose and live their faith based upon the persuasion of the
20 mind and the heart and the soul. This tolerance is essential for religion to thrive, but it's being challenged in many different ways. . . .

The sixth issue that I want to address is women's rights. I know – [applause] – I know, and you can tell from this audience, that there is a healthy debate about this issue. I reject the view of some in the West that a woman who chooses to cover her hair is somehow less
25 equal, but I do believe that a woman who is denied an education is denied equality. And it is no coincidence that countries where women are well educated are far more likely to be prosperous. . . .

I am convinced that our daughters can contribute just as much to society as our sons. Our common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity, men and women, to reach
30 their full potential. I do not believe that women must make the same choices as men in

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order to be equal, and I respect those women who choose to live their lives in traditional roles. But it should be their choice. And that is why the United States will partner with any Muslim-majority country to support expanded literacy for girls and to help young women pursue employment through microfinancing that helps people live their dreams.

- 5 Finally, I want to discuss economic development and opportunity. I know that for many, the face of globalization is contradictory. The Internet and television can bring knowledge and information, but also offensive sexuality and mindless violence into the home. Trade can bring new wealth and opportunities, but also huge disruptions and change in communities. In all nations, including America, this change can bring fear. Fear that
- 10 because of modernity, we lose control over our economic choices, our politics, and, most importantly, our identities, those things we most cherish about our communities, our families, our traditions, and our faith.

But I also know that human progress cannot be denied. There need not be contradictions between development and tradition. Countries like Japan and South Korea grew their

15 economies enormously while maintaining distinct cultures. The same is true for the astonishing progress within Muslim-majority countries from Kuala Lumpur to Dubai. In ancient times and in our times, Muslim communities have been at the forefront of innovation and education.

[. . .]

- 20 I know there are many, Muslim and non-Muslim, who question whether we can forge this new beginning. Some are eager to stoke the flames of division and to stand in the way of progress. Some suggest that it isn't worth the effort, that we are fated to disagree and civilizations are doomed to clash. Many more are simply skeptical that real change can occur. There's so much fear, so much mistrust that has built up over the years. But if we
- 25 choose to be bound by the past, we will never move forward. And I want to particularly say this to young people of every faith in every country: You, more than anyone, have the ability to reimagine the world, to remake this world. . . .

. . . It's easier to start wars than to end them. It's easier to blame others than to look inward. It's easier to see what is different about someone than to find the things we share. But we

30 should choose the right path, not just the easy path. There's one rule that lies at the heart

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of every religion, that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. This truth transcends nations and peoples, a belief that isn't new, that isn't black or white or brown, that isn't Christian or Muslim or Jew. It's a belief that pulsed in the cradle of civilization and that still beats in the hearts of billions around the world. It's a faith in other people, and it's what brought me here today. We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written.

The Holy Koran tells us: "O mankind! We have created you male and a female, and we have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another." The Talmud tells us: "The whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace." The Holy Bible tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now that must be our work here on Earth.

Thank you, and may God's peace be upon you.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

Remarks to the People of Poland

SPEECH

July 6, 2017

Krasinski Square | Warsaw, Poland

BACKGROUND

Early in his presidency, President Trump visited Poland and delivered a speech in front of the Warsaw Uprising Monument at Krasinski Square that set the tone internationally for his time in office.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What is the main international threat to Western Civilization?
2. What threat to Western Civilization is “firmly within our control”?
3. What is the democratic foundation that Poland and the United States have in common?
4. What was the significance of the Jerusalem Avenue Passage during the Warsaw Uprising?
5. Where does “the fight for the West” begin?

Donald Trump. “Remarks by President Trump to the People of Poland”. Presidential Message, July 06, 2017. From The White House Archives. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-people-poland/>.

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...We've come to your nation to deliver a very important message: America loves Poland, and America loves the Polish people.

5 The Poles have not only greatly enriched this region, but Polish-Americans have also greatly enriched the United States, and I was truly proud to have their support in the 2016 election.

It is a profound honor to stand in this city, by this monument to the Warsaw Uprising, and to address the Polish nation that so many generations have dreamed of: a Poland that is safe, strong, and free.

10 President Duda and your wonderful First Lady, Agata, have welcomed us with the tremendous warmth and kindness for which Poland is known around the world. Thank you. My sincere — and I mean sincere — thanks to both of them. And to Prime Minister Syzdllo, a very special thanks also.

We are also pleased that former President Lech Walesa, so famous for leading the Solidarity Movement, has joined us today ...

15 On behalf of all Americans, let me also thank the entire Polish people for the generosity you have shown in welcoming our soldiers to your country. These soldiers are not only brave defenders of freedom, but also symbols of America's commitment to your security and your place in a strong and democratic Europe.

20 We are proudly joined on stage by American, Polish, British, and Romanian soldiers. Thank you. Thank you. Great job.

President Duda and I have just come from an incredibly successful meeting with the leaders participating in the Three Seas Initiative. To the citizens of this great region, America is eager to expand our partnership with you. We welcome stronger ties of trade and commerce as you grow your economies. And we are committed to securing your access to

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alternate sources of energy, so Poland and its neighbors are never again held hostage to a single supplier of energy.

Mr. President, I congratulate you, along with the President of Croatia, on your leadership of this historic Three Seas Initiative. Thank you.

- 5 This is my first visit to Central Europe as President, and I am thrilled that it could be right here at this magnificent, beautiful piece of land. It is beautiful. Poland is the geographic heart of Europe, but more importantly, in the Polish people, we see the soul of Europe. Your nation is great because your spirit is great and your spirit is strong.

- 10 For two centuries, Poland suffered constant and brutal attacks. But while Poland could be invaded and occupied, and its borders even erased from the map, it could never be erased from history or from your hearts. In those dark days, you have lost your land but you never lost your pride.

- 15 So it is with true admiration that I can say today, that from the farms and villages of your countryside to the cathedrals and squares of your great cities, Poland lives, Poland prospers, and Poland prevails.

Despite every effort to transform you, oppress you, or destroy you, you endured and overcame. You are the proud nation of Copernicus — think of that — Chopin, Saint John Paul II. Poland is a land of great heroes. And you are a people who know the true value of what you defend.

- 20 The triumph of the Polish spirit over centuries of hardship gives us all hope for a future in which good conquers evil, and peace achieves victory over war.

- 25 For Americans, Poland has been a symbol of hope since the beginning of our nation. Polish heroes and American patriots fought side by side in our War of Independence and in many wars that followed. Our soldiers still serve together today in Afghanistan and Iraq, combatting the enemies of all civilization.

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For America's part, we have never given up on freedom and independence as the right and destiny of the Polish people, and we never, ever will.

Our two countries share a special bond forged by unique histories and national characters. It's a fellowship that exists only among people who have fought and bled and
5 died for freedom.

The signs of this friendship stand in our nation's capital. Just steps from the White House, we've raised statues of men with names like Pułaski and Kościuszko. The same is true in Warsaw, where street signs carry the name of George Washington, and a monument stands to one of the world's greatest heroes, Ronald Reagan.

10 And so I am here today not just to visit an old ally, but to hold it up as an example for others who seek freedom and who wish to summon the courage and the will to defend our civilization. The story of Poland is the story of a people who have never lost hope, who have never been broken, and who have never, ever forgotten who they are.

... This is a nation more than one thousand years old. Your borders were erased for more
15 than a century and only restored just one century ago.

In 1920, in the Miracle of Vistula, Poland stopped the Soviet army bent on European conquest. Then, 19 years later in 1939, you were invaded yet again, this time by Nazi Germany from the west and the Soviet Union from the east. That's trouble. That's tough.

20 Under a double occupation the Polish people endured evils beyond description: the Katyn forest massacre, the occupations, the Holocaust, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the destruction of this beautiful capital city, and the deaths of nearly one in five Polish people. A vibrant Jewish population — the largest in Europe — was reduced to almost nothing after the Nazis systematically murdered millions of Poland's Jewish citizens, along with countless others, during that brutal occupation.

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In the summer of 1944, the Nazi and Soviet armies were preparing for a terrible and bloody battle right here in Warsaw. Amid that hell on earth, the citizens of Poland rose up to defend their homeland. I am deeply honored to be joined on stage today by veterans and heroes of the Warsaw Uprising.

- 5 We salute your noble sacrifice and we pledge to always remember your fight for Poland and for freedom. Thank you. Thank you.

This monument reminds us that more than 150,000 Poles died during that desperate struggle to overthrow oppression.

- 10 From the other side of the river, the Soviet armed forces stopped and waited. They watched as the Nazis ruthlessly destroyed the city, viciously murdering men, women, and children. They tried to destroy this nation forever by shattering its will to survive.

But there is a courage and a strength deep in the Polish character that no one could destroy. The Polish martyr, Bishop Michael Kozal, said it well: “More horrifying than a defeat of arms is a collapse of the human spirit.”

- 15 Through four decades of communist rule, Poland and the other captive nations of Europe endured a brutal campaign to demolish freedom, your faith, your laws, your history, your identity — indeed the very essence of your culture and your humanity. Yet, through it all, you never lost that spirit. Your oppressors tried to break you, but Poland could not be broken.

- 20 And when the day came on June 2nd, 1979, and one million Poles gathered around Victory Square for their very first mass with their Polish Pope, that day, every communist in Warsaw must have known that their oppressive system would soon come crashing down. They must have known it at the exact moment during Pope John Paul II’s sermon when a million Polish men, women, and children suddenly raised their voices in a single prayer. A
25 million Polish people did not ask for wealth. They did not ask for privilege. Instead, one million Poles sang three simple words: “We Want God.”

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In those words, the Polish people recalled the promise of a better future. They found new courage to face down their oppressors, and they found the words to declare that Poland would be Poland once again.

5 As I stand here today before this incredible crowd, this faithful nation, we can still hear those voices that echo through history. Their message is as true today as ever. The people of Poland, the people of America, and the people of Europe still cry out “We want God.”

10 Together, with Pope John Paul II, the Poles reasserted their identity as a nation devoted to God. And with that powerful declaration of who you are, you came to understand what to do and how to live. You stood in solidarity against oppression, against a lawless secret police, against a cruel and wicked system that impoverished your cities and your souls. And you won. Poland prevailed. Poland will always prevail.

15 You were supported in that victory over communism by a strong alliance of free nations in the West that defied tyranny. Now, among the most committed members of the NATO Alliance, Poland has resumed its place as a leading nation of a Europe that is strong, whole, and free.

A strong Poland is a blessing to the nations of Europe, and they know that. A strong Europe is a blessing to the West and to the world. One hundred years after the entry of American forces into World War I, the transatlantic bond between the United States and Europe is as strong as ever and maybe, in many ways, even stronger.

20 This continent no longer confronts the specter of communism. But today we’re in the West, and we have to say there are dire threats to our security and to our way of life. You see what’s happening out there. They are threats. We will confront them. We will win. But they are threats.

25 We are confronted by another oppressive ideology — one that seeks to export terrorism and extremism all around the globe. America and Europe have suffered one terror attack after another. We’re going to get it to stop.

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During a historic gathering in Saudi Arabia, I called on the leaders of more than 50 Muslim nations to join together to drive out this menace which threatens all of humanity. We must stand united against these shared enemies to strip them of their territory and their funding, and their networks, and any form of ideological support that they may have. While we will
5 always welcome new citizens who share our values and love our people, our borders will always be closed to terrorism and extremism of any kind.

We are fighting hard against radical Islamic terrorism, and we will prevail. We cannot accept those who reject our values and who use hatred to justify violence against the innocent.

10 Today, the West is also confronted by the powers that seek to test our will, undermine our confidence, and challenge our interests. To meet new forms of aggression, including propaganda, financial crimes, and cyberwarfare, we must adapt our alliance to compete effectively in new ways and on all new battlefields.

We urge Russia to cease its destabilizing activities in Ukraine and elsewhere, and its support
15 for hostile regimes — including Syria and Iran — and to instead join the community of responsible nations in our fight against common enemies and in defense of civilization itself.

Finally, on both sides of the Atlantic, our citizens are confronted by yet another danger — one firmly within our control. This danger is invisible to some but familiar to the Poles: the
20 steady creep of government bureaucracy that drains the vitality and wealth of the people. The West became great not because of paperwork and regulations but because people were allowed to chase their dreams and pursue their destinies.

Americans, Poles, and the nations of Europe value individual freedom and sovereignty. We must work together to confront forces, whether they come from inside or
25 out, from the South or the East, that threaten over time to undermine these values and to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are. If left unchecked,

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these forces will undermine our courage, sap our spirit, and weaken our will to defend ourselves and our societies.

But just as our adversaries and enemies of the past learned here in Poland, we know that these forces, too, are doomed to fail if we want them to fail. And we do, indeed, want them
5 to fail. They are doomed not only because our alliance is strong, our countries are resilient, and our power is unmatched. Through all of that, you have to say everything is true. Our adversaries, however, are doomed because we will never forget who we are. And if we don't forget who we are, we just can't be beaten. Americans will never forget. The nations of Europe will never forget. We are the fastest and the greatest community. There is nothing
10 like our community of nations. The world has never known anything like our community of nations.

We write symphonies. We pursue innovation. We celebrate our ancient heroes, embrace our timeless traditions and customs, and always seek to explore and discover brand-new frontiers.

15 We reward brilliance. We strive for excellence, and cherish inspiring works of art that honor God. We treasure the rule of law and protect the right to free speech and free expression.

We empower women as pillars of our society and of our success. We put faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, at the center of our lives. And we debate everything. We
20 challenge everything. We seek to know everything so that we can better know ourselves.

And above all, we value the dignity of every human life, protect the rights of every person, and share the hope of every soul to live in freedom. That is who we are. Those are the priceless ties that bind us together as nations, as allies, and as a civilization.

What we have, what we inherited from our — and you know this better than anybody, and
25 you see it today with this incredible group of people — what we've inherited from our

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ancestors has never existed to this extent before. And if we fail to preserve it, it will never, ever exist again. So we cannot fail.

This great community of nations has something else in common: In every one of them, it is the people, not the powerful, who have always formed the foundation of freedom and the cornerstone of our defense. The people have been that foundation here in Poland — as they were right here in Warsaw — and they were the foundation from the very, very beginning in America.

Our citizens did not win freedom together, did not survive horrors together, did not face down evil together, only to lose our freedom to a lack of pride and confidence in our values. We did not and we will not. We will never back down.

As long as we know our history, we will know how to build our future. Americans know that a strong alliance of free, sovereign and independent nations is the best defense for our freedoms and for our interests. That is why my administration has demanded that all members of NATO finally meet their full and fair financial obligation.

As a result of this insistence, billions of dollars more have begun to pour into NATO. In fact, people are shocked. But billions and billions of dollars more are coming in from countries that, in my opinion, would not have been paying so quickly.

To those who would criticize our tough stance, I would point out that the United States has demonstrated not merely with words but with its actions that we stand firmly behind Article 5, the mutual defense commitment.

Words are easy, but actions are what matters. And for its own protection — and you know this, everybody knows this, everybody has to know this — Europe must do more. Europe must demonstrate that it believes in its future by investing its money to secure that future.

That is why we applaud Poland for its decision to move forward this week on acquiring from the United States the battle-tested Patriot air and missile defense system — the best

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anywhere in the world. That is also why we salute the Polish people for being one of the NATO countries that has actually achieved the benchmark for investment in our common defense. Thank you. Thank you, Poland. I must tell you, the example you set is truly magnificent, and we applaud Poland. Thank you.

- 5 We have to remember that our defense is not just a commitment of money, it is a commitment of will. Because as the Polish experience reminds us, the defense of the West ultimately rests not only on means but also on the will of its people to prevail and be successful and get what you have to have. The fundamental question of our time is whether the West has the will to survive. Do we have the confidence in our values to defend them
- 10 at any cost? Do we have enough respect for our citizens to protect our borders? Do we have the desire and the courage to preserve our civilization in the face of those who would subvert and destroy it?

- We can have the largest economies and the most lethal weapons anywhere on Earth, but if we do not have strong families and strong values, then we will be weak and we will not
- 15 survive. If anyone forgets the critical importance of these things, let them come to one country that never has. Let them come to Poland. And let them come here, to Warsaw, and learn the story of the Warsaw Uprising.

- When they do, they should learn about Jerusalem Avenue. In August of 1944, Jerusalem Avenue was one of the main roads running east and west through this city, just as it is
- 20 today.

- Control of that road was crucially important to both sides in the battle for Warsaw. The German military wanted it as their most direct route to move troops and to form a very strong front. And for the Polish Home Army, the ability to pass north and south across that street was critical to keep the center of the city, and the Uprising itself, from being split
- 25 apart and destroyed.

Every night, the Poles put up sandbags amid machine gun fire — and it was horrendous fire — to protect a narrow passage across Jerusalem Avenue. Every day, the enemy forces

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knocked them down again and again and again. Then the Poles dug a trench. Finally, they built a barricade. And the brave Polish fighters began to flow across Jerusalem Avenue. That narrow passageway, just a few feet wide, was the fragile link that kept the Uprising alive.

- 5 Between its walls, a constant stream of citizens and freedom fighters made their perilous, just perilous, sprints. They ran across that street, they ran through that street, they ran under that street — all to defend this city. “The far side was several yards away,” recalled one young Polish woman named Greta. That mortality and that life was so important to her. In fact, she said, “The mortally dangerous sector of the street was soaked in the
- 10 blood. It was the blood of messengers, liaison girls, and couriers.”

- Nazi snipers shot at anybody who crossed. Anybody who crossed, they were being shot at. Their soldiers burned every building on the street, and they used the Poles as human shields for their tanks in their effort to capture Jerusalem Avenue. The enemy never ceased its relentless assault on that small outpost of civilization. And the Poles never ceased its
- 15 defense.

The Jerusalem Avenue passage required constant protection, repair, and reinforcement, but the will of its defenders did not waver, even in the face of death. And to the last days of the Uprising, the fragile crossing never, ever failed. It was never, ever forgotten. It was kept open by the Polish people.

- 20 The memories of those who perished in the Warsaw Uprising cry out across the decades, and few are clearer than the memories of those who died to build and defend the Jerusalem Avenue crossing. Those heroes remind us that the West was saved with the blood of patriots; that each generation must rise up and play their part in its defense — and that every foot of ground, and every last inch of civilization, is worth defending with your life.
- 25 Our own fight for the West does not begin on the battlefield — it begins with our minds, our wills, and our souls. Today, the ties that unite our civilization are no less vital, and demand no less defense, than that bare shred of land on which the hope of Poland once

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totally rested. Our freedom, our civilization, and our survival depend on these bonds of history, culture, and memory.

And today as ever, Poland is in our heart, and its people are in that fight. Just as Poland could not be broken, I declare today for the world to hear that the West will never, ever be
5 broken. Our values will prevail. Our people will thrive. And our civilization will triumph.

Thank you. So, together, let us all fight like the Poles — for family, for freedom, for country, and for God.

Thank you. God Bless You. God bless the Polish people. God bless our allies. And God bless the United States of America.

10 Thank you. God bless you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

Remarks at Mount Rushmore

SPEECH

July 3, 2020

Mount Rushmore | Keystone, South Dakota

BACKGROUND

President Trump stopped at Mount Rushmore for an Independence Day celebration while campaigning for reelection in 2020. He used the opportunity to condemn what he saw as sources of political and cultural division, to honor American historical figures, and to highlight traditional American values.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Who does President Trump pay tribute to?
2. What does 1776 represent?
3. What stories does Trump tell of American history?
4. What dangers threaten the principles and spirit of the United States, according to Trump?
5. What will the American legacy be?

Donald Trump. "Remarks by President Trump at South Dakota's 2020 Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration | Keystone, South Dakota". Presidential Message, July 03, 2020. From The White House Archives.
<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-south-dakotas-2020-mount-rushmore-fireworks-celebration-keystone-south-dakota/>.

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...As we begin this Fourth of July weekend, the First Lady and I wish each and every one of you a very, very Happy Independence Day. Thank you.

Let us show our appreciation to the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, and the U.S. Air Force for inspiring us with that magnificent display of American air power, and of course, our gratitude, as always, to the legendary and very talented Blue Angels. Thank you very much.

Let us also send our deepest thanks to our wonderful veterans, law enforcement, first responders, and the doctors, nurses, and scientists working tirelessly to kill the virus. They're working hard. I want to thank them very, very much...

...There could be no better place to celebrate America's independence than beneath this magnificent, incredible, majestic mountain and monument to the greatest Americans who have ever lived.

Today, we pay tribute to the exceptional lives and extraordinary legacies of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Teddy Roosevelt. I am here as your President to proclaim before the country and before the world: This monument will never be desecrated, these heroes will never be defaced, their legacy will never, ever be destroyed, their achievements will never be forgotten, and Mount Rushmore will stand forever as an eternal tribute to our forefathers and to our freedom.

We gather tonight to herald the most important day in the history of nations: July 4th, 1776. At those words, every American heart should swell with pride. Every American family should cheer with delight. And every American patriot should be filled with joy, because each of you lives in the most magnificent country in the history of the world, and it will soon be greater than ever before.

Our Founders launched not only a revolution in government, but a revolution in the pursuit of justice, equality, liberty, and prosperity. No nation has done more to advance the human condition than the United States of America. And no people have done more to promote human progress than the citizens of our great nation.

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It was all made possible by the courage of 56 patriots who gathered in Philadelphia 244 years ago and signed the Declaration of Independence. They enshrined a divine truth that changed the world forever when they said: "...all men are created equal."

5 These immortal words set in motion the unstoppable march of freedom. Our Founders boldly declared that we are all endowed with the same divine rights — given [to] us by our Creator in Heaven. And that which God has given us, we will allow no one, ever, to take away — ever.

1776 represented the culmination of thousands of years of western civilization and the triumph not only of spirit, but of wisdom, philosophy, and reason.

10 And yet, as we meet here tonight, there is a growing danger that threatens every blessing our ancestors fought so hard for, struggled, they bled to secure.

Our nation is witnessing a merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children.

15 Angry mobs are trying to tear down statues of our Founders, deface our most sacred memorials, and unleash a wave of violent crime in our cities. Many of these people have no idea why they are doing this, but some know exactly what they are doing. They think the American people are weak and soft and submissive. But no, the American people are strong and proud, and they will not allow our country, and all of its values, history, and culture, to be taken from them.

20 One of their political weapons is "Cancel Culture" — driving people from their jobs, shaming dissenters, and demanding total submission from anyone who disagrees. This is the very definition of totalitarianism, and it is completely alien to our culture and our values, and it has absolutely no place in the United States of America. This attack on our liberty, our magnificent liberty, must be stopped, and it will be stopped very quickly. We
25 will expose this dangerous movement, protect our nation's children, end this radical assault, and preserve our beloved American way of life.

In our schools, our newsrooms, even our corporate boardrooms, there is a new far-left fascism that demands absolute allegiance. If you do not speak its language, perform its

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rituals, recite its mantras, and follow its commandments, then you will be censored, banished, blacklisted, persecuted, and punished. It's not going to happen to us.

Make no mistake: this left-wing cultural revolution is designed to overthrow the American Revolution. In so doing, they would destroy the very civilization that rescued billions from
5 poverty, disease, violence, and hunger, and that lifted humanity to new heights of achievement, discovery, and progress.

To make this possible, they are determined to tear down every statue, symbol, and memory of our national heritage.

...That is why I am deploying federal law enforcement to protect our monuments, arrest
10 the rioters, and prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

I am pleased to report that yesterday, federal agents arrested the suspected ringleader of the attack on the statue of Andrew Jackson in Washington, D.C. and, in addition, hundreds more have been arrested.

Under the executive order I signed last week — pertaining to the Veterans' Memorial
15 Preservation and Recognition Act and other laws — people who damage or deface federal statues or monuments will get a minimum of 10 years in prison. And obviously, that includes our beautiful Mount Rushmore.

Our people have a great memory. They will never forget the destruction of statues and monuments to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, abolitionists, and
20 many others.

The violent mayhem we have seen in the streets of cities that are run by liberal Democrats, in every case, is the predictable result of years of extreme indoctrination and bias in education, journalism, and other cultural institutions.

Against every law of society and nature, our children are taught in school to hate their own
25 country, and to believe that the men and women who built it were not heroes, but that they were villains. The radical view of American history is a web of lies — all perspective is removed, every virtue is obscured, every motive is twisted, every fact is distorted, and every

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flaw is magnified until the history is purged and the record is disfigured beyond all recognition.

This movement is openly attacking the legacies of every person on Mount Rushmore. They defile the memory of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. Today, we will set
5 history and history's record straight.

Before these figures were immortalized in stone, they were American giants in full flesh and blood, gallant men whose intrepid deeds unleashed the greatest leap of human advancement the world has ever known. Tonight, I will tell you and, most importantly, the youth of our nation, the true stories of these great, great men.

10 From head to toe, George Washington represented the strength, grace, and dignity of the American people. From a small volunteer force of citizen farmers, he created the Continental Army out of nothing and rallied them to stand against the most powerful military on Earth.

Through eight long years, through the brutal winter at Valley Forge, through setback after
15 setback on the field of battle, he led those patriots to ultimate triumph. When the Army had dwindled to a few thousand men at Christmas of 1776, when defeat seemed absolutely certain, he took what remained of his forces on a daring nighttime crossing of the Delaware River.

They marched through nine miles of frigid darkness, many without boots on their feet,
20 leaving a trail of blood in the snow. In the morning, they seized victory at Trenton. After forcing the surrender of the most powerful empire on the planet at Yorktown, General Washington did not claim power, but simply returned to Mount Vernon as a private citizen.

When called upon again, he presided over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia,
25 and was unanimously elected our first President. When he stepped down after two terms, his former adversary King George called him "the greatest man of the age." He remains first in our hearts to this day. For as long as Americans love this land, we will honor and cherish the father of our country, George Washington. He will never be removed, abolished, and most of all, he will never be forgotten.

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Thomas Jefferson — the great Thomas Jefferson — was 33 years old when he traveled north to Pennsylvania and brilliantly authored one of the greatest treasures of human history, the Declaration of Independence. He also drafted Virginia's constitution, and conceived and wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, a model for our cherished First Amendment.

After serving as the first Secretary of State, and then Vice President, he was elected to the Presidency. He ordered American warriors to crush the Barbary pirates, he doubled the size of our nation with the Louisiana Purchase, and he sent the famous explorers Lewis and Clark into the west on a daring expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

He was an architect, an inventor, a diplomat, a scholar, the founder of one of the world's great universities, and an ardent defender of liberty. Americans will forever admire the author of American freedom, Thomas Jefferson. And he, too, will never, ever be abandoned by us.

Abraham Lincoln, the savior of our union, was a self-taught country lawyer who grew up in a log cabin on the American frontier.

The first Republican President, he rose to high office from obscurity, based on a force and clarity of his anti-slavery convictions. Very, very strong convictions.

He signed the law that built the Transcontinental Railroad; he signed the Homestead Act, given to some incredible scholars — as simply defined, ordinary citizens free land to settle anywhere in the American West; and he led the country through the darkest hours of American history, giving every ounce of strength that he had to ensure that government of the people, by the people, and for the people did not perish from this Earth.

He served as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces during our bloodiest war, the struggle that saved our union and extinguished the evil of slavery. Over 600,000 died in that war; more than 20,000 were killed or wounded in a single day at Antietam. At Gettysburg, 157 years ago, the Union bravely withstood an assault of nearly 15,000 men and threw back Pickett's charge.

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Lincoln won the Civil War; he issued the Emancipation Proclamation; he led the passage of the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery for all time and ultimately, his determination to preserve our nation and our union cost him his life. For as long as we live, Americans will uphold and revere the immortal memory of President Abraham Lincoln.

- 5 Theodore Roosevelt exemplified the unbridled confidence of our national culture and identity. He saw the towering grandeur of America's mission in the world and he pursued it with overwhelming energy and zeal.

- As a Lieutenant Colonel during the Spanish-American War, he led the famous Rough Riders to defeat the enemy at San Juan Hill. He cleaned up corruption as Police
10 Commissioner of New York City, then served as the Governor of New York, Vice President, and at 42 years old, became the youngest-ever President of the United States.

- He sent our great new naval fleet around the globe to announce America's arrival as a world power. He gave us many of our national parks, including the Grand Canyon; he oversaw the construction of the awe-inspiring Panama Canal; and he is the only person ever
15 awarded both the Nobel Peace Prize and the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was American freedom personified in full. The American people will never relinquish the bold, beautiful, and untamed spirit of Theodore Roosevelt.

- No movement that seeks to dismantle these treasured American legacies can possibly have a love of America at its heart. Can't have it. No person who remains quiet at the
20 destruction of this resplendent heritage can possibly lead us to a better future.

- The radical ideology attacking our country advances under the banner of social justice. But in truth, it would demolish both justice and society. It would transform justice into an instrument of division and vengeance, and it would turn our free and inclusive society into a place of repression, domination, and exclusion.

- 25 They want to silence us, but we will not be silenced.

...We will state the truth in full, without apology: We declare that the United States of America is the most just and exceptional nation ever to exist on Earth.

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We are proud of the fact that our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, and we understand that these values have dramatically advanced the cause of peace and justice throughout the world.

We know that the American family is the bedrock of American life.

- 5 We recognize the solemn right and moral duty of every nation to secure its borders. And we are building the wall.

We remember that governments exist to protect the safety and happiness of their own people. A nation must care for its own citizens first. We must take care of America first. It's time.

- 10 We believe in equal opportunity, equal justice, and equal treatment for citizens of every race, background, religion, and creed. Every child, of every color — born and unborn — is made in the holy image of God.

We want free and open debate, not speech codes and cancel culture.

We embrace tolerance, not prejudice.

- 15 We support the courageous men and women of law enforcement. We will never abolish our police or our great Second Amendment, which gives us the right to keep and bear arms.

We believe that our children should be taught to love their country, honor our history, and respect our great American flag.

- 20 We stand tall, we stand proud, and we only kneel to Almighty God.

This is who we are. This is what we believe. And these are the values that will guide us as we strive to build an even better and greater future.

- 25 Those who seek to erase our heritage want Americans to forget our pride and our great dignity, so that we can no longer understand ourselves or America's destiny. In toppling the heroes of 1776, they seek to dissolve the bonds of love and loyalty that we feel for our country, and that we feel for each other. Their goal is not a better America, their goal is the end of America.

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In its place, they want power for themselves. But just as patriots did in centuries past, the American people will stand in their way — and we will win, and win quickly and with great dignity.

We will never let them rip America's heroes from our monuments, or from our hearts. By tearing down Washington and Jefferson, these radicals would tear down the very heritage for which men gave their lives to win the Civil War; they would erase the memory that inspired those soldiers to go to their deaths, singing these words of the Battle Hymn of the Republic: "As He died to make men Holy, let us die to make men free, while God is marching on."

They would tear down the principles that propelled the abolition of slavery in America and, ultimately, around the world, ending an evil institution that had plagued humanity for thousands and thousands of years. Our opponents would tear apart the very documents that Martin Luther King used to express his dream, and the ideas that were the foundation of the righteous movement for Civil Rights. They would tear down the beliefs, culture, and identity that have made America the most vibrant and tolerant society in the history of the Earth.

My fellow Americans, it is time to speak up loudly and strongly and powerfully and defend the integrity of our country.

It is time for our politicians to summon the bravery and determination of our American ancestors. It is time. It is time to plant our flag and protect the greatest of this nation, for citizens of every race, in every city, and every part of this glorious land. For the sake of our honor, for the sake of our children, for the sake of our union, we must protect and preserve our history, our heritage, and our great heroes.

Here tonight, before the eyes of our forefathers, Americans declare again, as we did 244 years ago: that we will not be tyrannized, we will not be demeaned, and we will not be intimidated by bad, evil people. It will not happen.

We will proclaim the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, and we will never surrender the spirit and the courage and the cause of July 4th, 1776.

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Upon this ground, we will stand firm and unwavering. In the face of lies meant to divide us, demoralize us, and diminish us, we will show that the story of America unites us, inspires us, includes us all, and makes everyone free.

We must demand that our children are taught once again to see America as did Reverend
5 Martin Luther King, when he said that the Founders had signed “a promissory note” to every future generation. Dr. King saw that the mission of justice required us to fully embrace our founding ideals. Those ideals are so important to us — the founding ideals. He called on his fellow citizens not to rip down their heritage, but to live up to their heritage.

10 Above all, our children, from every community, must be taught that to be American is to inherit the spirit of the most adventurous and confident people ever to walk the face of the Earth.

Americans are the people who pursued our Manifest Destiny across the ocean, into the uncharted wilderness, over the tallest mountains, and then into the skies and even into the
15 stars.

We are the country of Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, and Frederick Douglass. We are the land of Wild Bill Hickock and Buffalo Bill Cody. We are the nation that gave rise to the Wright Brothers, the Tuskegee Airmen, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Jesse Owens, George Patton — General George Patton — the great Louie Armstrong, Alan Shepard, Elvis
20 Presley, and Mohammad Ali. And only America could have produced them all. No other place.

We are the culture that put up the Hoover Dam, laid down the highways, and sculpted the skyline of Manhattan. We are the people who dreamed a spectacular dream — it was called: Las Vegas, in the Nevada desert; who built up Miami from the Florida marsh; and who
25 carved our heroes into the face of Mount Rushmore.

Americans harnessed electricity, split the atom, and gave the world the telephone and the Internet. We settled the Wild West, won two World Wars, landed American astronauts on the Moon — and one day very soon, we will plant our flag on Mars.

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We gave the world the poetry of Walt Whitman, the stories of Mark Twain, the songs of Irving Berlin, the voice of Ella Fitzgerald, the style of Frank Sinatra, the comedy of Bob Hope, the power of the Saturn V rocket, the toughness of the Ford F-150, and the awesome might of the American aircraft carriers.

5 Americans must never lose sight of this miraculous story. You should never lose sight of it, because nobody has ever done it like we have done it. So today, under the authority vested in me as President of the United States, I am announcing the creation of a new monument to the giants of our past. I am signing an executive order to establish the National Garden of American Heroes, a vast outdoor park that will feature the statues of
10 the greatest Americans to ever live.

From this night and from this magnificent place, let us go forward united in our purpose and re-dedicated in our resolve. We will raise the next generation of American patriots. We will write the next thrilling chapter of the American adventure. And we will teach our children to know that they live in a land of legends, that nothing can stop them,
15 and that no one can hold them down. They will know that in America, you can do anything, you can be anything, and together, we can achieve anything.

Uplifted by the titans of Mount Rushmore, we will find unity that no one expected; we will make strides that no one thought possible. This country will be everything that our citizens have hoped for, for so many years, and that our enemies fear — because we will never forget
20 that American freedom exists for American greatness. And that's what we have: American greatness.

Centuries from now, our legacy will be the cities we built, the champions we forged, the good we did, and the monuments we created to inspire us all.

My fellow citizens: America's destiny is in our sights. America's heroes are embedded in
25 our hearts. America's future is in our hands. And ladies and gentlemen: the best is yet to come.

This has been a great honor for the First Lady and myself to be with you. I love your state. I love this country. I'd like to wish everybody a very happy Fourth of July. To all, God bless

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you, God bless your families, God bless our great military, and God bless America. Thank you very much.