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*The Reagan Era explores a time that saw the rise of the political conservatism that has dominated U.S. politics in recent years, as well as the end of the Cold War, which drove American foreign policy for nearly a half century.*

Background[ edit ] Under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi , the United States was the largest seller of arms to Iran, and the vast majority of the weapons that the Islamic Republic of Iran inherited in January were American-made. Almost from the time he took office in , a major goal of the Reagan administration was the overthrow of the left-wing Sandinista government in Nicaragua and to support the Contra rebels. Funding ran out for the Contras by July and in October a total ban was placed in effect. The second Boland Amendment, in effect from 3 October to 3 December , stated: During the fiscal year no funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose of or which may have the effect of supporting directly or indirectly military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by any nation, organization, group, movement, or individual. The Reagan administration argued it was not, and many in Congress argued that it was. The Reagan administration argued that because the constitution assigned the right to conduct foreign policy to the executive, its efforts to overthrow the government of Nicaragua were a presidential prerogative that Congress had no right to try to halt via the Boland amendments. Air Force officer turned arms dealer Richard Secord that supplied arms to the Contras. It was ostensibly a private sector operation, but in fact was controlled by the NSC. That date is important to the official justifications of the Reagan administration because the government claimed that the secret arms shipments were in exchange for Iranian cooperation with the release of hostages held in Lebanon by Hezbollah, where the first hostage was taken in . But if an agreement to send secret arms shipments to Iran, and the fact of those shipments, both began before , then the release of the hostages cannot be the reason for the arms shipments. As reported in the New York Times in , "continuing allegations that Reagan campaign officials made a deal with the Iranian Government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in the fall of " led to "limited investigations. Dynamic political evolution is taking place inside Iran. Instability caused by the pressures of the Iraq-Iran war, economic deterioration and regime in-fighting create the potential for major changes inside Iran. The Soviet Union is better positioned than the U. S should encourage Western allies and friends to help Iran meet its import requirements so as to reduce the attractiveness of Soviet assistance This includes provision of selected military equipment. The short term dimension concerns the seven hostages; the long term dimension involves the establishment of a private dialogue with Iranian officials on the broader relations They sought specifically the delivery from Israel of TOW missiles On 15 September , following the second delivery, Reverend Benjamin Weir was released by his captors, the Islamic Jihad Organization. Robert McFarlane resigned on 4 December , [45] [46] citing that he wanted to spend more time with his family. This one called for a slight change in the arms transactions: Though staunchly opposed by Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger , the plan was authorized by Reagan, who stated that, "We were not trading arms for hostages, nor were we negotiating with terrorists". Shultz, Don Regan agreed. They eventually relented, and in February , 1, TOW missiles were shipped to the country. The money was eventually returned to the Sultan of Brunei , with interest. Retired National Security Advisor McFarlane conducted another international voyage, this one to Tehran ; bringing with him a gift of a bible having a handwritten inscription by Ronald Reagan; [58] [59] and, according to George Cave a cake baked in the shape of a key. Otherwise, you can work with my staff. Reagan authorized the shipment to ensure that those potential events would not occur. C and gave him a guided tour at midnight of the White House. Joe," after the popular American toy. The reasons for their abduction are unknown, although it is speculated that they were kidnapped to replace the freed Americans. The captors promised to release the remaining two, but the release never happened. Eugene Hasenfus , who was captured by Nicaraguan authorities after surviving the plane crash, initially alleged in a press conference on Nicaraguan soil that two of his coworkers, Max Gomez and Ramon Medina, worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. At the same time we undertook this initiative, we made clear that Iran must oppose all forms of international

terrorism as a condition of progress in our relationship. The most significant step which Iran could take, we indicated, would be to use its influence in Lebanon to secure the release of all hostages held there. According to The New York Times , enough documents were put into a government shredder to jam it. Attorney General Edwin Meese admitted on 25 November that profits from weapons sales to Iran were made available to assist the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. Casey admitted to him in February that he was aware of the diversion of funds to the contras. Independent Counsel , Lawrence Walsh later wrote: The only direct testimony linking Casey to early knowledge of the diversion came from [Oliver] North. According to his Middle Eastern experts the operation was pointless because the moderates in Iran were not in a position to challenge the fundamentalists. However, he was overruled by Clair George. The main objectives of the commission were to inquire into "the circumstances surrounding the Iran-Contra matter, other case studies that might reveal strengths and weaknesses in the operation of the National Security Council system under stress, and the manner in which that system has served eight different presidents since its inception in ". President Reagan appeared before the Tower Commission on 2 December , to answer questions regarding his involvement in the affair. When asked about his role in authorizing the arms deals, he first stated that he had; later, he appeared to contradict himself by stating that he had no recollection of doing so. The Commission had interviewed 80 witnesses to the scheme, [4] including Reagan, and two of the arms trade middlemen: Manucher Ghorbanifar and Adnan Khashoggi. It determined that President Reagan did not have knowledge of the extent of the program, especially about the diversion of funds to the Contras, [4] although it argued that the president ought to have had better control of the National Security Council staff. Congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra Affair In January , Congress announced it was opening an investigation into the Iran-Contra affair. On this critical point, the shredding of documents by Poindexter, North and others, and the death of Casey, leave the record incomplete". You deserve the truth. And as frustrating as the waiting has been, I felt it was improper to come to you with sketchy reports, or possibly even erroneous statements, which would then have to be corrected, creating even more doubt and confusion. First, let me say I take full responsibility for my own actions and for those of my administration. As angry as I may be about activities undertaken without my knowledge, I am still accountable for those activities. A few months ago I told the American people I did not trade arms for hostages. As the Tower board reported, what began as a strategic opening to Iran deteriorated, in its implementation, into trading arms for hostages. This runs counter to my own beliefs, to administration policy, and to the original strategy we had in mind. Oliver North wrote that "Ronald Reagan knew of and approved a great deal of what went on with both the Iranian initiative and private efforts on behalf of the contras and he received regular, detailed briefings on both I have no doubt that he was told about the use of residuals for the Contras, and that he approved it. There is no doubt, however, Magnus Ranstorp wrote, "U. Though Hashemi made a full video confession to numerous serious charges, some observers find the coincidence of his leak and the subsequent prosecution highly suspicious. Bush on 24 December , before he was tried. McFarlane , National Security Adviser, convicted of withholding evidence, but after a plea bargain was given only two years of probation. Later pardoned by President George H. A panel of the D. Circuit overturned the convictions on 15 November , by a vote of 2 to 1 [ ] and the Supreme Court refused to hear the case. An ex-CIA senior official, he was indicted in November on seven counts of perjury and false statements relating to a November shipment to Iran. Pardoned before trial by President George H. Former Air Force major general, who was involved in arms transfers to Iran and diversion of funds to Contras, he pleaded guilty in November to making false statements to Congress and was sentenced to two years of probation. As part of his plea bargain, Secord agreed to provide further truthful testimony in exchange for the dismissal of remaining criminal charges against him. In addition, Swiss company Lake Resources Inc. In , Poindexter was convicted on several felony counts of conspiracy , lying to Congress, obstruction of justice , and altering and destroying documents pertinent to the investigation. His convictions were also overturned on appeal on similar grounds. Liman served as chief counsel for the Senate during the Iran-Contra Scandal. Walsh , chose not to re-try North or Poindexter. Bush denial[ edit ] During his election campaign in , Vice President Bush denied any knowledge of the Iran-Contra affair by saying he was "out of the loop". Though his diaries included that he was "one of the few people that know fully the details", he repeatedly refused to discuss the incident

and won the election. The fact that Nir was killed in a mysterious chartered airplane crash in Mexico in December has given rise to numerous conspiracy theories ", writes Bergman. Bush pardoned [] five administration officials found guilty, namely:

## Chapter 2 : Reagan Era Facts for Kids | racedaydvl.com

*The Reagan Era from the Iran Crisis to Kosovo by Rodney P. Carlisle and J. Geoffrey Golson, Editors The legacy of Ronald Reagan is the subject of debate across the political spectrum.*

Reagan in Minneapolis , Minnesota , Upon taking office, Reagan argued that the United States faced a dire crisis, and that the best way to address this crisis was through conservative reforms. Reagan believed that reducing the role of the government would lead to increased economic growth, which in turn would lead to higher revenues that would help pay down the national debt. Working with Congressman Jack Kemp , the Reagan administration introduced a major tax cut bill that won the support of enough Republicans and conservative Democrats to pass both houses of Congress. Democrats won several seats in the House of Representatives in the mid-term elections. His domestic agenda was hindered by growing deficits and the fallout of the Iranâ€”Contra affair. The Rehnquist Court would hand down several conservative decisions in ensuing years. Presidency of George H. After the quick U. Though Bush had promised not to raise taxes at the Republican National Convention, his hand was forced in part by the Grammâ€”Rudmanâ€”Hollings Balanced Budget Act , a law that purportedly required a balanced budget by After a long battle with the Democratic Congress, Bush agreed to sign the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of , which contained a mix of tax increases and spending cuts. Conservative Republicans, who had never fully accepted Bush despite his move towards the right during the s, were outraged by the deal. Though Clinton won early legislative victories such as passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act of and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of , his administration was damaged by a series of minor scandals and the failure of his health care reform proposal. In response, Clinton hired political consultant Dick Morris , who advocated a strategy of Triangulation between the Republican and Democratic members of Congress. In the presidential election , Clinton defeated Republican nominee Bob Dole by a wide margin in both the popular vote and the electoral vote. As Republicans retained control of Congress, he was unable to advance much of his domestic agenda. In , the government experienced its first budget surplus since the s. Bush of Texas, the son of former President Bush, defeated Gore. Despite the growing unpopularity of the Iraq War , Bush defeated Democrat John Kerry in the presidential election. Popular culture[ edit ] Statue of President Reagan in Budapest Tom Clancy wrote three best-selling novels that illuminate the Reagan era: They reflect Reagan-era Cold War values. Policy elites used these novels and the filming of one of them to promote their ideas of national security to the American public. International[ edit ] Many scholars take an international perspective, linking the Reagan Era with the Thatcher Era in Britain. As a socialist scholar explained, Throughout many of the capitalist democracies in Western Europe and in North America, the recession that began with the sharp rise in petroleum prices in â€”74 signaled an epochal shift in the patchwork of growth- based economic and social policies The demise of Keynesianism which followed meant far more than the obsolescence of an economic doctrine that had been used to justify a broad range of economic policies. It represented a significant retreat from a vision of societyâ€”the Keynesian welfare stateâ€”that had motivated state strategies to harmonise interests through social policy, to politically regulate the market economy and thereby reduce class and diverse social conflicts, and to promulgate for the state a tutelary role in securing business and trade union acquiescence and less commonly approval for a limited set of important economic policies.

## Chapter 3 : Rubio wrongly credits Reagan for release of hostages from Iran | PolitiFact

*This fascinating work is a series of explorations of key events in the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, each of which speculates on what might have happened if events had unfolded differently.*

## Chapter 4 : Iranâ€”Contra affair - Wikipedia

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### Chapter 5 : Reagan Era - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

*The Reagan Era or Age of Reagan is a periodization of recent American history used by historians and political observers to emphasize that the conservative "Reagan Revolution" led by President Ronald Reagan in domestic and foreign policy had a lasting impact.*

### Chapter 6 : Reagan Era - Wikipedia

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### Chapter 7 : Ronald Reagan and the Iran Hostage Crisis

*The Reagan Era or Age of Reagan is an era in American history that lasted from to It is used by historians and political theorists to show that the conservative "Reagan Revolution" led by President Ronald Reagan in domestic and foreign policy had a long and lasting impact.*