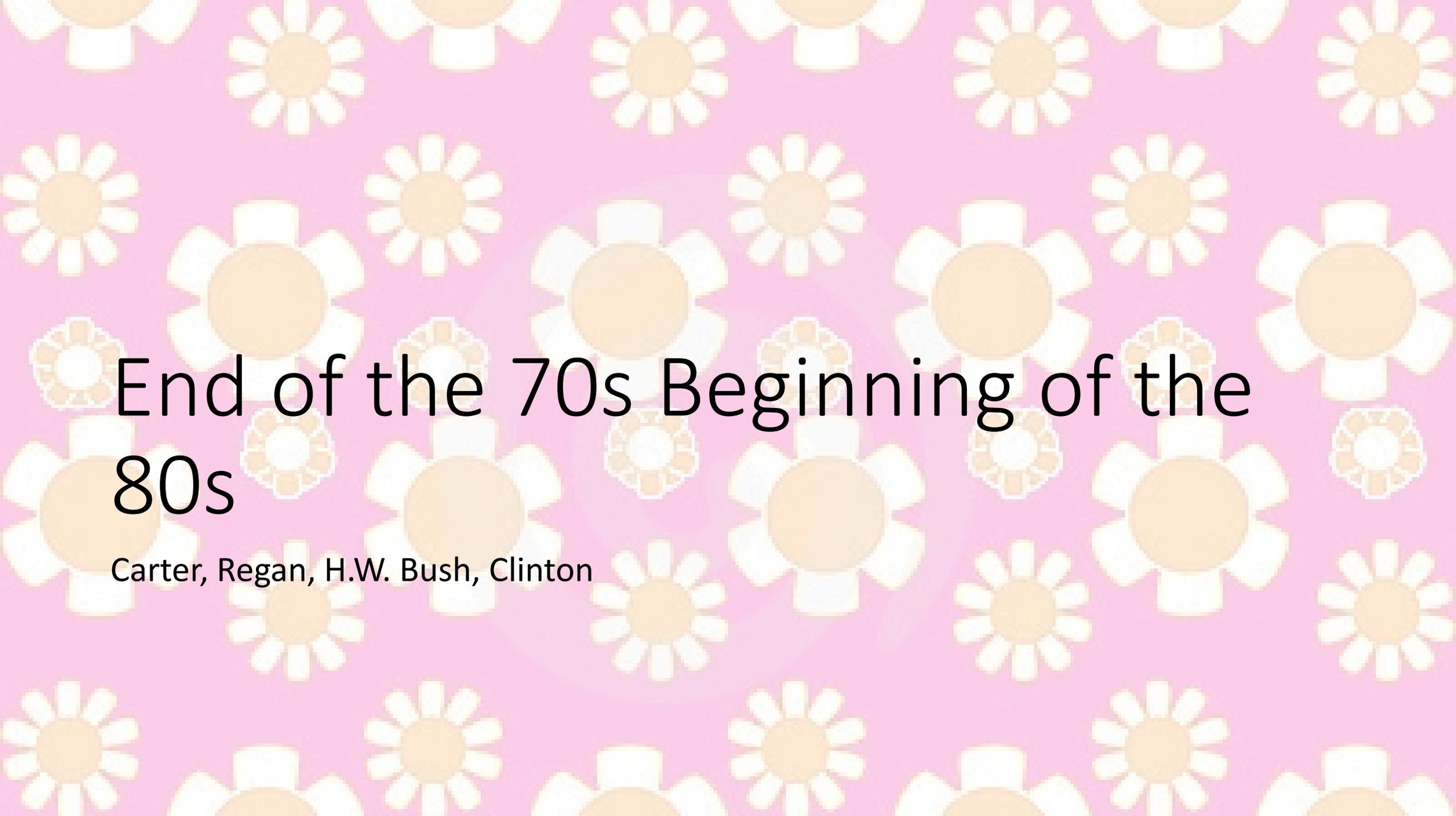


The background features a stylized American flag. The top half is a light blue field with several large, semi-transparent white stars. The bottom half consists of wavy horizontal stripes in red, white, and light blue. Small, bright white starburst effects are scattered across the stripes.

1980s-1990s

OVERVIEW



End of the 70s Beginning of the 80s

Carter, Regan, H.W. Bush, Clinton

Camp David Accords

- One of the greatest achievements of Carter was in his foreign policy.
- Carter negotiated a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt that was known as the Camp David Accords, signed in September 1978.
 - Carter's work with foreign countries eventually earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

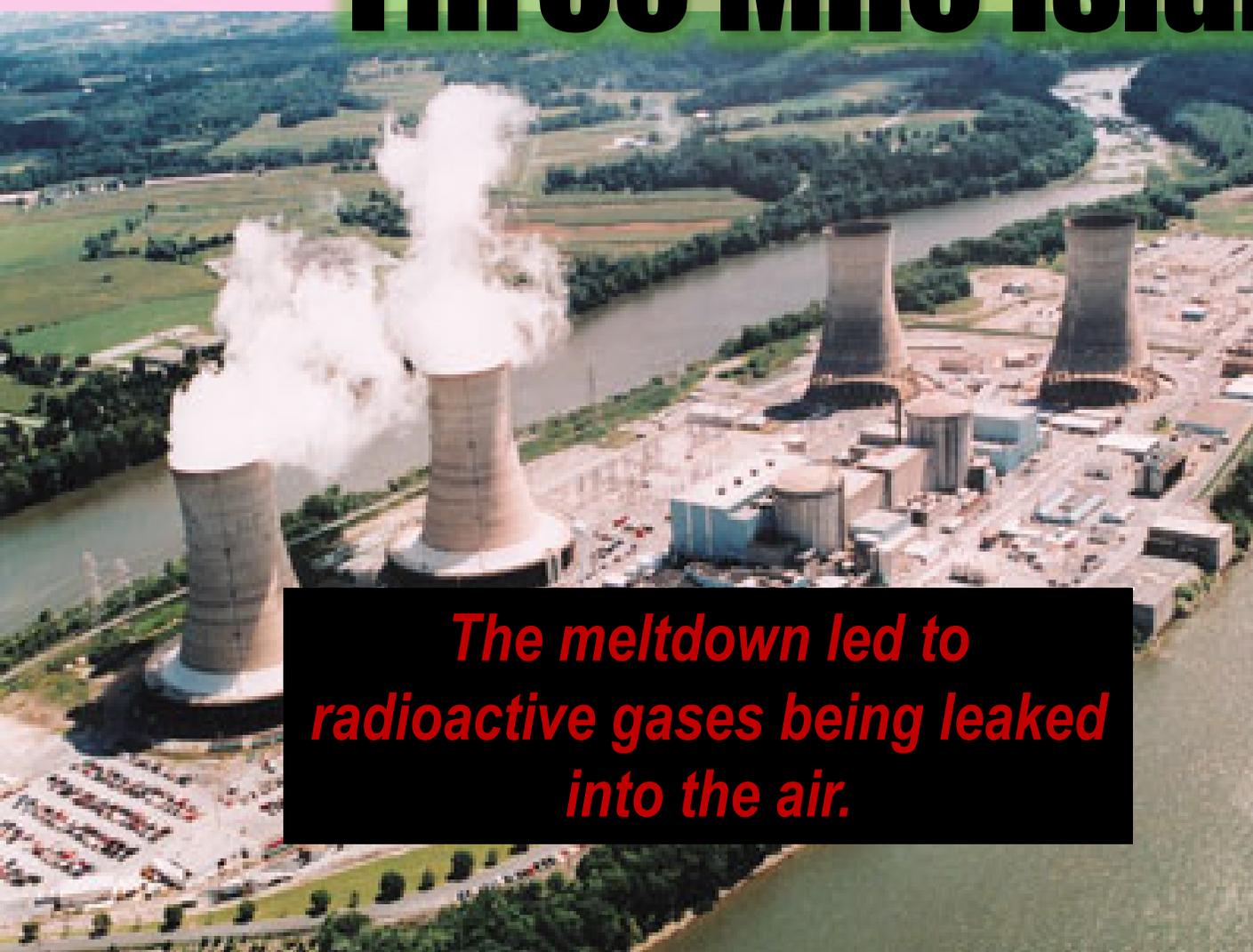


Jonestown Massacre



Americans were shocked in 1978 when The Peoples Temple, a religious cult, had a mass suicide that left nearly 1,000 people dead

Three Mile Island disaster

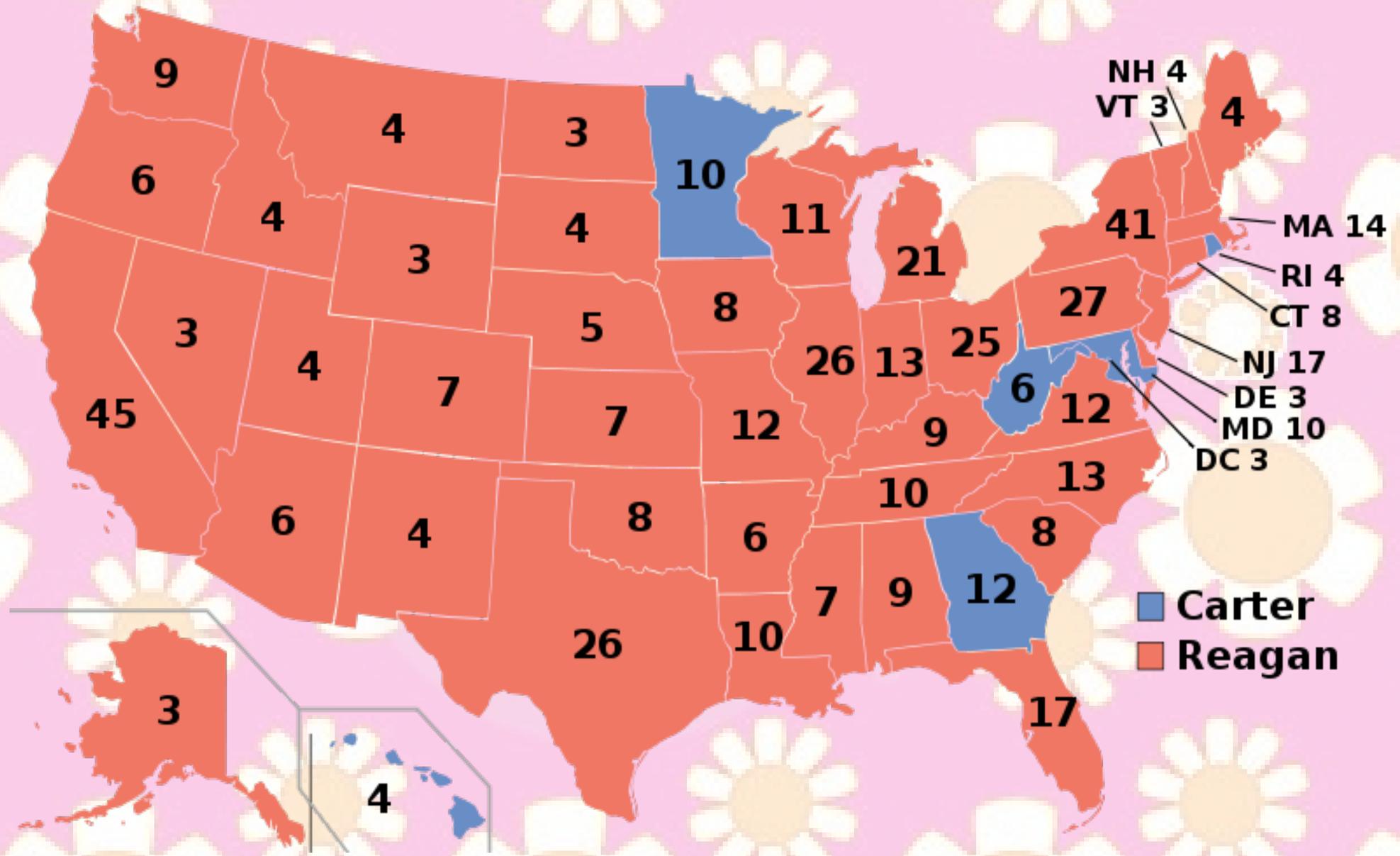


The meltdown led to radioactive gases being leaked into the air.

The Three Mile Island disaster is when a nuclear power facility in Pennsylvania had a core meltdown.

The incident occurred in March of 1979 and was the worst nuclear power accident in U.S. history

Election of 1980



Ronald Reagan

January 20, 1981 – January 20, 1989



The Miracle on Ice



The U.S. victory over Russia in the 1980 winter Olympics restored American pride after a difficult decade for the nation

Rise of Conservatism

Conservative → **Republican** → **Right** → **Capitalism**

Fiscally: Limited government spending, lower taxes

Socially: Strict enforcement of laws, moral values

Liberal → **Democrat** → **Left** → **Socialism**

Fiscally: Government programs to help poor, elderly, children

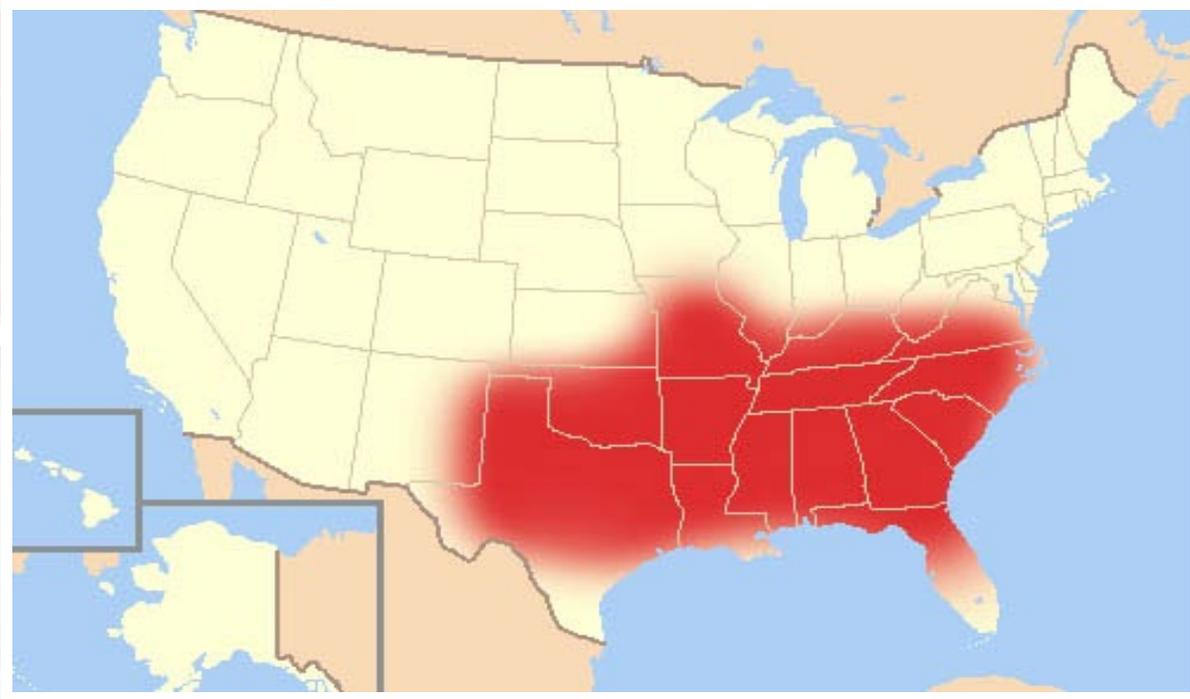
Socially: Protection of personal freedoms and liberties

Conservative ideas gained support for two main reasons

- **Some Americans believed that the government's role in the economy was leading the U.S. towards communism**
- **Many Americans saw the Cold War as a battle between good and evil**

Rise of Conservatism

Conservatism grew throughout a region of the nation known as the Sunbelt. Because most people in this region are religious, the area was known as the Bible Belt



The leading voice of the conservative movement became a former actor named Ronald Reagan

Reagan rises to power

Ronald Reagan had gained popularity as a Hollywood movie star before becoming Governor of California in 1967



Left, Ronald Reagan with Marilyn Monroe; above, Reagan following his victory in California governors race

Ronald Reagan takes over

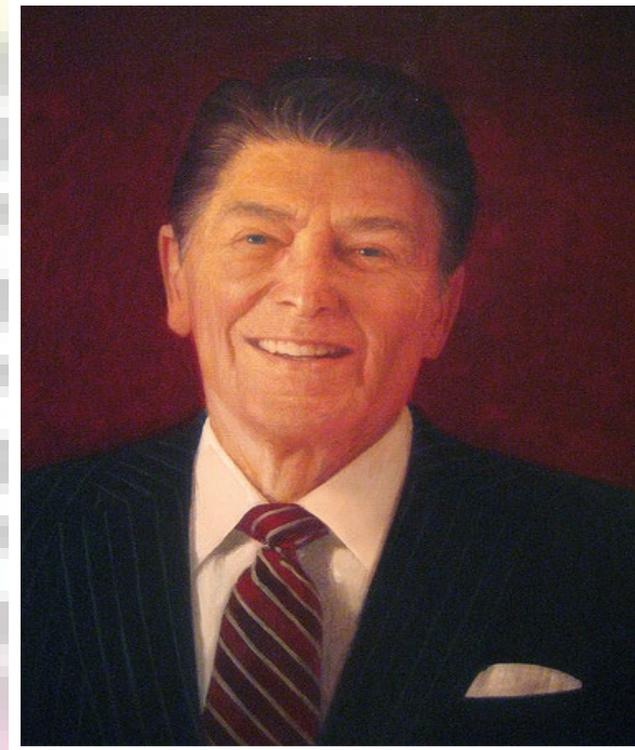


People were upset with Carter over the economy, Iran hostage crisis

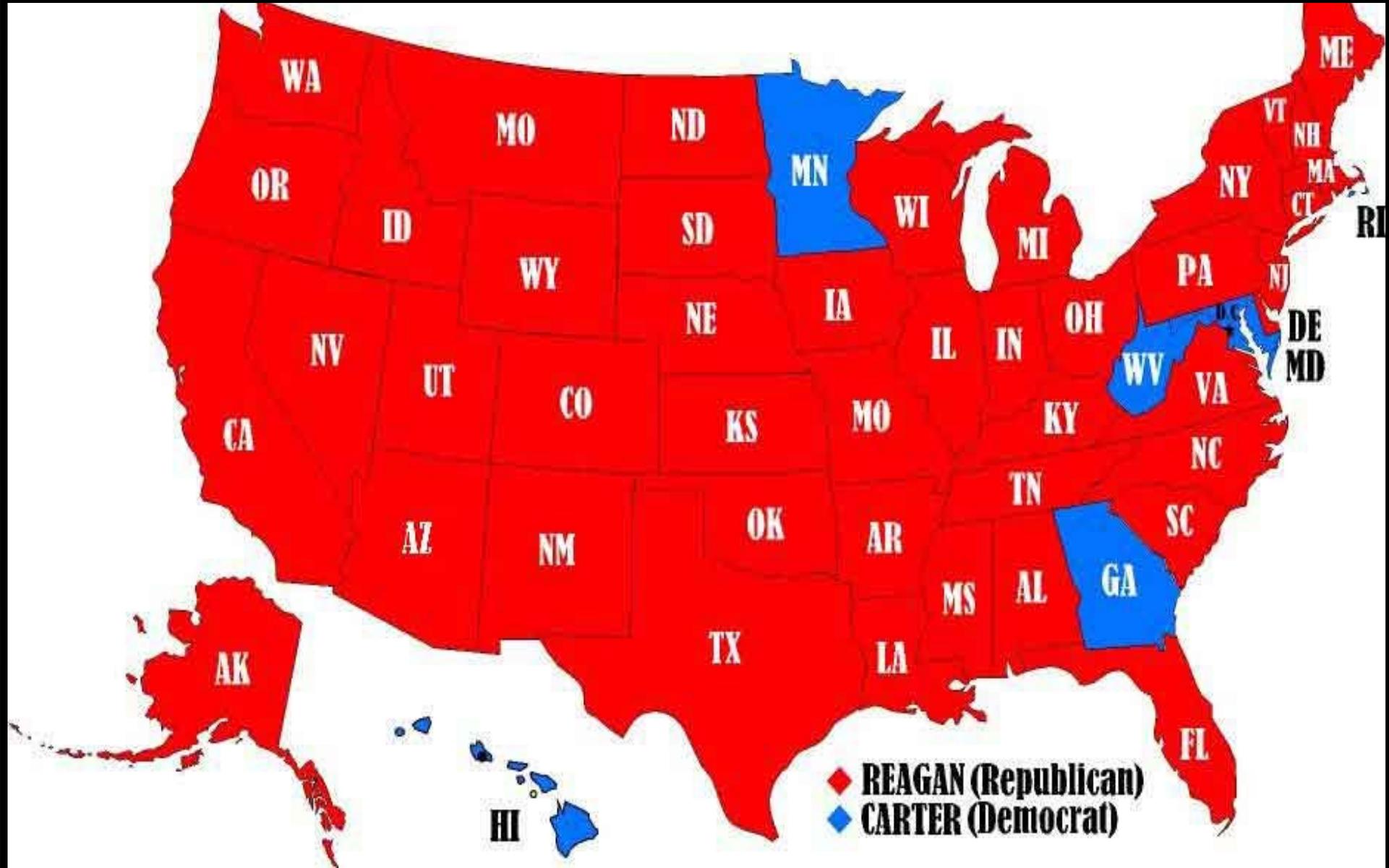
Because people saw Reagan as a symbol of hope and pride, Reagan defeated Carter in a landslide



Thanks for helping bring Islamic rule to Iran, Jimmy!



Election of 1980

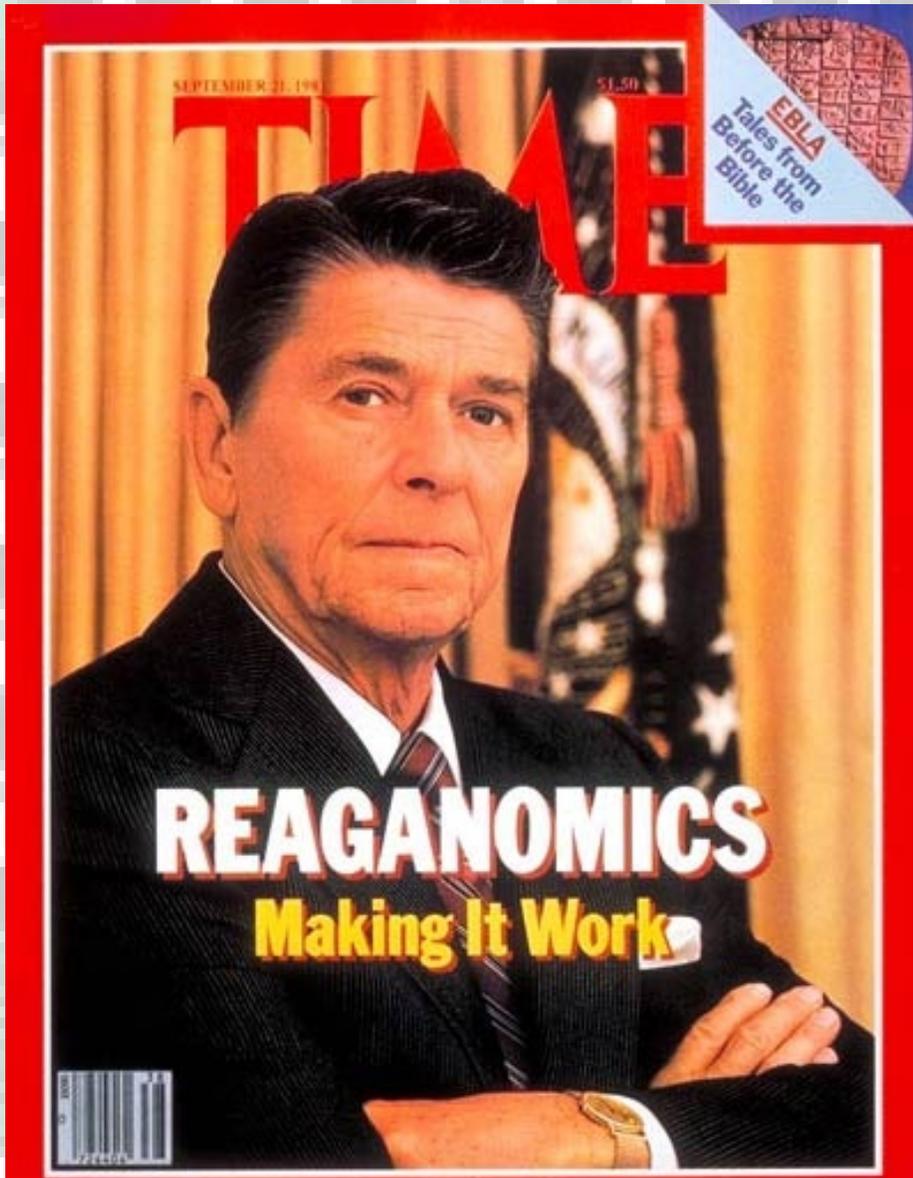


Reagonomics



Reagan brought to the presidency new economic policies, advocating a limited government and economic laissez-faire philosophy. Reagan believed that the government should not regulate big businesses that would keep them from prospering.

Reagonomics

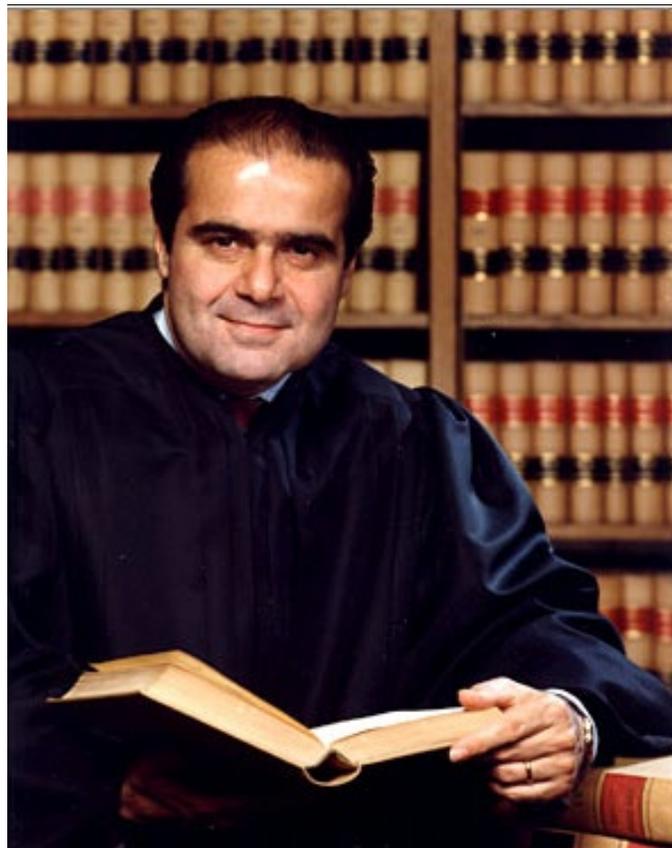


Reagonomics believed in:
Cutting taxes would help businesses use money they didn't have to pay to the government to make new investments

Increasing the growth of the business and create new jobs

More goods for consumers, lower prices, while consumers would have more money to spend.

Reagan Reshapes Court



O'Connor was the first woman chosen for the Supreme Court

President Reagan was able to sway the U.S. Supreme Court to the right with the appointments of two conservatives – Antonin Scalia and Sandra Day O'Connor



Reagan Doctrine

Reagan believed the U.S. should support groups that were fighting to overthrow Communist governments. This policy was called the Reagan Doctrine.

Two places Reagan implemented this policy were Afghanistan in Southwest Asia and Nicaragua in Central America.

1. In Afghanistan, Reagan sent aid Afghani freedom fighters known as the Mujahedeen, who were fighting off a Soviet invasion.
2. Reagan's involvement in Nicaragua led to a scandal that came to be known as the Iran-Contra scandal.

Iran-Contra Scandal

The Iran-Contra affair was a scandal during Reagan's presidency over an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran in exchange funds for Nicaraguan rebels known as the Contras



Members of the Reagan administration secretly arranged for the illegal sale of arms to Iran in exchange for hostages

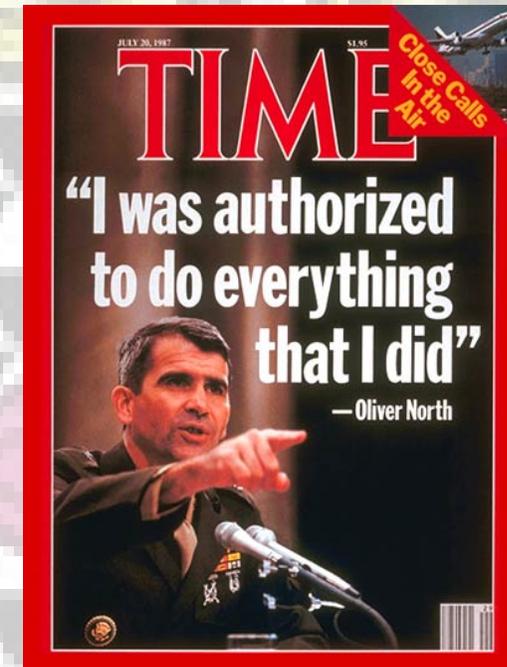
The money was then illegally funneled to support an attempted over-throw of Nicaragua's communist government

Iran-Contra Scandal



The key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal was a military aide to the National Security Council, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North

Democrats called for an investigation and wanted to find out if President Reagan knew of the illegal activities, but no evidence implicating Reagan was ever found



Iran-Contra Scandal

Arms



Iran



Money

= \$\$\$

Contras



Hezbollah

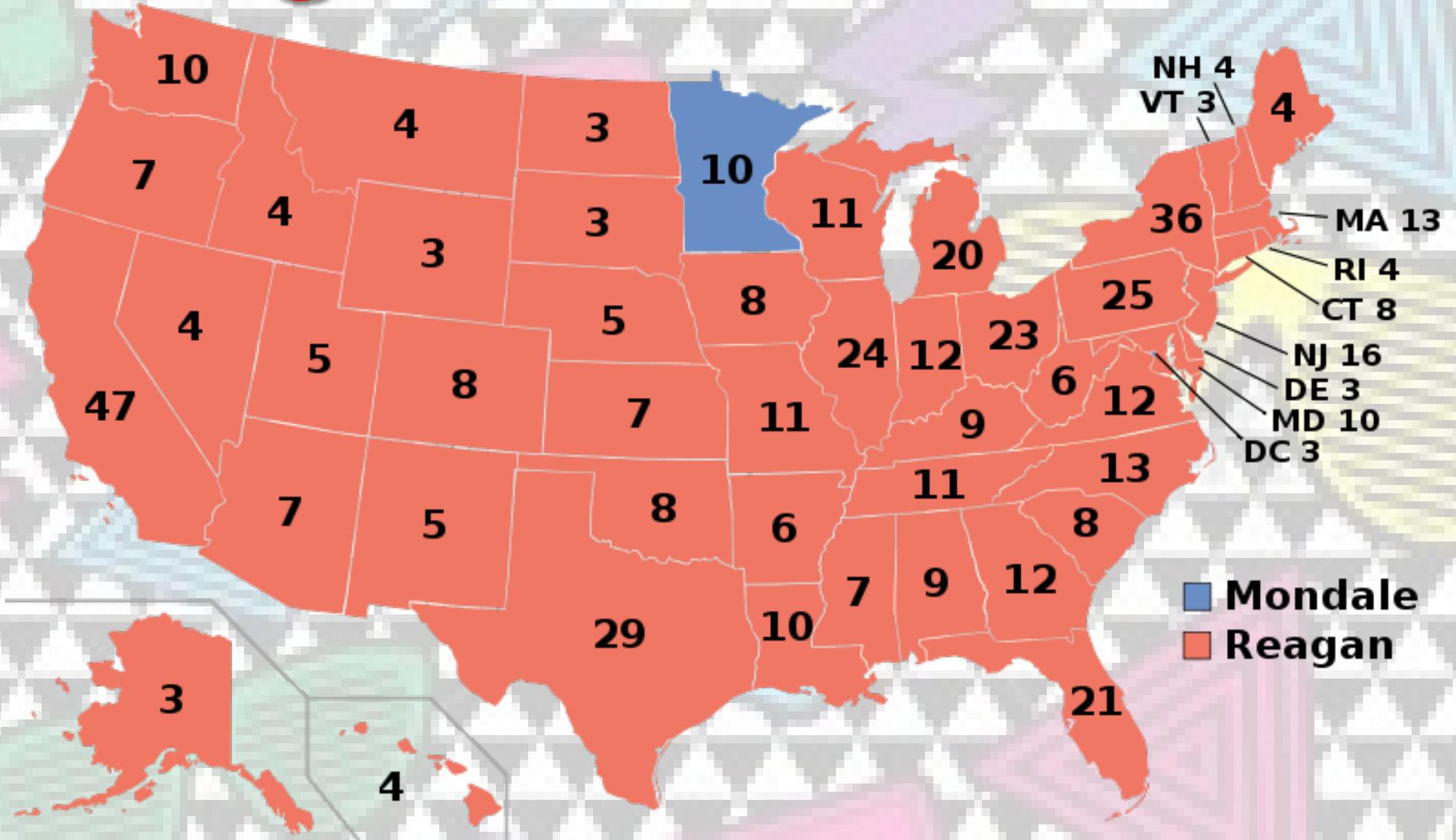


No more hostages



scandal that erupted after the Reagan administration sold weapons to Iran in hopes of freeing American hostages in Lebanon; money from the arms sales was used to aid the Contras (anti-Communist insurgents) in Nicaragua, even though Congress had prohibited this assistance. Talk of Reagan's impeachment ended when presidential aides took the blame for the illegal activity.

Reagan wins re-election



Reagan's win in 1984 was the largest landslide in U.S. history

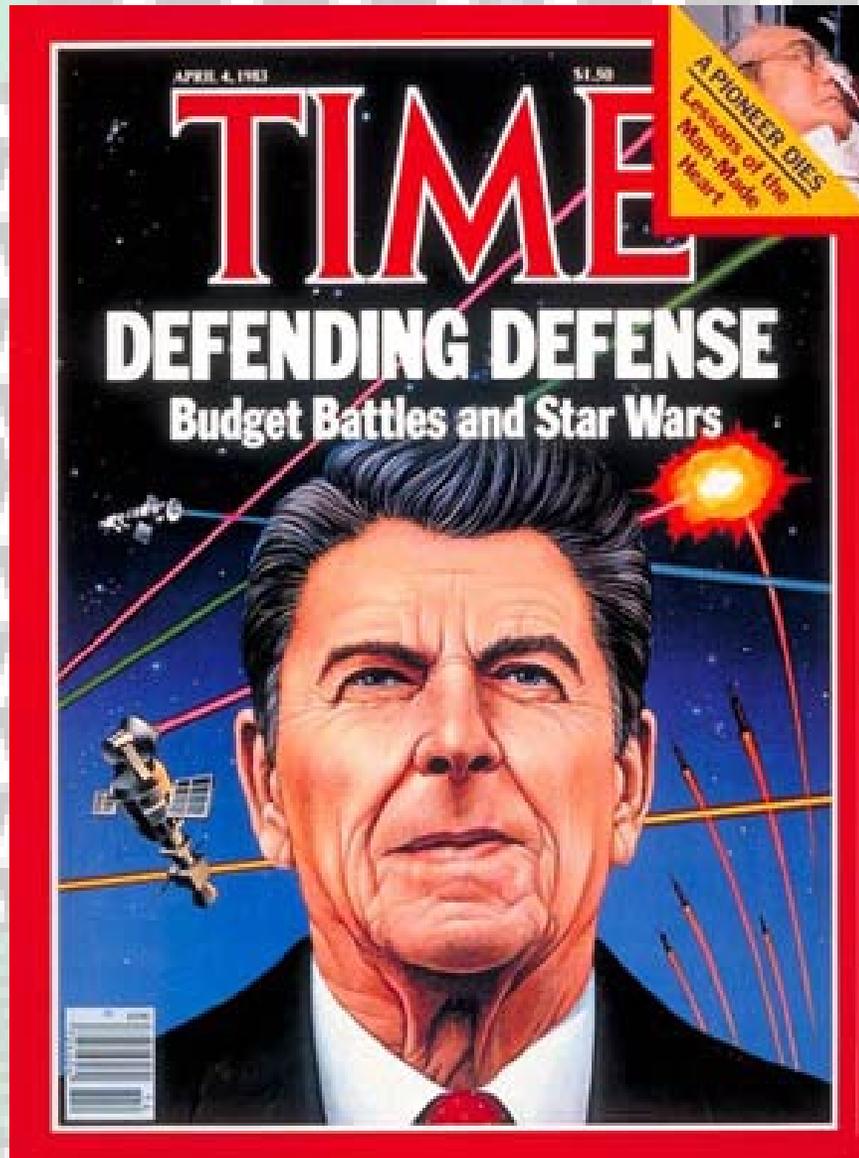
Space Shuttle launched

A photograph of the Space Shuttle Columbia being launched from the launch pad. The shuttle is ascending vertically, leaving a large plume of white smoke and fire. The orbiter is attached to the external tank and solid rocket boosters. The launch pad structure is visible in the background.

**The United States
launched the first
space shuttle on
April 12, 1981**

**The space shuttle
Columbia was the first
of over 100 shuttle
missions flown**

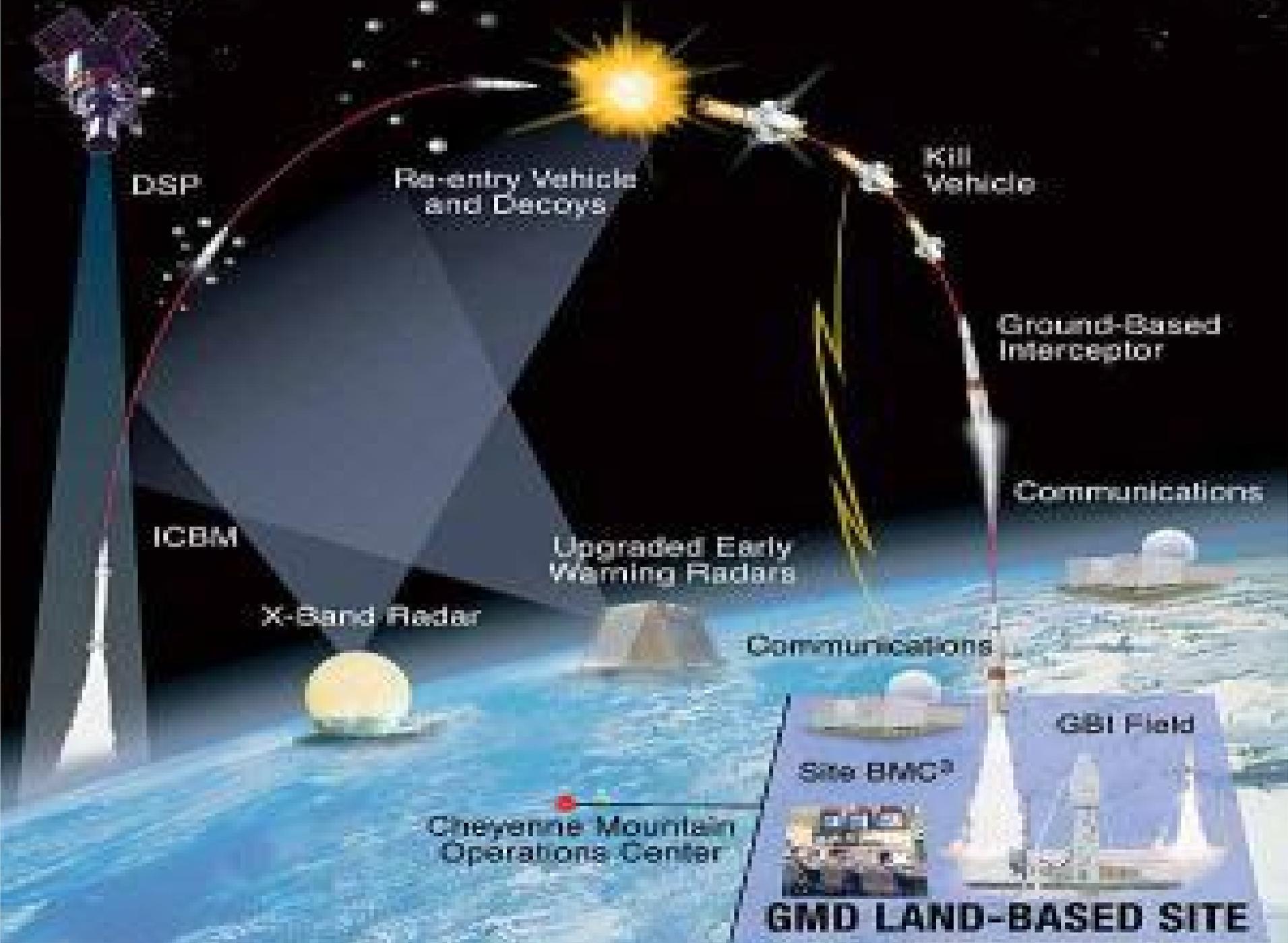
Reagan and the Cold War



President Reagan abandoned the belief in détente. He viewed the Soviet Union as evil and believed that the U.S. should not negotiate with the Russians

Reagan believed the U.S. had to be strong militarily to deal with the Soviet Union. He began a huge military buildup called Star Wars.

The Star Wars program was a defense system that would shoot Soviet missiles out of the sky in space before they reached the United States.



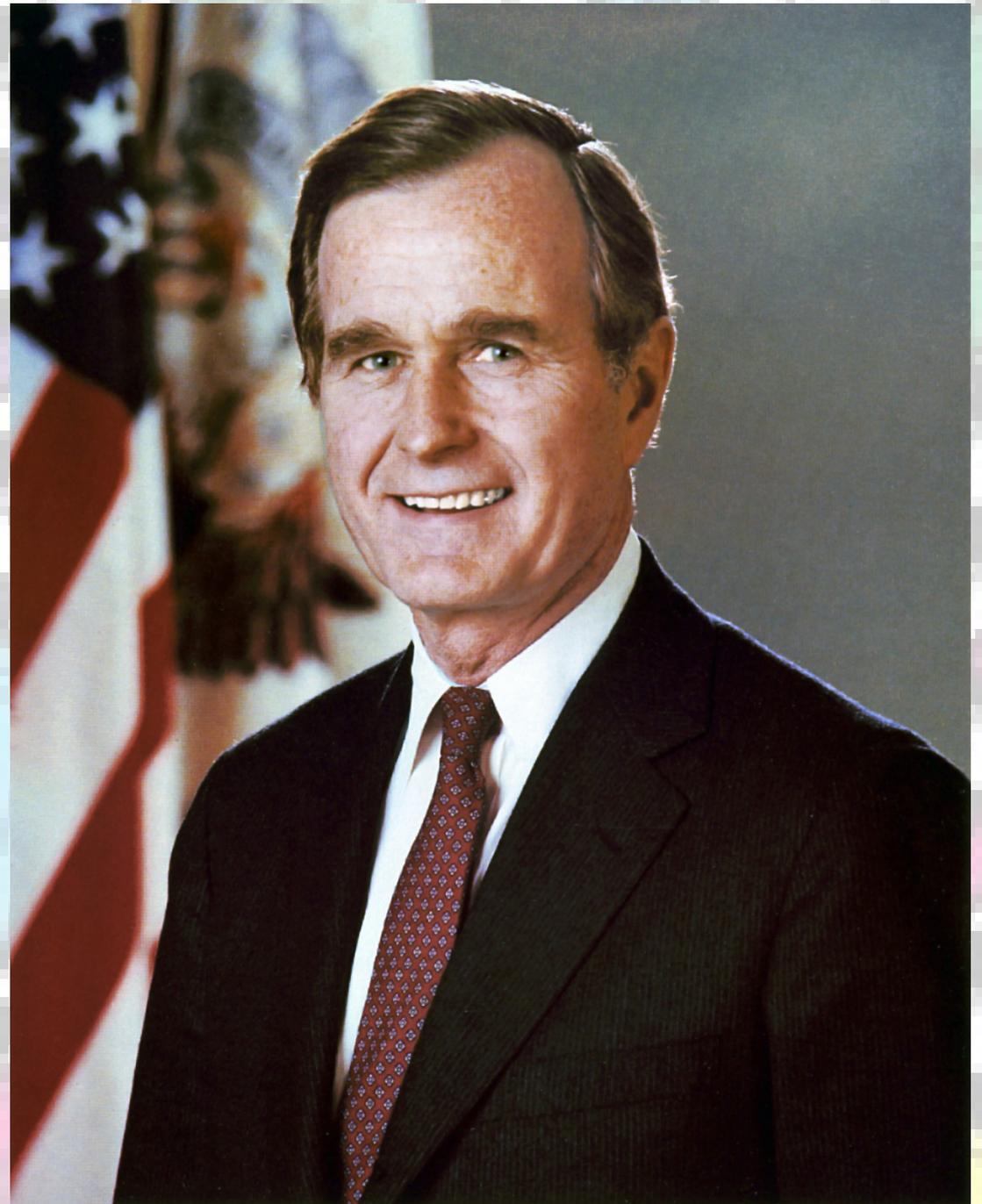
Reagan and the Cold War

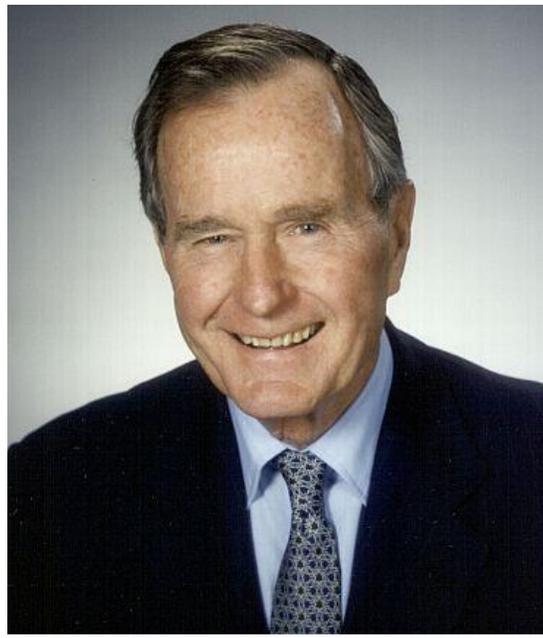


In a speech at the Brandenburg Gate by the Berlin Wall on June 12, 1987, Reagan challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”.

George H.W. Bush

January 20, 1989 – January 20, 1993





Bush takes over

In the Election of 1988, most people saw Reagan's vice-president – George Bush – as a solid choice to continue the Reagan policies

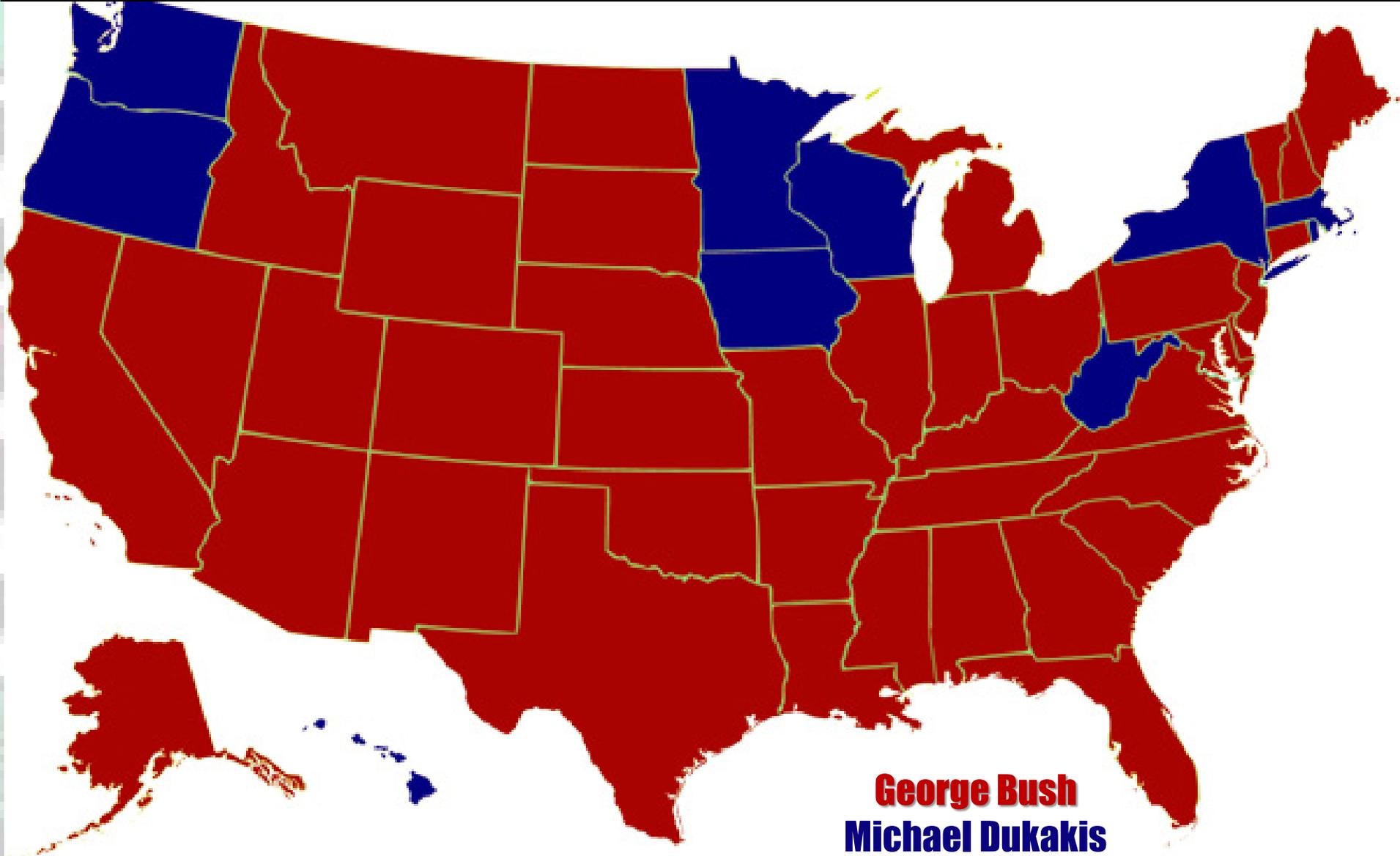
Democrats nominated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who promised more programs to help minorities and the poor

Bush made a pledge to the American people when he said “**read my lips, no new taxes.**”

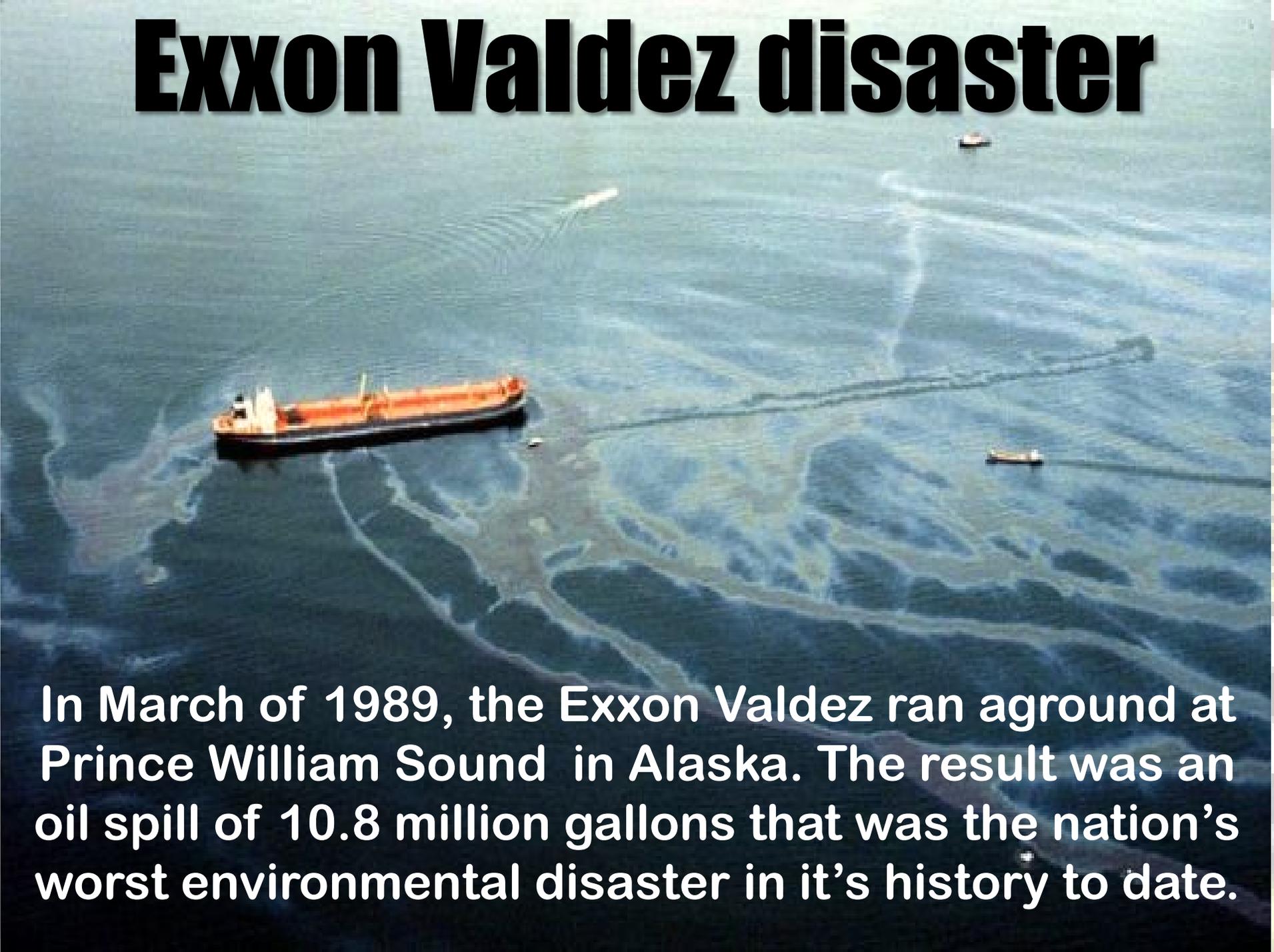
Most saw Dukakis as too liberal, leading to a landslide election victory by Bush



Election of 1988



Exxon Valdez disaster



In March of 1989, the Exxon Valdez ran aground at Prince William Sound in Alaska. The result was an oil spill of 10.8 million gallons that was the nation's worst environmental disaster in its history to date.

Tiananmen Square Massacre



In 1989, Chinese students held protests for democracy in Tiananmen Square, the town center of Beijing. Hundreds were executed and thousands more were either jailed or exiled. The U.S. responded by placing trade sanctions on China.

Fall of the Berlin Wall



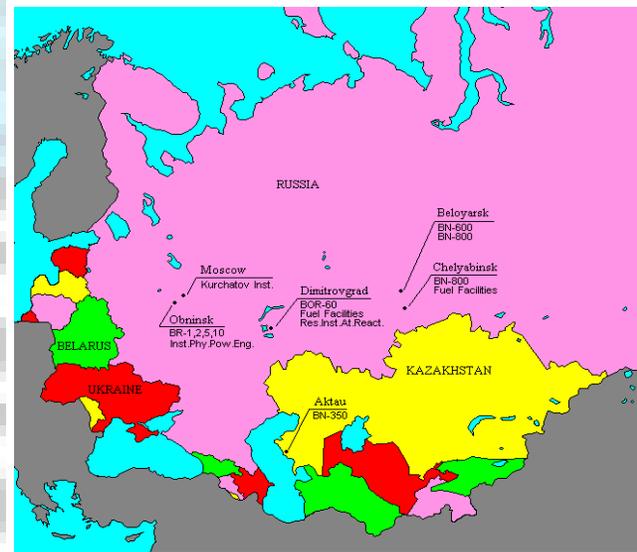
With democratic ideas spreading throughout Eastern Europe, change came quickly. In November of 1989, the Berlin Wall gates were opened. East Berliners came streaming through as free people for the first time in 40 years. Within days, the wall was leveled.

End of the Cold War



Within a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany – a country divided the previous 40 years – was reunited.

While Germany was reuniting as a democratic country, by 1991 the Soviet Union was beginning to break apart.



In December of 1991, Gorbachev -- now a leader of a government that no longer existed - - announced the end of the Soviet Union. The Cold War was over.

Crisis in the Middle East

In 1990, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, wanting to control of the oil-rich country. Many believed that this was Iraq's first step to take control of Saudi Arabia.



Crisis in the Middle East

East

The U.S. along with other United Nations members formed a coalition to stop Hussein. The U.N. set a deadline for Iraq to withdraw or face the use of force. Hussein refused.



The Persian Gulf War (1991) Desert Storm

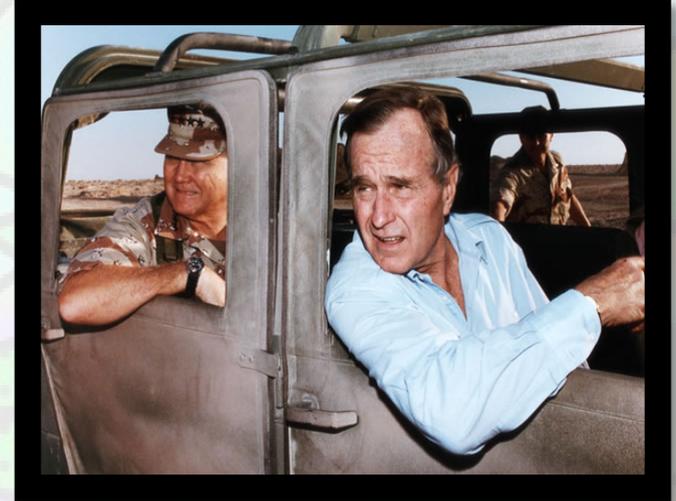
After Iraq invaded Kuwait, the US invaded Iraq to liberate Kuwait; Iraq set Kuwait's oil fields on fire so the Americans couldn't gain the oil; this conflict caused the US to set military bases in Saudi Arabia & Kuwait; also called Operation: Desert Storm Jan. 16th 1991



The Persian Gulf War



Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein



President George Bush



Gen. Colin Powell



Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf

The Persian Gulf War

After six weeks of air strikes, the ground war began.



The Persian Gulf War



After only 100 hours of fighting, President Bush declared victory. Iraq accepted the cease-fire terms and Kuwait was liberated.

Effects of Persian Gulf War

Winning the Persian Gulf War should have been something for George Bush and the U.S. to celebrate, but it caused some lasting problems:



- **The U.S. economy began suffering a major recession**
- **Businesses started “downsizing” staffs (laying off workers)**
- **Bush was force to go back on his pledge when he raised taxes**
- **American troops remained in the Middle East, angering many Muslims**