



Ronald Reagan

January 20, 1981 – January 20, 1989

Ronald Reagan

- Hollywood Actor in 1937; made 53 films
- Although Reagan began his political life as a Democrat, by 1962 he found his home in the Republican Party.
- In 1966 he became the governor of California.
 - Had trouble meeting his goals for cutting the size of government
 - After two terms as governor, he wanted to run for the presidency
- Reagan was the hero of a growing movement called the **New Right**.
- His powerful personality, optimism, and acting skills drew many Americans—even Democrats—to his side.
- Reagan's wife, **Nancy Reagan**, was one of his greatest allies.



Realignment

New Deal Coalition

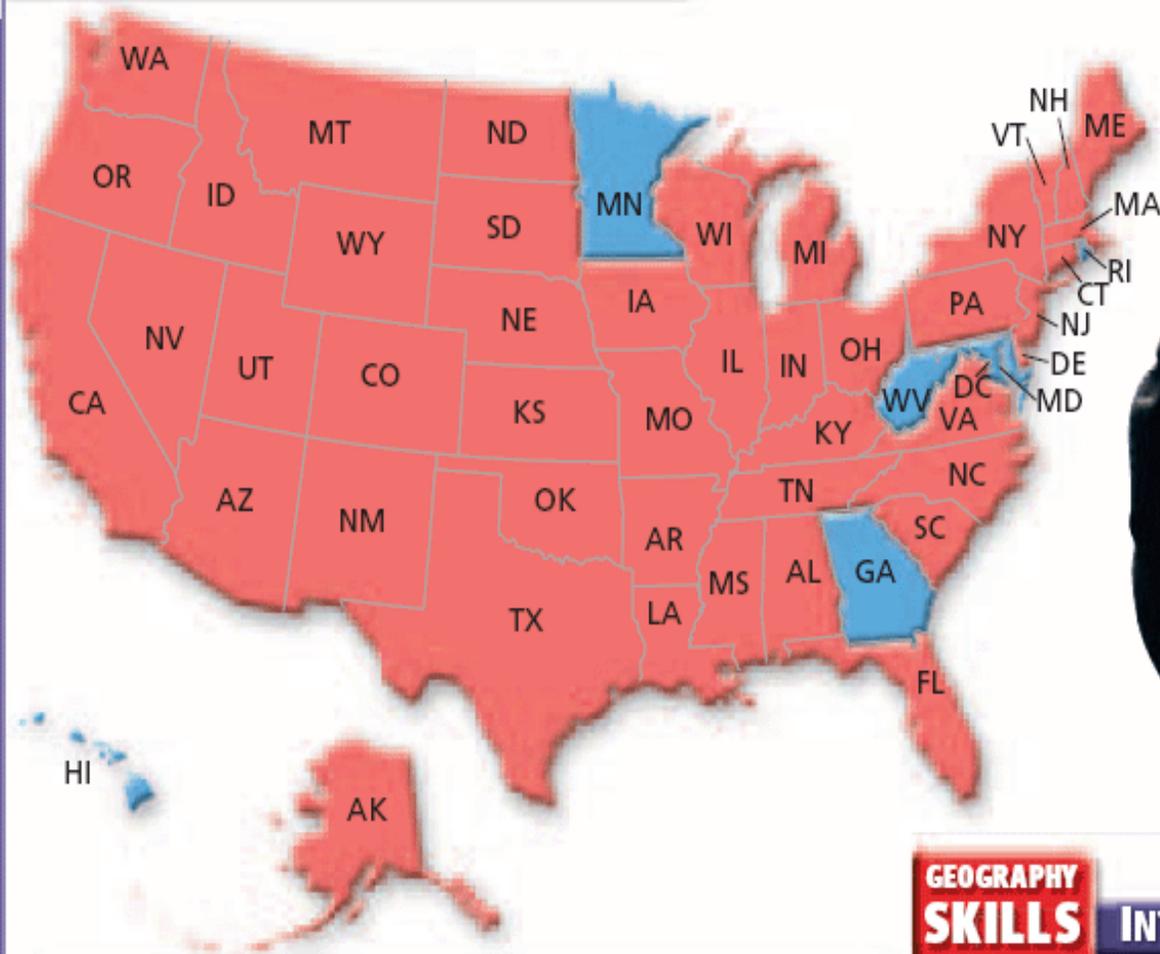
- Democratic South
- African-Americans
- Union members
- Urban North
- Immigrant/newer ethnic groups
- Farmers

Reagan Coalition

- Midwest small towns
- Wealthiest Americans
- Hawks on foreign policy
- Blue Collar in North and Midwest (Regan Democrat)
- White Southerners
- Evangelicals



THE ELECTION OF 1980



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Candidate	Political Affiliation	Electoral Votes	Popular Vote
 Ronald W. Reagan	Republican	489	51.6%
 James E. Carter	Democratic	49	41.7%
John Anderson	Independent	0	6.7%

1. Region What does this map show you about Americans' dissatisfaction with President Carter?

2. Location How many states did Carter carry in the election?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H21

Reagan's Presidential Agenda

- Reduce the federal bureaucracy
- Deregulate certain industries (problematic)
- Cut taxes
- Increase the defense budget,
- Take a hard line with the Soviets
- Appoint conservative judges



Reagan's Foreign Policy

The Main Idea: President Reagan took a hard line against communism around the world.

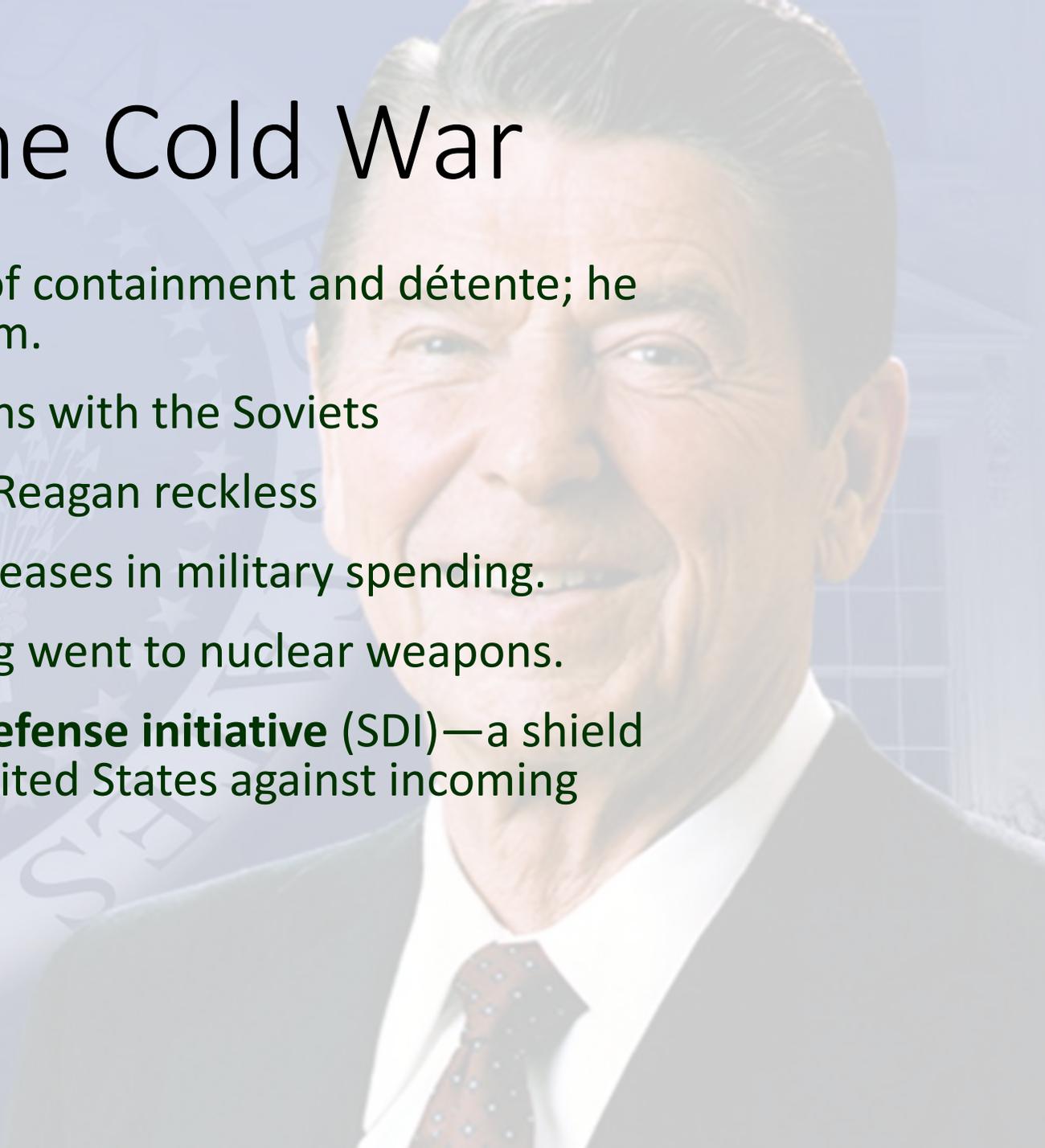
Called Soviet Union the “evil empire”

Reagan - Cold Warrior

- Lebanon
- Libya
- Grenada
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua (Contra= Anti-Communist Insurgents)

Reagan and the Cold War

- Reagan rejected the policies of containment and détente; he wanted to destroy communism.
 - Position worsened relations with the Soviets
 - Critics of his policy called Reagan reckless
- Reagan obtained massive increases in military spending.
 - Much of the new spending went to nuclear weapons.
 - Promoted the **Strategic Defense initiative** (SDI)—a shield in space to protect the United States against incoming Soviet missiles.



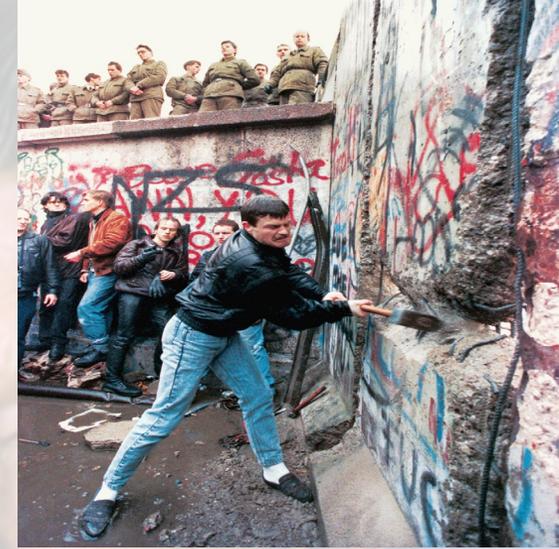
A Thaw in the Cold War

The Soviet Union

- By the late 1970s the Soviet economy was shrinking.
- Industrial and farm production, population growth, education, and medical care all fell.
- The Soviet Union started importing food
- The communist Satellite Nations of the Soviet Union begin to demand political and economic reforms

U.S.-Soviet Relations

- **Mikhail Gorbachev:** becomes Soviet leader in 1984; reform minded
- Economic (**perestroika**), Social (**glasnost**), Military (**diplomacy**), and Political (**democratization**).
- Reagan and Gorbachev sign **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty** in 1987
- **Fall of the Berlin Wall** Nov. 1989



Economic Philosophy

OLD

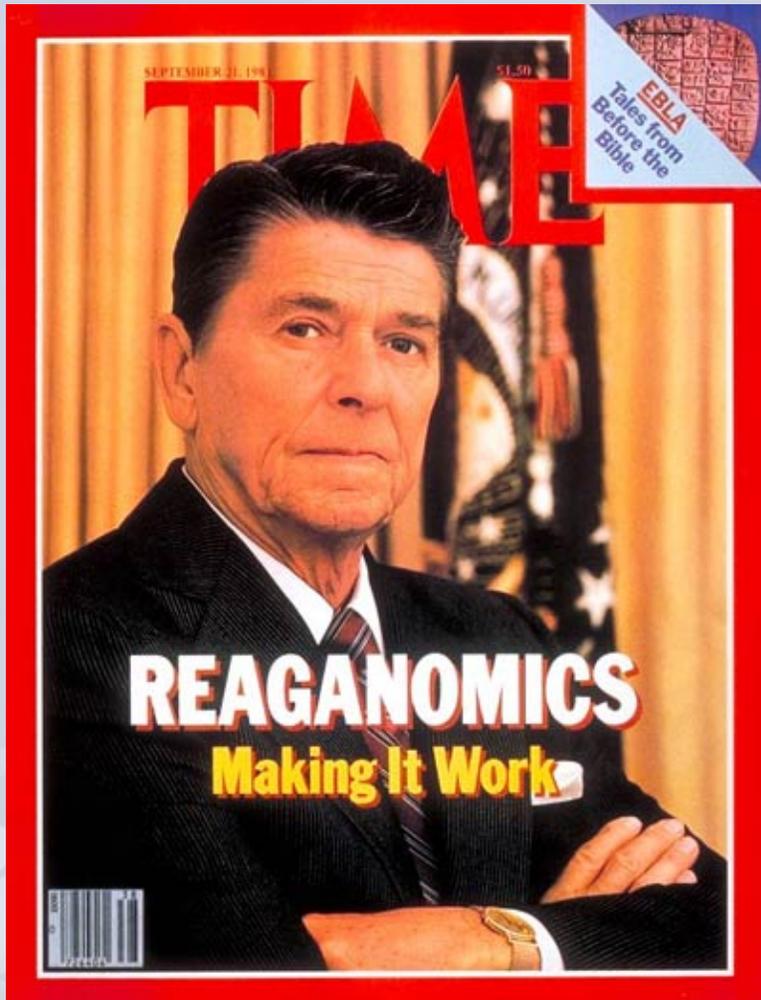
- **Keynesian Economics**
- **“Demand Side” Economics**
- **New Deal**

NEW

- **Reaganomics (The Reagan Revolution)**
- **“Supply Side” Economics**
- **Trickledown Economics**



Supply-Side Economics a.k.a “Reaganomics”



- Cut taxes to put more money into the hands of businesses
- Cut taxes on the wealthiest Americans
- Lower taxes = more investment in the “supply side” of the economy
- Would:
 - promote and create new jobs
 - encourage capital investment, and
 - lead to stimulated industrial growth

Art Laffer = Laffer Curve

