

Reaganland: America's Right Turn, 1976–1980

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected president of the United States. His victory marked a major turning point in American history, as the country shifted decisively to the right after decades of liberal dominance. Reagan's presidency was a time of great change, both domestically and internationally. He presided over a period of economic recovery, but also saw the rise of the AIDS crisis and the Iran-Contra affair. Reagan's foreign policy was marked by a hard line against communism, and he played a key role in ending the Cold War.



Reaganland: America's Right Turn 1976-1980

by Rick Perlstein

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Reagan's victory in 1980 was a result of a number of factors. The country was in the midst of an economic recession, and many voters were dissatisfied with the performance of the incumbent president, Jimmy Carter. Reagan also benefited from a wave of conservative sentiment that had been building in the United States for several years. This sentiment was

fueled by a number of factors, including the rise of the religious right, the backlash against the civil rights movement, and the growing popularity of free market economics.

Reagan's presidency was a time of significant change in American politics. He implemented a number of conservative policies, including tax cuts, deregulation, and a reduction in the size of government. These policies were controversial, but they helped to usher in an era of economic growth. Reagan also took a hard line against communism, and he played a key role in ending the Cold War.

Reagan's presidency was not without its challenges. The country faced a number of economic problems, including the savings and loan crisis and the stock market crash of 1987. The AIDS crisis also emerged during Reagan's presidency, and the government's response to the crisis was widely criticized. Reagan was also involved in the Iran-Contra affair, which was a major political scandal.

Despite these challenges, Reagan left office in 1989 with high approval ratings. He is remembered as a conservative icon, and his presidency is often seen as a turning point in American history.

Reagan's Domestic Policies

Reagan's domestic policies were based on the principles of conservatism. He believed in limited government, free markets, and individual responsibility. Reagan implemented a number of policies to promote these principles, including tax cuts, deregulation, and a reduction in the size of government.

Reagan's economic policies were controversial, but they helped to usher in an era of economic growth. His tax cuts stimulated investment and job creation, and his deregulation policies reduced the cost of doing business. As a result, the economy grew rapidly during Reagan's presidency.

Reagan's social policies were also conservative. He opposed abortion and affirmative action, and he supported school prayer. Reagan also appointed conservative judges to the Supreme Court, who helped to shift the balance of power on the court to the right.

Reagan's domestic policies had a significant impact on American society. His economic policies helped to create a more prosperous economy, but they also led to increased inequality. His social policies contributed to a more conservative social climate, but they also alienated many Americans.

Reagan's Foreign Policy

Reagan's foreign policy was based on a hard line against communism. He believed that the United States should take a strong stand against the Soviet Union and its allies. Reagan increased military spending and developed new weapons systems to counter the Soviet threat.

Reagan also played a key role in ending the Cold War. He met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev several times, and the two leaders eventually signed a treaty to reduce nuclear weapons. Reagan's hard line against communism helped to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Reagan's foreign policy was not without its critics. Some people argued that he was too confrontational with the Soviet Union, and that his policies increased the risk of nuclear war. Others argued that Reagan's policies

were too focused on the Soviet Union, and that he ignored other important issues, such as the rise of China.



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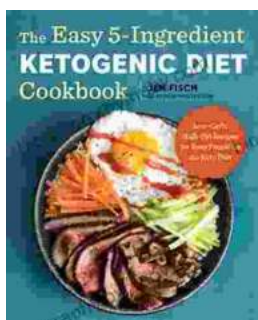
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