Period 9: 1980-Present

AP United States History · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
conservative movement /kənˈsɜːvətɪv ˈmuːvmənt/	The **conservative movement** wanted smaller government.
Ronald Reagan /ˈrɒnld ˈreɪgən/	**Ronald Reagan** was president from 1981 to 1989. 1981 1989
tax cuts	Reagan's **tax cuts** lowered taxes for most people.
deregulation /diːˌregjʊˈleɪʃn/	**Deregulation** removes rules that stop new firms from entering.
supply-side economics /səˈplaɪ saɪd ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪks/	**Supply-side economics** says lower taxes will make businesses grow.
defence spending /dɪˈfens ˈspendɪŋ/	Reagan raised **defence spending** on ships and missiles.
military buildup	The **military buildup** put pressure on the Soviet Union.
social conservatism /ˈsəʊʃl kənˈsɜːvətɪzəm/	**Social conservatism** supports traditional family values.
Religious Right	The **Religious Right** became active in politics.
Moral Majority	The **Moral Majority** was a Christian political group.
free trade /friː treɪd/	With **free trade**, countries buy and sell without taxes on imports.
social safety net	The **social safety net** helps people who are poor or sick.

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regulation /ˌregjʊˈleɪʃn/	**Regulation** sets rules that firms must follow.
incentive /ɪnˈsentɪv/	Profit is an **incentive** for firms to make what people want.
deficit /ˈdefɪsɪt/	The government ran a large **deficit**: it spent more than it earned.
Cold War /kəʊld wɔː/	The **Cold War** set the USA against the Soviet Union. USA
Strategic Defense Initiative	The **Strategic Defense Initiative** planned to stop missiles from space.
Reagan Doctrine	Under the **Reagan Doctrine**, the US helped groups fighting communism.
Iran-Contra affair	In the **Iran-Contra affair**, money from secret arms sales went to rebels.
Mikhail Gorbachev	**Mikhail Gorbachev** led the Soviet Union in the 1980s. 1980
INF Treaty	The **INF Treaty** removed some nuclear missiles from Europe.
Gulf War	The **Gulf War** forced Iraq out of Kuwait.
superpower	After 1991, the US was the only **superpower**. 1991
containment /kənˈteɪnmənt/	**Containment** tried to stop communism spreading.
Globalization /ˌgləʊbəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Globalization** linked economies around the world.

Word	Example
Deindustrialization /ˌdeɪndəˌstrɪəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Deindustrialization** closed many factories.
manufacturing /ˌmænjuːˈfæktʃərɪŋ/	**Manufacturing** jobs moved overseas.
service work	More Americans did **service work**, such as in shops and offices.
Technological change /ˌteknəˈlɒdʒɪkl tʃeɪndʒ/	**Technological change** brought computers into every office.
productivity /ˌprɒdəkˈtɪvɪti/	Better machines raise **productivity**: more output per hour.
real wage	The **real wage** is pay after taking rising prices into account.
income inequality /ˈɪŋkʌm ɪniːˈkwɒlɪti/	**Income inequality** means some people earn far more than others.
North American Free Trade Agreement	The **North American Free Trade Agreement** cut trade taxes between the US, Canada and Mexico.
welfare reform	**Welfare reform** in 1996 added work rules for benefits. 1996
2008 financial crisis	The **2008 financial crisis** started with bad home loans.
Affordable Care Act	The **Affordable Care Act** helped more people get health insurance.
union membership	**Union membership** fell after the 1980s. 1980

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Word	Example
migration /maɪˈgreɪʃn/	**Migration** from the North to the South grew.
immigration /ˌɪmɪˈgreɪʃn/	**Immigration** from Asia and Latin America rose.
Latin America	Many immigrants came from **Latin America**.
immigration policy /ˌɪmɪˈgreɪʃn ˈpɒlɪsi/	**Immigration policy** sets who may enter the country.
border enforcement	**Border enforcement** increased along the Mexican border.
citizenship /ˈsɪtɪzənʃɪp/	Black Americans were denied full **citizenship**.
national identity /ˈnæʃənl aɪˈdentɪti/	Immigration raised questions about **national identity**.
Reconstruction /ˌriːkənˈstrʌkʃn/	**Reconstruction** rebuilt the South after the war.
Immigration Reform and Control Act	The **Immigration Reform and Control Act** gave legal status to some immigrants.
DACA	**DACA** protects some people brought to the US as children.
Americans with Disabilities Act	The **Americans with Disabilities Act** banned discrimination against disabled people.
September 11 attacks /sepˈtembə ɪˈlevən əˈtæks/	The **September 11 attacks** killed nearly 3,000 people. 3,000
security /sɪˈkjʊərɪti/	Passwords help keep the data's **security**.

Word	Example
civil liberties	Some feared new security laws harmed **civil liberties**.
USA PATRIOT Act	The **USA PATRIOT Act** expanded government surveillance.
Political polarisation /pəˈlɪtɪkl ˌpəʊləraɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Political polarisation** split the country into two hostile sides.
climate /ˈklaɪmət/	The desert has a hot, dry **climate**.
energy policy	**Energy policy** decides how the country gets its power.
nativism	**Nativism** is the fear of immigrants.
federal power	Conservatives wanted to limit **federal power**.
New Deal	The **New Deal** made the federal government bigger.
Sun Belt /sʌn belt/	People moved to the warm **Sun Belt**.

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