The 1980s “Reagan Revolution”

Chapter 30: The Rise of Conservative Politics in the 1980’s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h4DkpFP_aw&index=44&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s

Crash Course US History #43

1) Watch Crash Course #43 Intro Video

2) Look at slides and be ready to verbally answer questions A-R

3) Prepare notes for “fishbowl” prompts at end.

4) Using notes, participate in a “fishbowl discussion” on one of three topics on Monday 4/25
Reagans Background and Philosophy

Lifeguard & Actor

Almost Always Plays “Hero” role

A) Why is Reagans acting background helpful when he becomes a politician?
Republican Governor of California 1966 – 1974
Reagan campaigns emphasized two main themes: "to send the welfare bums back to work," and in reference to growing anti-war, anti-establishment and New Left student protests at UC Berkeley, "to clean up the mess at Berkeley."

B) How did “tumult” of the 1960s help Regan as a politician?
“New Right” Backlash Helps Reagan

- Backlash against Feminism, Affirmative Action & Abortion policies of the 1970s grows
- “Born-Again” Christianity & “Moral Majority” Gain Followers
- Jerry Falwell & other “Tele-Evangelists” get political and encourage supporters to vote for “moral” candidates

C) How do these trends illustrate a growth of “grassroots” conservatism?
1980 Election
Regan’s Campaign Promises in 1980 become 3 pillars of the New Right:

• American Pride/Traditional Family Values
• Less Government/Taxes
• Tough on Communism/Strong Defense

D) Why are the “3 pillars” considered “conservative”? 
Ronald Reagan’s ideas & image appeal to “blue collar” moderates who had voted for Democrats in the past, but who switch to vote Republican and expand “conservative coalition”

E) Describe why a typical “Reagan Democrat” would vote Republican in 1980
F) Why does Reagan become known as the "Great Communicator" of the New Right?
Reagan Crushes Carter in 1980 Election
G) What criticism of Reagan's domestic policies does the cartoon make?
Reagans Economic Plans

“Trickle Down” or “Supply Side” economics hopes to stimulate economic growth with:

1. Tax cuts
2. Social welfare spending cuts
3. Increased deregulation of businesses
4. Increased defense spending

H) How do these policies aim to stimulate the “supply side” of the economy?

I) How might these policies “trickle down” to impact the entire economy?
J) Explain what criticisms of Reaganomics the cartoons are making

IF YOU CUT TAXES ON THE RICH, THEY'LL INVEST THAT MONEY AND CREATE JOBS FOR EVERYONE!
K) What does the graph reveal about the impacts of Reagan era economic impacts on the American people?
L) What does the graphic indicate about the impacts of Reagan Era policies on federal deficits?
Calls USSR an “Evil Empire”

M) Mikhail Gorbachev is depicted on the right of cartoon...why?
Reagan sees Communism as a threat to freedom—not something to ignore or compromise with... US foreign policy goal to “win” Cold War

N) How is Reagan’s Cold War policy different than earlier containment or détente policies?
Reagan Supports SDI (aka “Star Wars”) expensive and unproven Plan of Missile Defense

O) What were the pros and cons of Reagan’s SDI plan?
Reagan & Gorbachev try to end the Cold War

Reagan refuses to cut SDI & other defense programs –
wants to negotiate from position of strength

Gorbachev tries Glasnost (openness)
& Perestroika (restructuring) to quell dissatisfaction in USSR
but largely fails and USSR disintegrates in late 80s

P) Explain meaning
of the cartoon
1987 Iran-Contra Scandal (see link below) only temporarily hurts public support for Reagan.

Q) Why does this lead to “Teflon President” nickname?
R) What does graph reveal may be more source of Reagan's popularity?

http://www.coldwar.org/articles/80s/IranContraAffair.asp

Reagan's Net Approval and Unemployment Rate 1981-1988

I’m not a crook. It was not an arms for hostages deal. I did not have sex with that woman.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and UC-Santa Barbara's American Presidency Project
The end of the Cold War and New Challenges

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-K19rVDxoM&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmeBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s&index=45
Crash Course #44
Chapter 30 Review Questions for “Fish Bowl” Discussions (p. 974) on Monday 4/25

1) What was the “three legged stool” of New Right conservatism? In what ways were the three components compatible? Incompatible?

2) How would you assess the historical importance of Ronald Reagan? What were his most significant legacies, domestically and internationally? Why?

3) Why did the Cold War come to an end when it did? What were the contributing factors and what foreign policy challenges replaced the Cold War?