

	AMERICA IN THE WORLD	POLITICS & POWER	CULTURE & SOCIETY	MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT	WORK, EXCHANGE, & TECHNOLOGY
1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronald Reagan begins arms buildup United States arms Contras in Nicaragua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Right helps elect Ronald Reagan president Iran-Contra scandal (1985–1987) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/AIDS crisis prompts national conversation about homosexuality Renewed emphasis on material success and the “rich and famous” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise in Latino and Asian immigration Californians vote to establish English as official language (1986) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recession (1981–1982) followed by strong growth (1982–1987) Reagan tax cut (1981)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berlin Wall comes down (1989) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George H. W. Bush elected president (1988) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Webster v. Reproductive Health Services</i> (1989) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple personal computer introduced (1983) National debt triples (1981–1989)
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persian Gulf War (1990–1991) USSR breaks apart; end of Cold War Al Qaeda bombs World Trade Center (1993) UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia (1992–1995) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Clinton elected president (1992) Republican resurgence (1994) Welfare reform (1996) Clinton impeached and acquitted (1998–1999) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Buchanan declares “culture war” (1992) Proposition 209 ends affirmative action in California universities Defense of Marriage Act (1996) WTO protests in Seattle (1999) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backlash against “multiculturalism” California bans bilingual education in public schools (1998) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet gains in popularity Recession (1990–1991) NAFTA ratified (1993) Debt reduction under Bill Clinton
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Qaeda attacks World Trade Center and Pentagon (2001) United States and allies invade Afghanistan (2001) United States invades Iraq (2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George W. Bush wins presidency in contested election (2000) USA PATRIOT Act (2001) Barack Obama elected first African American president (2008) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Lawrence v. Texas</i> (2003) Massachusetts becomes first state to legalize same-sex marriage (2004); nine states follow by 2012 “War on terror” becomes fixture in American discourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New scrutiny of airport passengers after 9/11 California, Texas, Hawaii, and New Mexico become “majority-minority” states (where the majority of the population is composed of minorities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis in newspaper industry Great Recession (2007–2010) President Bush asks for and receives bank bailout from Congress (2008) Unemployment hits 10 percent
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Spring (2010–2012) Osama bin Laden killed (2011) Last combat troops withdrawn from Iraq (2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health-care reform (2010) Tea Party helps Republicans regain control of House of Representatives Barack Obama reelected president (2012) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress and President Obama end “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in U.S. military (2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obama’s 2012 electoral coalition heavily African American, Hispanic, Asian American, female, and young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial industry accounts for largest share of GDP among all industry sectors

1984 Republican National Convention: Ronald Reagan delivers his acceptance speech from the 1984 Republican National Convention. Reagan's political rise captured the spirit of conservatism in the late 1970s and early 1980s.