



US HISTORY

Chapter 24 - 27 Highlights

1963 – Today



1963 - _____ assumes Presidency after JFK assassination. [Note: from Lincoln to Kennedy, every President elected on a year ending in "0" died in office: 1860: Lincoln (*shot*); 1880: Garfield (*shot*); 1900: McKinley (*shot*); 1920: Harding; 1940: FDR; 1960: JFK (*shot*). Reagan, elected in 1980, was also shot but narrowly escaped with his life.] Perhaps because of the nation's sympathy for the [barely-elected] Kennedy, Johnson was elected in 1964.

Three main points concerning LBJ's administration:

1. _____ (*his domestic plan*)
2. The _____ Movement
3. The _____ War

Johnson's "Great Society" was the biggest federal initiative since FDR's _____ program.

- The _____ Act of 1964 – part of his so-called "War on _____" - job training programs and educational opportunities at federal expense
- Federal funding of colleges and financial aid for students strengthened.
- Federal funding for local schools - _____, _____, & _____.
- Created the Department of _____ (HUD) & Department of _____.
- LBJ had _____ majorities in both houses.

"As state and local governments accepted tax dollars from the federal government...they surrendered their authority [autonomy] to Washington, D.C." (p.630) This means less local control in every area – housing, zoning, education, you-name-it.

Examples of federally-subsidized housing funded b/c of the Johnson administration include Jones Court, Hawthorne Court, and DeWitt. On the positive sides, these provided low- and no-cost housing to needy families; on the negative side, they sometimes destroyed initiative, "bailed out" unwed mothers and made it easier for fathers to abdicate their responsibilities, and sometimes became _____ which were breeding grounds for gangs and riots (e.g., the _____ riots in L.A. In 19____.)

Civil Rights during the '60's

- 1964 _____ prohibited racial discrimination in public places
- 24th Amendment outlawed _____ used to keep Blacks and others from voting.
- 1965 _____ Act resulted in a whopping 40% increase in Black voter registration.

People:

_____ - first Black Supreme Court Justice

_____, Jr. - led *non-violent* protests and civil disobedience.

_____ thought non-violence was stupidity, advocating Black Separatism.

The Vietnam War, the event that defined a generation, deserves a chapter of its own, but here are some highlights:

• It began with Communist powers in _____ Vietnam and more or less free _____ Vietnam.

The country was to unite under free elections, but that didn't happen. Instead, pro-Communist South Vietnamese guerrillas (known as the _____) began to terrorize the South, eventually precipitating full-scale war.

• When North Vietnam allegedly fired on two U.S. destroyers, Congress passed the _____ Resolution, provided LBJ the authority to essentially wage war in Vietnam (not just provide assistance to South Vietnam).

• *General _____ was the Commander of the U.S. forces.

• Even with the _____ in late 1968, U.S. forces were not allowed to bomb North Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia, even though the communists were being supplied from these places--!!!! This is similar to what happened in the _____ Conflict, but in this case we refused to bomb not just supply bases in "third-party" countries, but even in the invading country!

*What the book does not address adequately is the extreme polarization caused by the war in Vietnam. Many young people protested the war; many, many more were against it but not active; many songs were written in protest of the war (as well as discrimination); and a whole generation was steeped in an anti-war and anti-establishment mindset. While it would be blatantly unfair to label the protesters as communist sympathizers, still, the anti-war movement did play into the hands of the communists. Unfortunately, instead of "Give me liberty or give me death," one might hear "Better Red than dead." Again, the protests against the war (such as the near-riot at the Democratic National Convention in 1968) were very much mixed up with a general rebellion against authority and traditions which characterized much of the "Baby Boomers"--at least the ones who got the headlines. Of course, events such as the shooting of four students at **Kent State** in 1970 only served to galvanize a generation...*

The Democrats put forward JFK's brother _____ in 1968; both he and Dr.

_____ were assassinated the same year. Republican _____

_____ won the election. He came to symbolize "the establishment," and the young who protested the war came to hate him. He was perhaps a bit paranoid; however, he did not authorize the break-in at the _____ Headquarters in the _____ hotel.

After it happened, though (and perhaps to protect those under him), he tried to _____ the truth.

(In the meantime, Vice-President _____ resigned from office for taking bribes and evading income tax; Nixon appointed _____ in his place.) Eventually, what Nixon was doing became obvious to all; rather than face impeachment by the _____ and almost certain

conviction by the _____, he resigned on _____, _____. So, since the VP becomes President, Ford became the first President that was not elected—and some said that it looked like Nixon set it all up. _____ even pardoned _____ *in advance* for any crimes he "might have committed"--!! All this did not help the conservative political or social cause—meaning the Republicans were defeated in the next election, and people perhaps saw traditional morality as hypocritical.

Before leaving office, Nixon is noted for two events:

- America _____ her forces from _____ in January _____. In 1975, South Vietnam fell to the North, as we evacuated all remaining U.S. citizens...it was a heart-wrenching scene...
- Nixon visited Communist _____, setting the stage for normalized relations with that country.

It should be noted that President Nixon lived for another two dozen years after he resigned, becoming a respected elder statesman and commentator of American political life.

After Nixon:

- Ford – a good man – found few friends in Congress or the press. He is perhaps mostly known for stumbling down the steps of an airplane ramp...
- _____ was elected in 1976; Margaret Thatcher (_____ of England) later said he was the right man at the wrong time. Proclaiming to be a born-again Christian, he offended evangelicals with his Playboy interview, acknowledging to them that he had fallen to lust at times---! (*Dumb. Real dumb.*)

His crowning achievement was the signing of the _____ peace accord in _____, bringing peace between long-standing enemies _____ and _____. His biggest embarrassment, pointing out his impotency, was the _____. For 444 days, 52 Americans were held hostage by Iran. This time was the beginning of the _____ crisis, when the price of gasoline doubled inside a year, thanks to OPEC (_____ - _____), a.k.a. the "oil cartel."

The OPEC nations were simply doing what some of the "Robber Barons" did – form a combination in restraint of trade, believing that if the U.S. was using such a disproportionately large share of the world's oil reserves, then the U.S. could afford to pay more. The book puts it rather interestingly: *"In an effort to redistribute the wealth of the developed world, the OPEC nations simply curtailed the production of oil."* Hmm...

Near-nuclear disaster: _____ was the scene of an accident that virtually led to the end of new nuclear power plants. Later in _____ in the U.S.S.R., there was an accident that released 8 tons of radioactive material into the air; twenty firefighters died immediately, hundreds suffered from radiation sickness, and perhaps 8000 more died long-term, not to mention cancer and genetic mutations. (source: encyclopedia.com)

- In 1980, _____ -- a former "B-movie" actor and governor of (where else?) _____ was elected in reaction to Carter's perceived weakness and rampant inflation (my opinion). He was a conservative's conservative without apology, promising spending cuts, less taxes, less

government interference, and a strong military. He had the backing of Jerry Falwell's _____
_____, an evangelical **political action group**.

_____ was the derisive nickname for his "trickle-down" theory of economics. Essentially it was a switch from the New Deal and Great Society ideas of taxing the rich to provide for the poor. Instead, the "rich" business owners and entrepreneurs were allowed to keep their profits, reinvesting them in their businesses, which led (hopefully) to more production, higher wages, and more employment, thus "sharing the wealth" in a free-market (_____) system. Since economics and ecology often seem at odds, many environmentalists saw Reagan as an enemy, as he allowed commercial development of lands others wanted protected. He also was responsible for _____ - - getting the government out of the business of protecting monopolies (like Bell telephone) and regulating rates (telephone, electricity, airlines, etc.) This is all part of his free-market beliefs.

Of course, the book loves President Reagan – but then, so do I! 😊

Iran-Contra affair – 1986: Col. _____ illegally diverted funds obtained from the sale of arms to Iran (!!!! - part of a hostage deal) to Nicaraguan "Contras," or "freedom-fighters" who were fighting communists. North was both lionized and vilified.

Reagan also is given credit to bringing down the _____. His military buildup ("peace through strength") forced the Soviet Union to build up its arms until its economy was exhausted; as _____ (dictator of the USSR) and Boris _____ (president of Russia) drifted from communism, a coup was plotted. It backfired, and the USSR collapsed to the cheers of her people and the free world.

In China, similar hopes for peace vanished when the communist government crushed a million-strong student-led demonstration for freedom. A thousand were killed, but we could not even withdraw China's MFN (_____) trading status with us.

By then, of course, _____ was president. Elected in 19____, he was more moderate than Reagan. Still, he sent in troops to free Kuwait after _____ invaded it. This was Operation _____, and it was a resounding success, all the more welcome with the memory of Vietnam still hovering over our land after almost twenty years. This is where Gen. Colin _____ and Gen. Norman _____ rose to fame. By this time, too, many formerly anti-establishment Baby-boomers had become disaffected with liberalism (maybe getting married and having kids does that to you...) --but flags were outselling everything else during this time, it seemed. It was not the end of our dealings with Iraq...

President Bush faced reelection in 1992. Conventional wisdom held that the election was Bush's to lose – and he did.

In a three-way race of sorts, _____ came from near-obscurity to the White House. He favored big government, government regulation, social welfare, and generally favored the liberal agenda

(e.g., equal rights, women's rights including abortion, gays in the military). His first act was to restore federal funds to foreign family planning agencies that promote abortion—on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, as pro-lifers were staging their annual March for Life just blocks away. (Our current President, _____ restored the prohibition on the same day eight years later, which was his first act as President.)

Scandal rocked the White House – first rumors of Hollywood celebs "buying" overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom, then Whitewater (both Clintons were cleared), then Paula Jones' accusation of sexual harassment (settled much later in her favor out of court), and of course, the Monica Lewinsky affair, Clinton's lying under oath, leading to his impeachment by the House. In a bitter partisan fight, the Senate failed to convict him. Clinton's job approval rating actually increased during and after the scandal. Later, he voluntarily surrendered his license to practice law rather than be reviewed by the Arkansas Supreme Court. In the heat of battle, Newt Gingrich was found to have his own skeletons in the closet, leading to his resignation from being Speaker of the House...it was found out after his death in 2002 that respected eldest (White) Senator Strom Thurmond (*retired at 100!*) had continually covered up his fathering an illegitimate son by a (Black) housemaid.

ODDS 'n' ENDS to the present:

COMPUTERS: 1981 – IBM PC first appears (the Apple's came out in 1976); pc's started becoming popular in the '80's. Mac's and GUI 's appeared in 1983-84; Windows came out in 1992 (Windows 3.1...) Y2K problem—many stocked up on "necessities," kinda like the bomb shelters of the Cold War era (1950's).

Dolly the sheep – cloned in 1997

1998 – abortionist Barnett Slepian shot to death outside his home; four students and two teachers shot by students in Jonesboro, Ark.

1999 – Columbine, Colorado shooting spree; 13 dead before perpetrators shoot selves. Later investigation reveals a much, much worse catastrophe was planned.

2000 – Election debacle in U.S.; Gore goes to court to fight; Florida recount mess with "hanging chads" and disaffection with voting machines. Bush's brother happens to be Florida's governor. (All subsequent investigation showed Bush the winner.)

2001 – WTC destroyed by terrorists;; invasion of Afghanistan, hunt for Osama Bin-Laden; beginning of stock-market bust and depression

2002 – Bush's "Axis of Evil" speech (Iran, Iraq, N. Korea); Enron investigation.

2003 - Invasion of Iraq after its refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors and UN's impotence; North Korea's retooling for nuclear weaponry. Saddam Hussein captured.

2004 - Keeping peace harder than waging war in Iraq; June 30 deadline to return power; Libya's Moammar Qaddafi softens, allows UN inspectors in. Economy shows signs of improvement. God still on throne. ☺

Presidents since WWII:

- FDR
- Truman
- Eisenhower
- Kennedy
- Johnson
- Nixon
- Ford
- Carter
- Reagan
- G.H.W. Bush
- Clinton
- G.W. Bush