

19.1

The Conservative Movement Surges



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

- Describe the differences between liberal and conservative viewpoints.
- Analyze the causes behind the conservative resurgence in the early 1980s.
- Explain why Ronald Reagan won the presidency in 1980.

Liberals & Conservatives Diverge

After the loss of the 1964 election, the Republican party sought to rebuild themselves to win future elections

Barry Goldwater, who lost the 1964 election, returned to the Senate to grow conservative views

By 1980, Goldwater was able to aid Ronald Reagan's election & change conservative policies for decades



Different Views

Liberals believed that the federal government should improve the lives of all Americans

They believed in creating social programs that would require greater government regulation of industry & favored foreign cooperation



Conservatives believed these changes hindered economic growth & individual choices

Conservatives were also concerned with dangers in society caused by a lack of traditional values

Conservatives were also concerned with the rise of communism & how to defend against it



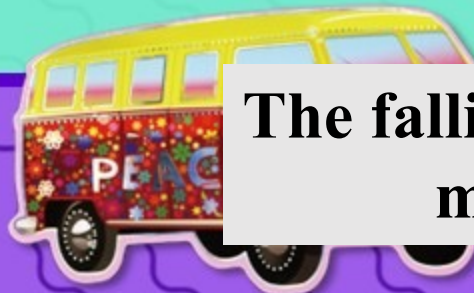
The New Right's Popularity

The New Right- A new wave of Republicans who became increasingly critical of liberal policies

People saw the Democratic Party at fault for the Vietnam War & riots of the 1960s

Counterculture ideas alienated midwestern Americans & pushed them farther right

The falling economy made conservative ideas more attractive



Criticizim

Conservatives believed that liberal policies caused stagflation

They believed that the government taxed citizens & business too much & spent money on the wrong problems

Unfunded Mandates- Programs that required, but not paid for by the federal government

They also believed that social welfare programs rewarded people who showed no effort

Sagebrush Rebels- Conservatives who believed the government controlled too much land in the West & wanted control to go towards the states

Changing Demographics

Moral Majority- Political organization to fulfill religious goals. Created by Rev. Jerry Falwell

The organization rallied people who were upset with abortion laws & the government forbidding prayer in school

As Americans moved toward the Rust Belt, they favored Republican ideas.

The South would realign with the Republican party from the Democratic Party, especially during the Civil Rights movement



A Conservative in the White House

Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election as a Republican built on faith, opposition to big government, & need for a strong military.

Reagan started his career as a “B” movie actor before moving to politics

He began to work for General Electric & speak out about big government, high taxes, & communism

He would eventually be elected to governor of California before setting his sights on the white house



1980 Election

People were upset with President Carter's presidency after several issues such as inflation & the Iran Hostage Crisis

The Presidential race was very close until the only debate showed Reagan as a calm & even tempered speaker

Reagan won 50.7% of the popular vote, but most states have a "winner take all" electoral college

Reagan won with 90% of the electoral college vote!

