I. The Rise of Reagan and Conservatism

A. Jimmy Carter, who had defeated Gerald Ford in 1976, proved to be a disappointing leader
   1) Brokered Israeli-Egyptian Camp David Accords peace talks but accomplished little in real Mideast progress
   2) Unable to obtain Senate ratification of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) with Soviet Union
      a) Boycotted Moscow Olympic Games to protest Afghan invasion
      b) Placed grain embargo on Soviet Union
   3) Iranian hostage crisis
      a) Following our sheltering of Iran's Shah, Iranians seized American embassy and held 52 hostages for 444 days
      b) Helicopter rescue attempt in 1980 failed
      c) Hostages released on Reagan's inauguration day, January 20, 1981

B. Ronald Reagan's election in 1980 was a victory for conservatives, particularly evangelical Christians known as the Moral Majority. Issues:
   1) Anti-abortion (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973, had allowed abortions in the first trimester)
   2) Anti-homosexual
   3) Prayer in schools
4) Public schools permissiveness and secularism (teaching of evolution)
C. Reagan won 90% of the Electoral College vote, sweeping the West and the South

II. Reaganomics

A. Supply-side economic theory: Lower taxes and cut government spending to boost private investment
B. Broke air traffic controllers union after a strike by firing 11,000 workers
C. De-regulated some industries and opened federal lands to mining, lumbering, and oil drilling
D. Stock Market crashed in 1987, losing 20% of value in one day
E. Tax cuts and increased military spending let to huge federal budget deficit

III. Foreign Relations

A. Support for anti-communist contras in Nicaragua led to secret military missions and a Congressional ban on U.S. aid
   1) White House secretly funneled money to contras, using money obtained from Iran for arms sales in the Iran-Contra scandal
   2) Reagan aide Oliver North indicted for obstructing investigation and destroying documents
   3) Reagan called to testify, but no charges brought against him
C. Mideast violence: 239 U.S. Marines were killed by a bombing in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. U.S. removed remaining Marines
B. Soviet-U.S. relations improved and the Cold War ended
   1) Reagan challenged Gorbachev in Berlin to “tear down this wall” in 1987
   2) Reagan visited Moscow in historic meeting in 1988
   3) Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty removing 2500 U.S. and Soviet missiles from Europe, 1988
   4) Berlin Wall fell in 1989 as George Bush took office and the Soviet Union collapsed