

WEEK 25: HISTORY

Read pages 520 - 528 of the pages that follow this sheet.

1. Who helped return Great Britain to free enterprise capitalism, traditional values, and a strong stand against Communism?
2. Who was elected President of the US in 1980?
3. What were two important parts of Reagan's economic plan?
4. What was Solidarity and who was its leader?
5. As the situation in Poland became more tense, what did Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announce?
6. When were the East and West Germans reunited? How did the Germans react to reunification?
7. When did the Soviet Union cease to exist as a nation?
8. How did university students in China show their desire for freedom? How did the Communist government respond?
9. George H. W. Bush served as Ronald Reagan's vice president, and then he was elected as President of the US in 1988. Did President Bush do the same things that President Reagan did?
10. What was Operation Desert Storm?

Writing

What was happening the year that you were born? Look up information about the year that you were born. Pick four important or interesting events. Write a paragraph about the things that happened the year that you were born. Hand-written; no computers. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.



25 Era of Change (1980–1995)

HIGHLIGHTS

Ronald Reagan • Collapse of Soviet Union • Persian Gulf War
European Union • South Africa • Bill Clinton

The Reagan Era

New Leadership in England and America

In Great Britain, the 1979 election of Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** promised a return to more free enterprise capitalism, traditional values, and a strong stand against Communism. In the United States, the 1980 election of President **Ronald Reagan** held similar promise, not only for America but for many other nations as well. Reagan took a strong stand against the tide of socialism, immorality, crime, drug abuse, abortion, and Communism threatening the free world. During his administration, the debate between political Liberals and Conservatives was clearly defined: President Reagan represented the Conservatives, while the news media was strongly biased toward the Liberals.

President Reagan

National recovery. When Reagan assumed office in 1981, inflation and unemployment were both rising. Within months, inflation was temporarily under control and unemployment began to decrease as the nation experienced an economic recovery; there was also a return to patriotism and traditional morality. President Reagan won reelection in 1984 by



U.S. President Ronald Reagan

the *greatest margin in American history (49 states)*, demonstrating that a majority of Americans were tired of the Liberalism and the secular humanism that were destroying the nation's moral and spiritual foundations. Reagan's strong leadership and concern for traditional values gave many people new hope for America's future, but many remained watchful, knowing that the country's greatest need was spiritual revival.

Sound economics; strong foreign policy. Sound conservative thinking flourished during the Reagan years, complimented by a strong foreign policy. Reagan stressed that: **(1)** budgets should be balanced and **(2)** trade and business should be *free from government interference*. Liberals labeled these concepts "**Reaganomics**," not realiz-



ing that these were part of the traditional principles that made America great. The Reagan years were the longest period of continuous economic growth since World War II, with lower taxes and less government regulation.

Reagan restored the strength of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force, enabling the nation to exercise peace through strength. He believed in stopping Communism before it could attack and enslave a country; this idea was known as the **Reagan Doctrine**. His policies gave hope and active support to people around the globe in their struggle against Communism. The Reagan years represented (1) *traditional values*, (2) *less government regulation of private property*, and (3) *a return to patriotism and military strength*.

Standing up to Communism. The Communist dictator, Fidel Castro, continued to threaten the Caribbean region while holding his own people captive with threats and terrorism. In 1980, Castro allowed some 120,000 Cubans to flee to the U.S. in what became known as the **Marief**

Boatlift. In 1983, Reagan learned that Castro planned to take over the island nation of **Grenada** in the West Indies and use it as a military base to invade the mainland of South America. A small force of Cuban military men had already arrived in Grenada when the Grenadians and other Caribbean islands called on the U.S. for help. To prevent a full-fledged Communist invasion, Reagan sent American troops to Grenada to defend the people. The Grenadians gratefully welcomed the American soldiers to their island. With the help of armed forces from neighboring islands, U.S. forces quickly rounded up the Cubans and shipped them back to Cuba.

The liberation of Grenada was just one example of Reagan's strong foreign policy. He supported anti-Communist and anti-terrorist operations around the world by arming freedom fighters in **Nicaragua** and **Afghanistan** (invaded by Russia). He also punished Libya's radical leader Muammar Al **Qaddafi** for acts of terrorism and sent American war planes to bomb targets in **Libya**.

End of the Cold War

Changes in Eastern Europe

The Reagan Presidency (1981–1989) set into motion a chain of historic events. Under his leadership, America strengthened her defenses and pursued research in space-age technology with renewed vigor. Reagan knew that America's progress in the development of *laser weaponry* alarmed the Soviets, especially the **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)**, a system of space-age weaponry designed to destroy enemy missile warheads in flight. Reagan equipped the American military with technological marvels that the bankrupt Soviet economy could not match.

Poland's Solidarity. The renewed strength of America's stand against Communism encouraged the people of Poland. In the 1980s, a movement of Polish nationalists calling themselves **Solidarity** stood up to the Soviets. Led by Lech **Walesa** [vä·lën'sə], Polish workers refused to work until their demands for more freedom were met. In response, the Communists declared **martial law** (military rule) in Poland and rounded up members of Solidarity to be imprisoned, tortured, and executed. Reagan expressed support for Solidarity, and Pope John Paul II, from Poland, denounced the Communist Party and called for the liberation of Poland.

As the situation in Poland grew tense, Soviet troops prepared to invade. Suddenly, the Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** [gôr'bə·chôf'] announced a *dramatic change of Communist policy*. Gorbachev agreed (1) to reduce Soviet weapons strength, (2) to free the enslaved nations of Eastern Europe, and (3) to stop encouraging revolution and bloodshed throughout the world. In return, the U.S. and other free nations promised to help the Soviet Union rebuild its economic and political system on a democratic, free enterprise model—a plan the Soviets called **Pere-**



Polish Solidarity
Leader Lech Walesa

stroika [për'e·stroï'kə], which means "restructuring." The Communists also adopted a foreign policy known as **Glasnost** [gläs'nöst], which means "openness," claiming that they wanted world peace and had no plans to conquer other countries.

"One step backward." The Communists' change in tactics showed their desperation; they were adopting Lenin's advice: "It is necessary sometimes to take one step backward so we may take two steps forward." The economy of the Soviet Union was on the verge of collapse and food shortages were common. Realizing their weakness and hoping to catch up and surpass the U.S. at a future date, the Communists loosened their control over Eastern Europe in order to get **money** and **technology** from the U.S. and Western Europe.

Iron Curtain is lifted. By 1989, the Communists had begun to lose control of Eastern Europe as the countries realized their freedom movements would not be crushed by Soviet troops. The peoples of Eastern Europe rose up against Communism desperately wanting freedom from Communist oppression. Some wanted to reform Communism and move toward democratic socialism, and others wanted free market capitalism. Persecuted ethnic and religious groups, including Christians, wanted freedom to openly worship and express their beliefs. All were united in the feeling that the Communist system was cruel and repressive and destroyed individual freedoms.



Opening the Berlin Wall: East Germans gather near the Brandenburg Gate to watch a crane remove part of the Berlin Wall.

Berlin Wall comes down. Events moved quickly; in June, those opposing Communism gained control of the **Polish** parliament. **Hungary** declared its independence in October; **Czechoslovakia** rose up against the Communists in November. On November 17, 1989, half a million residents of **East Berlin** marched in the streets demanding freedom. The East German police were overwhelmed. Finally, in November **1989**, the Communists opened the **Berlin Wall**, and millions of Berliners took to the streets to celebrate as young Germans beat down sections of the wall with sledge hammers.

East and West Germany were reunited on October 3, 1990. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of the two Germanys created a wave of patriotism and excitement among Germans. But decades of Communist rule had so destroyed the economy of East Germany that prosperous West Germany would be burdened for many years trying to raise the living standards of the East Germans.

Romanian Revolution. The overthrow of Communism in Romania resulted in the violent execution of the cruel dictator **Nicole Ceausescu** [chou·shēs'kū] and his wife. Romanians had experienced 25 years of suffering under Ceausescu. In 1971, after the Ceausescus visited Mao's China and North Korea, they returned to Romania to begin their own version of "Cultural Revolution."

To hasten industrialization, the Romanian Communist government borrowed heavily from the West. Much of the money was wasted. By the 1980s, forced to repay these debts, Ceausescu severely rationed food supplies and cut energy consumption. People were cramped into tiny apartments and allowed only 2 to 4 hours of heat in 45° winter temperature. Many children and older people became ill or died. Ceausescu also set up state nurseries and sold children to adoption agencies in Western Europe. The secret police terrorized anyone who voiced opposition. Meanwhile, the Ceausescus built a luxurious palace and lived like royalty.

Romanian Revolution: (right) Freedom demonstrators in Bucharest take cover as the Romanian army exchanges fire with pro-Ceausescu forces. (below) Romanians watch as a statue of Lenin is pulled down in Bucharest.



Ceausescu hated Christianity and began a program to wipe out the Christian faith by destroying churches and the family. He planned to bulldoze 7,000 Romanian villages, destroying all the churches. The people were to settle in “agro-industrial” centers, and the churches would be replaced by community centers called “Hymns to Romania,” permitting only atheistic worship of the state.

The revolution in Romania began in mid-December 1989 in Timisoara, the second largest city in the country. The consistent evangelical preaching of a Presbyterian pastor infuriated the secret police and sparked the first public protest against Communism in 45 years of Communist rule. Outside the doors of his church, a small, courageous band of members silently gathered to block the access to the building and thereby protect their pastor. Seeing that they were outnumbered, the secret police left to get reinforcements. They



returned to find that over 1,000 people had gathered outside the church. The Christians that had gathered were no match for the armed secret police, however, and the pastor was arrested and forcibly taken to the mountains for interrogation.

Word spread throughout the community of what had happened outside the Presbyterian church. As a result, 100,000 people demonstrated in the city square. The pastor of the First Baptist Church, Peter Dugulescu, addressed the crowd, raising a voice of opposition to Communism and its atheistic ideology. After speaking, he called upon the crowd to kneel in public prayer. The multitude fell on their knees and publicly prayed the Lord’s Prayer; then, standing to their feet, they cried in unison, “God is alive!” The secret police responded with gunfire. Children and young people made a dash for the Orthodox Cathedral at the far end of the city square. Under gunfire and running for their lives, they made it to the top of the stairs of the building, only to find that the Orthodox priests had closed the doors. Over 100 children and young people gave their lives that day for God and for the freedom of their country. The Romanian Revolution was sealed in blood.

When news of the killings in Timisoara reached the capital of Bucharest, the

people took to the streets shouting “Down with Communism.” Ceausescu called out the army, but the *soldiers refused to obey the Communist officers*. Eight days later, the dictator and his wife were shot by a firing squad.

Romanians hoped for a better future without Communism. Christians from the West found the Romanians hungry for the Word of God, and by 1995 many Christian ministries were operating in Romania.

Winds of freedom. Between 1990 and 1991, the Baltic Republics of **Lithuania**, **Latvia**, and **Estonia** declared their independence from the Soviet Empire. *By 1991, every East European nation considered itself independent of the Soviet Union.* The winds of freedom had swept across the Soviet Union and broken it up.

Members of the underground church (secret believers), persecuted for their faith, were released from prisons and allowed to openly worship and witness for Christ. Many American Christians sent Russian Bibles to the Russian-speaking countries and others visited Eastern European

countries to minister to the spiritual needs of the people. God gave an abundant harvest of souls in these countries, where atheism and Communism had ruled for so many years.

The End of the Soviet Empire

The Communists lost their grip on Eastern Europe and appeared open for peace and free market reform; as a result, a wave of false euphoria, or unrealistic hope and joy, swept across the globe. Many world leaders declared that the Cold War was over and that the UN could achieve world peace. There was much talk of a one world government. In 1990, the Communist leader Mikhail Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Collapse of the Soviet Union. In May 1990, **Boris Yeltsin**, a reformer, became the President of the Russian republic in a popular election. By December 1991, eleven of the former Soviet Republics had banded together to form the *Commonwealth of Independent States*. The Soviet Union ceased to exist as a nation.



Russian President
Boris Yeltsin

COMMONWEALTH
OF INDEPENDENT
STATES

Troop reductions in Europe. Meanwhile, the U.S. and Russia agreed to a limited troop withdrawal from Europe. Soon Russia withdrew troops from Eastern Europe, and the U.S. withdrew troops from Western Europe. In the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) of 1991, the U.S. and Russia agreed to destroy some of their nuclear weapons.

China Crushes Freedom

The winds of freedom blew into Communist **China**. In the spring of 1989, university students in China challenged the Communist regime. A million students and workers gathered in Beijing's **Tiananmen Square** in a *great demonstration for freedom*. The demonstrators erected a large replica of the Statue of Liberty to express their desire for freedom. The world watched and waited to see how the Chinese Communists would respond. As most conservatives expected, the Communists sent soldiers to crush the freedom demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Many people were killed, and others were jailed. The world was once again reminded of the cruel oppression of Communism.

In Reagan's Shadow

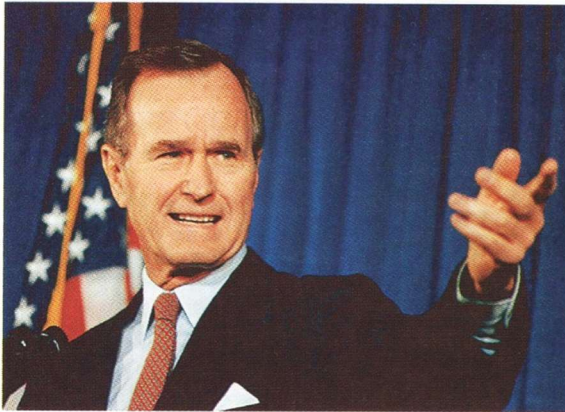
President George Bush. The Reagan Administration's *buildup of American military defenses* greatly aided in the collapse of Soviet Communism, and Reagan's *support of private enterprise* caused an economic boom that further weakened the appeal of Communism. Reagan's strong foreign policy was the major political cause of the end of the Cold War and the collapse of Communism's stronghold in the Soviet Union.

The American people overwhelmingly elected Reagan's Vice President, George Bush, to the Presidency in 1988 with Dan Quayle as Vice President. The decade of the 1990s opened with President Bush proclaiming that the world was poised on the brink of what he called a **New World Order**. President Bush promised to continue the direction that Reagan had begun, and he promised not to raise taxes.

Growing debt. Bush was plagued by a growing *national debt* resulting from years of runaway spending by a Democratic



Demonstrations in Tiananmen Square (Beijing, China)



U.S. President George Bush

Congress. Thinking that the collapse of the Soviet Union signaled a “new world order” for global peace, President Bush cut the defense budget, but this did little to help the national debt and threw many people out of work.

Seeing no other alternative, President Bush finally agreed to raise taxes in order to keep the government from going further into debt. It was soon evident that the extra tax money would not be used to reduce the national debt, because *Congress continued to increase government spending*. Conservatives felt that Bush should have

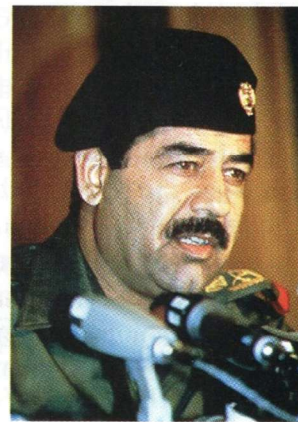
known that raising taxes only encourages more government spending.

The Persian Gulf War (1991)

Trouble in the Middle East. While world leaders were distracted with events in Eastern Europe, a major crisis developed in the Middle East. In August 1990, **Saddam Hussein** [sä·däm/ hōō·sān/], dictator of **Iraq**, invaded the tiny, oil-rich kingdom of **Kuwait**. Hussein planned to make all the Arab nations surrounding the Persian Gulf subservient to him. President Bush compared Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler—*both dictators were determined to conquer innocent people and steal their wealth.*

Europe and Japan feared Hussein because he threatened their oil supplies; other Arab nations and Israel feared that they would be Hussein’s next victims. When Israeli secret agents discovered that Hussein was close to developing an atomic bomb, President Bush convinced the UN to send troops to liberate Kuwait and protect the other Arab nations.

Operation Desert Storm begins. As in past actions, the U.S. provided most of the



Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein

THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY



General Colin Powell (left) and General Norman Schwarzkopf

UN military muscle. About 500,000 American troops, including air force and navy units, were shipped to Saudi Arabia to liberate Kuwait. Once President Bush obtained the support of Congress, **Operation Desert Storm** began. UN forces took the offensive and began round-the-clock bombing of Iraqi troop positions. New technology, including highly accurate “*smart bombs*” and *cruise missiles*, enabled the air force to select and destroy military targets without harming Iraq’s civilian population. The “high-tech” weapons developed and stockpiled during the Reagan Administration overwhelmed the Iraqi military.

Great American generals. President Bush insisted that the war in the Persian Gulf be directed by military men rather than by politicians. He realized that soldiers know better than politicians how to fight and win a war. The President placed **General Colin Powell** in command of Operation Desert Storm. *For the first time since World War II, the American President and Congress followed the counsel of a military commander.* As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Powell was second in military command only to the President. He served as the spokesman for the military, explaining to the American people exactly what UN forces were doing in the Middle East. At all times, he insisted on

taking the offensive and pushing toward total victory to liberate Kuwait with the loss of as few lives as possible.

Because General Powell had to remain in Washington, D.C., **General Norman Schwarzkopf** [shwôrts/köpf] was appointed to lead the troops into combat. General Schwarzkopf inspired great devotion and bravery in his men. He kept the American public and the world aware of the daily events of the war through *television briefings*, beamed by satellite into every corner of the world. He often stated that his main goal in combat was to “minimize risks and save soldiers.” Unlike the Vietnam War, the *Gulf War had the support of all Americans* and most countries of the world.

Invasion and victory. On February 24, 1991, American, British, and French forces, assisted by Saudi and Egyptian forces, invaded Iraq, while Israeli forces stood ready to assist. The army of Iraq crumbled before General Schwarzkopf’s brilliant moves on the battlefield, and thousands of Iraqi troops surrendered or fled the Allied advance.

Within a few days, Kuwait had been liberated and Saddam Hussein had retreated to a bunker in Baghdad. The allied troops did not pursue Hussein any further because the liberation of Kuwait, the primary objective, had been achieved.