

Explain the REASONS why A NEW CONSERVATISM
ROSE TO PROMINENCE IN THE U.S. BETWEEN 1960 and 1989 (A 1 of 5)

Prompt

SAMPLE DBQ (AT LEAST A 6/7 ON THE RUBRIC AND LIKELY A 7/7) Contextualization

History has shown that following social, economical, and political struggle, Americans tend to shift their support from one political party to another. Following the aftermath of the Watergate scandal in which President Nixon attempted to breach Democrats' political agenda at the Watergate Hotel, the American people were filled with a fervent distrust of the federal government. In addition to the distrust that characterized the 1970s, the presidencies of Ford and Carter, which were seen as failures to some extent, caused a shift in American sentiments. This shift, the transition to the New Right, can be exemplified by the 1980 election, which shifted the presidency to the conservative Ronald Reagan. Therefore, a combination of economic turbulence, political failures of the Democrats, and conservative reactions to liberal youths caused the dawn of the New Right.

Thesis Statement

The 1970s saw an unprecedented period in the U.S.' economy. The unemployment rate was high while the inflation rate simultaneously increased. This "stagflation" was caused in part by the rising price of oil in the Middle East. In response to this economic situation, the Ford administration launched the WIN campaign, which was virtually ineffective. Ford's WIN policy did not act to specifically reform any economic policy; instead, it encouraged the American people to spend wisely and wear buttons advocating the policy. The ultimate result was a lack of change, as made evident in Unemployment Plus Inflation graph, which shows a startling rise in both unemployment and inflation during the Ford and Carter administrations.

Lapsed

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

1A

2 of 5

Mandatory

1

Circle one

2 or 3

PROPER
CITATION

This lack of efficiency undoubtedly justifies the election of Reagan (1980), who established the basis of "Reaganomics." Republican Barry Goldwater expresses the conservative view that as a result of FDR's New Deal and LBJ's Great Society, "individual freedom [has been encroached] by Big Government."

[Document 2] The policies put in place by Reaganomics centered around cutting taxes ^{for} corporations so as to increase spending. The United States would feel the hit of this spending increase in the 1990s; but in the '80s, the American economy prospered under Reagan. Furthermore, Friedman, a supporter of free-market economy, ~~reasoned that~~ ^{reasoned that} progress of the U.S. is a result of "co-operating through the free market" (Document 2). Friedman's view reflects the view of many who opposed Johnson's "Great Society" in the 1960s, which although sought to expand domestic welfare, failed in part due to increased spending in the Vietnam War. On the contrary, the recovering economy of the '80s allowed Reagan to increase military spending ~~in~~ in regards to the Cold War. Although the Soviet Union collapsed in part due to internal turmoil, the Reagan administration was perceived to be mostly responsible for "winning" the Cold War, since the Soviet Union could not keep up with the U.S.' increased arms buildup. Thus, "Reaganomics" strengthened ~~the~~ and continued the support for conservatism.

Another important aspect of the shift to the New Right

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3
-----------------------	----------------------

1A
3 of 5

is the major criticisms of the Ford and Carter administrations. When President Ford pardoned Nixon for his role in Watergate, the court in the United States vs. Nixon had no choice but to drop the case against Nixon. Ford's pardon caused public outrage and ensured that he would not be reelected.

Although President Carter was successful to a certain extent during the Camp David Accords (which stabilized relations between Israel and Egypt), wealthy Americans were displeased when Carter gave ~~back~~ the Panama Canal, which ~~had~~ held a substantial amount of assets for ~~the~~ ^{stock} holders. Public disapproval of the Carter administration heightened.

As mentioned in the 1980 Republican platform, the Carter administration saw a series of "defeats...7 [over] the past four years (Doc 5). Although the document is biased in the sense that it was written by ~~the~~ the party opposing Carter's, it correctly makes references to events such as the Tehran Hostage Crisis of 1979. After the U.S. allowed Iran's Shah to seek medical care in the U.S., radical Iranian students kidnapped American ambassadors to Iran and held them captive for over a year. The Carter administration was blamed for not being able to negotiate the hostages' release earlier, and the American public was officially ready to make the shift to the New Right.

Above all else, social conservatives were repulsed by what they deemed to be disintegrating family and

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3
-----------------------	-----------------------------

1A
4 of 5

religious values. For the first time in American history, Protestants and Catholics put aside their differences and founded groups such as the Moral Majority, which sought to uphold the teachings of the Bible and denounced the "loss of respect for human life" that liberals, particularly women, found in freedom (document 4) with the legalization of the birth control pill, women ~~were~~ could be more free in their sexual relations, ~~and~~ and as a result, many women decided not to have children until a later age. Furthermore, in Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruled that banning abortion was a violation of private rights, and thus legalized abortion. Social conservatives, such as Teddi Holt, were outraged, as they believed abortion breached both the religious values and the traditional family ~~&~~ values of American society. Drug experimentation ~~and~~ and rejections of conformity, exemplified by the Beat generation, spawned fears that the youths of America were becoming "dope addicts and welfare cheats" (Doc 3).

In summary, a complex ~~of~~ mix of societal, economic, and political issues faced by the Democrats gave rise to the new wave of Conservatism, which was exemplified by Reagan and George H.W. Bush. History has proven that when the American people are displeased with the efficiency of one party, they tend to shift their support to the opposing party.

Circle the question number that you are answering on this page.

Synthesis
↓

Mandatory 1	Circle one 2 or 3
-----------------------	----------------------

1A
5 of 5

In 2015, as tensions in the Middle East rise and the efficiency of Obamacare falls, the United States is once again witnessing a shift to ~~the~~ conservatism. For this reason, the Democratic president ~~faces~~ must work with a Republican majority in both the House and the Senate, and it seems like America is once again witnessing ^a shift to the "New Right." In fact, as the 2016 election looms near, the ~~likelihood~~ ^{looming} possibility of Republican president seems more and more possible.

This essay is loaded with outside information but needs a few more document references

The writer does a very good of describing and EXPLAINING the supporting evidence