

19.3

The Cold War Ends



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Analyze the ways that Ronald Reagan challenged communism and the Soviet Union.**
- **Explain the end of the Cold War.**
- **Describe other foreign policy challenges that faced the United States in the 1980s.**

“Peace Through Strength”

Reagan believed that to end communism, the U.S. must challenge it as much as possible without war.

Under Reagan, the U.S. created the largest buildup in its history to create new weapons & missile systems

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)- Program in which land & space-based lasers would destroy missiles before they hit the U.S.

Program was nicknamed “Star War” because it was seen as unrealistic



Middle East & Central America

**Reagan believed the U.S. needed to weaken the USSR
by attacking communism around the globe**

**The U.S. trained the mujahadeen rebels in
Afghanistan to force the USSR out**

**To battle communism in Nicaragua, the U.S.
backed the anticommunist group
*Contras***

**U.S. troops invaded Grenada to prevent the
nation from becoming communist &
to protect American medical students**

USSR Reforms

1985- Mikhail Gorbachev became the president of the Soviet Union & began new policies

Glasnost- New Openness, a willingness to work with foreign nations

Perestroika- Reformation of the Soviet system to move away from a state-controlled economy

The Soviet Union struggled to deal with food shortages & couldn't compete with Western Industry



Reagan & Gorbachev

Reagan & Gorbachev began to meet on a continual basis during their presidencies

Both leaders became friendly with one another & even signed the START I treaty to limit the number of nuclear weapons in the world

1989- The Soviet Union collapsed the Berlin Wall was torn down by people tearing it down with sledgehammers by 1991

Germany rejoined as a single nation, The Soviet Union Split, & the Cold War ended by 1992

Libya Issues

The Iran-Iraq War from 1980-1988 showed the U.S. a new problem, terrorism

Reagan clashed with Muammar al-Qaddafi, the ruler of Libya, placing sanctions on the country

Reagan blamed a terrorist attack in Berlin on Libya & ordered air raids on the country, killing a member of Qaddafi's family

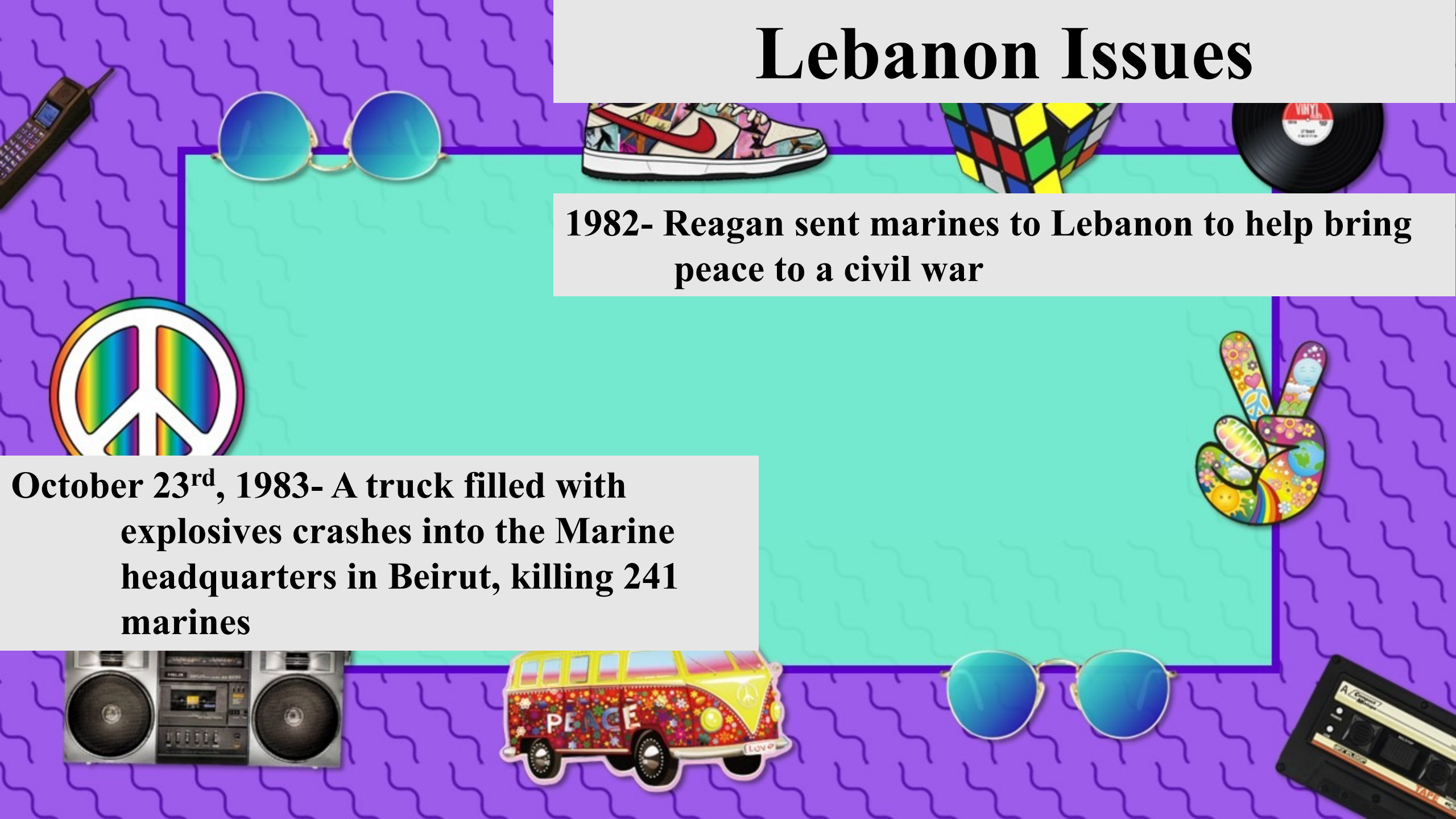
Reagan would suspect Qaddafi of producing chemical weapons throughout his Presidency



Lebanon Issues

1982- Reagan sent marines to Lebanon to help bring peace to a civil war

October 23rd, 1983- A truck filled with explosives crashes into the Marine headquarters in Beirut, killing 241 marines



Iran Contra Affair

Iran released the 52 hostages after Reagan was elected, ending the hostage crisis

However, the U.S. sold weapons to Iran in exchange for promises from the country to end terrorism in Lebanon

This went against the nations policy of “not negotiating with terrorists”

Reagan secretly sent money, against Congress orders, to support the Contras in Nicaragua

