

Resurgence of Conservatism
1980s
Chapter 33



Midge Decter, a *New Yorker* and a writer for the conservative publication *Commentary*, was appalled at the terror that hit her city on a hot July night in 1977. On the night of July 13, the power failed in New York City. Street lights went dark. Elevators, subways, and air conditioners stopped running. The blackout left millions of people in darkness, and looting and arson rocked the city.

City officials and the media blamed the lawlessness on the anger and despair of youth in neglected areas. “They were just waiting for something like this so they could go berserk,” said Lydia Rivers, a Brooklyn resident. Decter, however, had other ideas about who was to blame for the terror in her city:

“The answer is that all those young men went on their spree of looting because they had been given permission to do so. They had been given permission to do so by all the papers and magazines, movies and documentaries—all the outlets for the purveying of enlightened liberal attitude and progressive liberal policy—which had for years and years been proclaiming that race and poverty were sufficient excuses for lawlessness. . . .”

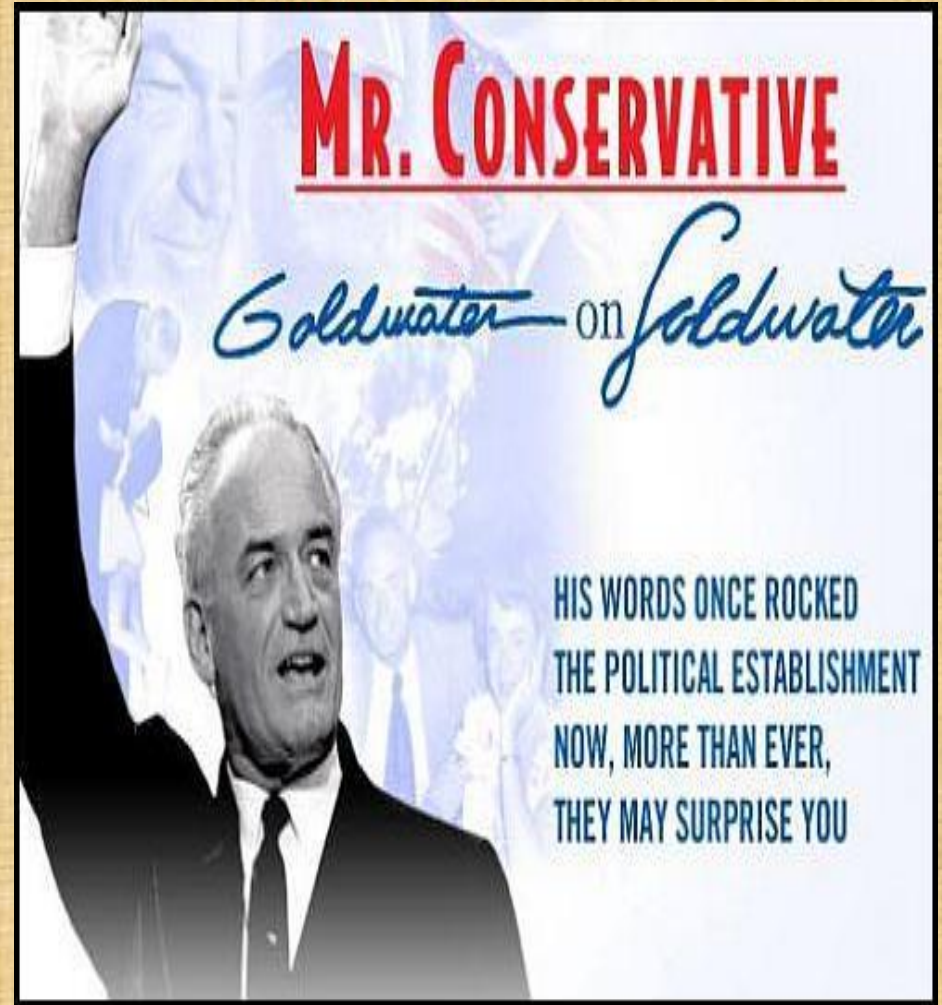
New Conservatism

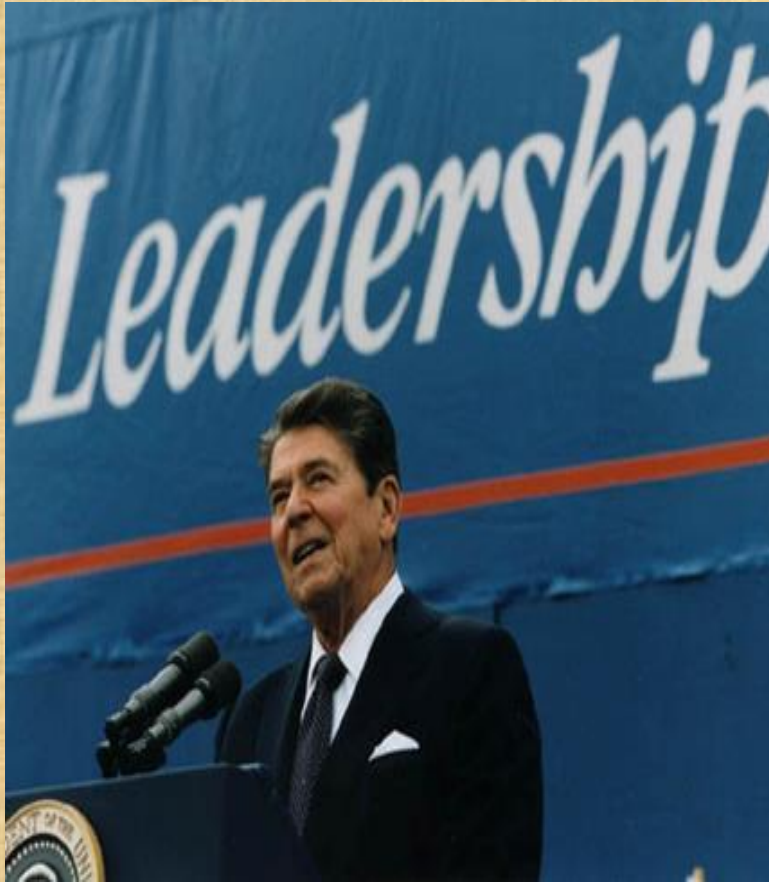
- Liberals vs. Conservatives
 - Democrats vs. Republicans
 - Federal vs. State powers
- **Economics:**
 - Conservatives: Gov. is the problem
 - Anti-New Deal
 - Anti-Great Society
 - Anti-tax...Prop. 13 in Calif.
 - Liberals: Gov. has solutions
- **Social issues**
 - Conservatives: Religious values, faith
 - Liberals: Individual beliefs, ERA, privacy, free expression
 - Roe v. Wade...Abortion



Conservatives

- Barry Goldwater, 1964
 - modern conservatism
 - Strength
 - Sunbelt (south and southwest)
 - suburbs
 - Religious circles
 - Billy Graham
 - Moral Majority
 - Jerry Falwell
 - Pat Robertson





Much of this talk has come from leaders who claim that our problems are too difficult to handle. We are supposed to meekly accept their failures as the most which humanly can be done.

They tell us we must learn to live with less, and teach our children that their lives will be less full and prosperous than ours have been; that the America of the coming years will be a place where, because of our past excesses, it will be impossible to dream and make those dreams come true.

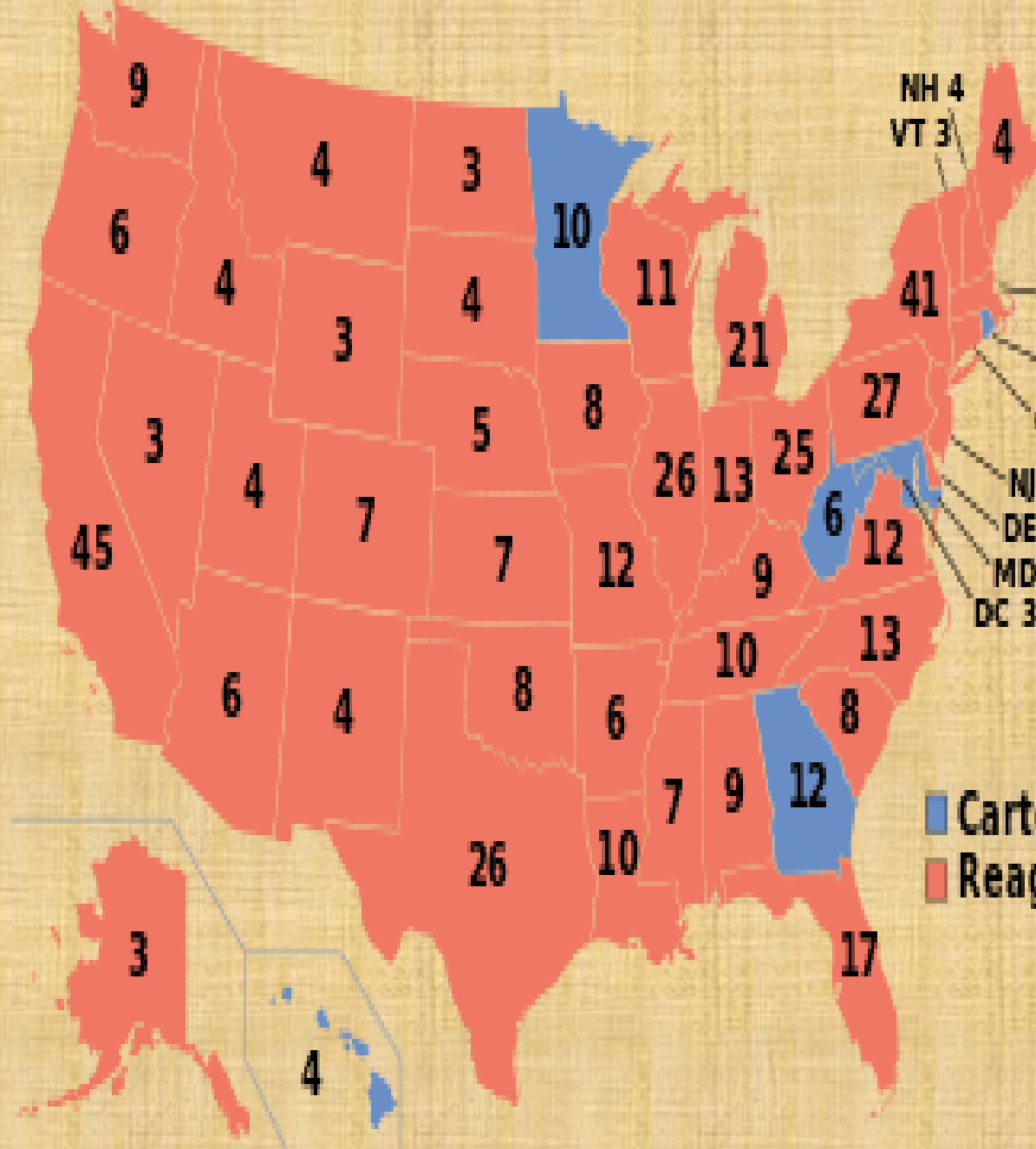
I don't believe that. And, I don't believe you do either.

— Ronald Reagan, 1979

1. List five Reagan claims that the experts have told Americans about their future?
2. What is Reagan's opinion of the Experts' expectations?

1980 Election

- Reagan's Personality
 - Actor
 - Ex-democrat turned Republican
 - California governor
- Carter's liberalism
 - Reagan Victory (b/c of Iran Hostage Crisis)



Review: Understanding Conservatives

1. List three basic economic beliefs of conservatives.
2. List four supporting groups for conservatives.
3. The _____ case was in direct opposition to social conservative beliefs.
4. The _____ party embraced the founding principles of conservatism in the 1960-1990s.
5. In the 1980s, _____ led a conservative revolution.
6. _____ and _____ were important fundamentalist religious leaders in the 1970s-1980s.
7. _____ was the most important factor in the 1980 presidential election. Why?

In 1926 when he was 15 years old, Ronald Reagan earned \$15 a week as a lifeguard at Lowell Park on the Rock River in Illinois. Being a lifeguard, Reagan later wrote, taught him quite a bit about human nature:

“Lifeguarding provides one of the best vantage points in the world to learn about people. During my career at the park, I saved seventy-seven people. I guarantee you they needed saving—no lifeguard gets wet without good reason. . . . Not many thanked me, much less gave me a reward, and being a little money-hungry, I’d done a little daydreaming about this. They felt insulted. I got to recognize that people hate to be saved. . . .”

—quoted in *Where’s the Rest of Me?*

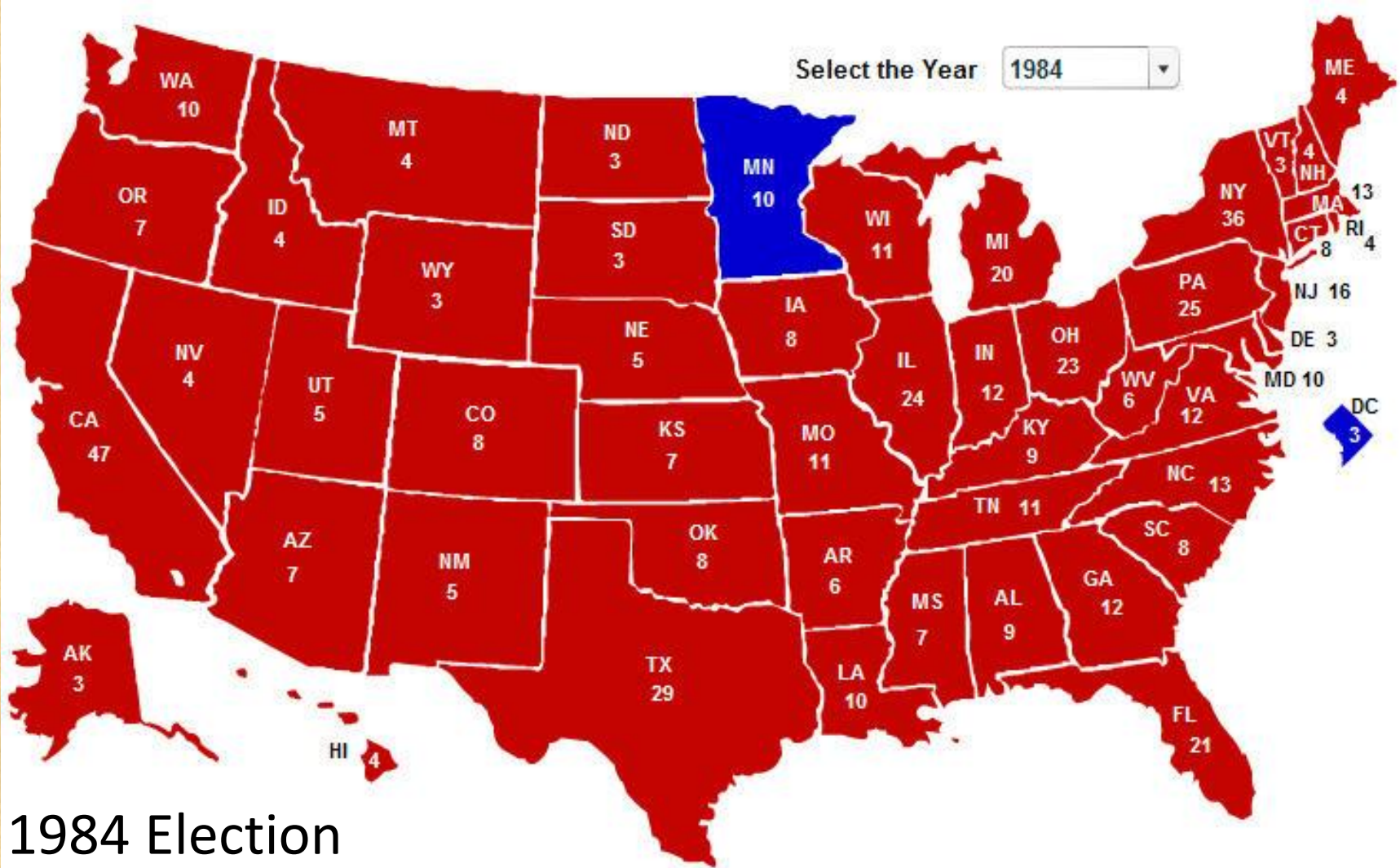
The belief that people did not really want to be saved by someone else was one of the ideas that Ronald Reagan took with him to the White House. It fit with his philosophy of self-reliance and independence.

The Great Conservative Communicator

Ronald Reagan

- Reagan's Domestic Policy
 - Economics leads to Boom,
 - Supply side...Trickle-down economics
 - Reaganomics
 - Tax cuts, high interest rates, rich would become richer and the money would *trickle-down* to all, New jobs...new businesses
 - Cut social programs
 - Budget deficits
 - De-regulation of price controls
 - Court...follow the original meaning of the constitution
 - O'Connor, woman
 - Rehnquist, conservative
 - Kennedy, moderate





- 1984 Election

- Reagan vs. Mondale

- VP Ferraro woman-democrat)

Reagan Doctrine

- Build-up the military
 - Peace through strength
 - Outspending the Soviets
 - Strategic Defense Initiative...Star Wars...Nuclear shield
- Support pro-western regimes anywhere
 - Afghanistan...rebels
 - Nicaragua...contras
 - Grenada...communists...invasion
 - Iran-Contras Scandal
 - Poindexter/North arms deals...Reagan knew of arms but not funding Contras
 - Berlin
- Arms Control
 - SALT (strategic arms limitation talks) Ford/Carter
 - START (strategic arms reduction talks) Reagan
 - INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) Reagan...missiles in Europe
- Soviets cannot compete
 - New leader, Gorbachev

Reagan's Foreign Policy



Review, Ronald Reagan

1. List three aspects of the Reagan Doctrine.
2. Reaganomics was the popular term used to describe _____ or Trickle Down Economics.
3. _____ became the first woman supreme court justice.
4. In _____, Reagan declared, Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this wall!
5. List three attempts at arms control in the 1970s-1980s.
6. _____ was the commonly used term for Strategic Defense Initiative.

In the 1980s many young, ambitious professionals entered the heady world of finance.

Julie Katzman, in her twenties, was on the fast track:

“I constantly spent my time at the firm. I mean, all the time. I worked probably eighty hours a week. At the end of the summer, that Labor Day weekend, I got involved in another huge acquisition. That weekend I worked two and a half days without sleeping, and from that point until early December I didn't work a single week less than a hundred hours. You spend all your time working. You're kind of wiped out, but there's a lot of fulfillment. There's an incredible adrenaline rush. This is what you live on. You live on the highs.”

1980s Lifestyles

- Yuppies...
 - young urban professionals
 - Indulgent years
- Technology
 - VCRs, CNN, Cable TV, MTV
 - Rap
 - Computer games (pong)
 - Space Shuttles
 - Sally Ride
 - Challenger catastrophe
 - Christa McAuliffe
 - Space station?



1980s Society

- Society
 - Crime and drugs
 - Just say no!
 - MADD (Mothers against drunk driving)
 - AIDS...HIV
 - Gays/Lesbians
 - Stonewall riot
 - Environmentalism
 - Sierra Club vs. James Watt
 - Benefit Concerts
 - AARP

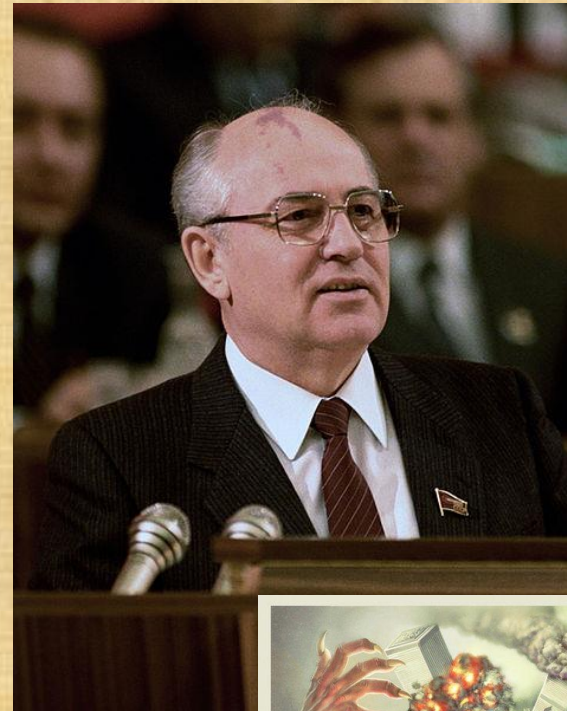


On October 31, 1990, General Colin Powell, who was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and other high-ranking officials met with President George Bush. In August the country of Iraq had invaded neighboring Kuwait. American troops had been rushed to the Middle East in response. Now the president had to decide whether to go to war.

General Brent Scowcroft, a close adviser to Bush, began the meeting: "Mr. President, we are at a Y in the road. Down one branch we can continue sanctions. . . . Down the other branch we . . . go on the attack." Powell then presented the plan for attacking Iraq. Several advisers gasped at the numbers, which called for over 500,000 American troops. "Mr. President," Powell began, "I wish . . . that I could assure you that air power alone could do it but you can't take that chance. We've gotta take the initiative out of the enemy's hands if we're going to go to war." Cheney later recalled that Bush "never hesitated." He looked up from the plans and said simply, "Do it."

The End of the Cold War

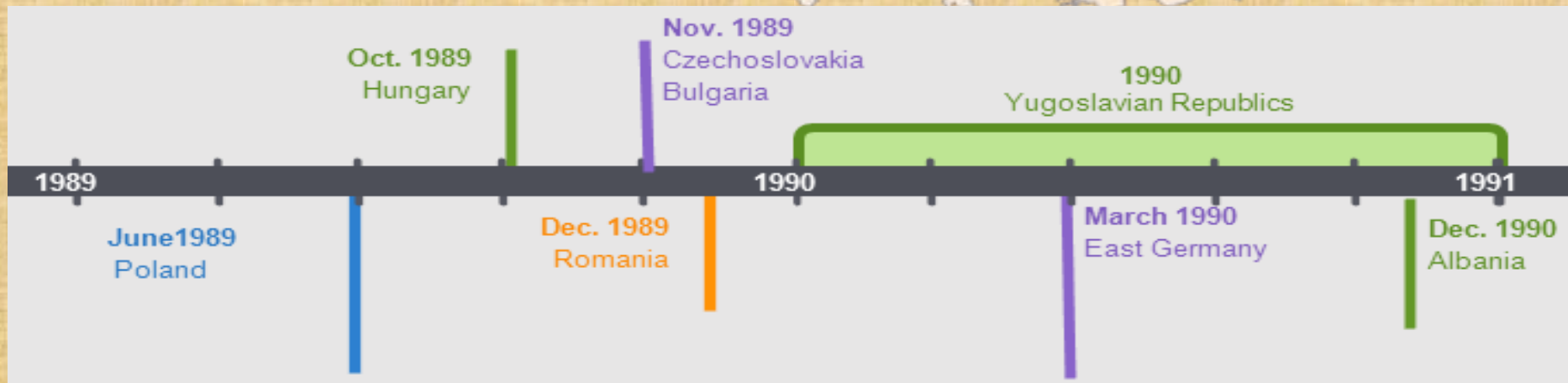
- 1988 Election
 - Dukakis vs. Bush
 - ***Read my lips...no new taxes***
 - Bush wins
- Cold War Ends...1989-1991
 - Soviets under Gorbachev
 - Perestroika (restructuring)
 - Glasnost (openness)
 - Military Coup...fails
 - Eastern European revolutions...communism is gone
 - Soviets break up...rise of Boris Yeltsin's Russia
 - China's democracy
 - Tiananmen Square Massacre
 - Democracy dies



Time line

The chart below identifies the speed of the collapse of European communism.

1. How many months did it take for the collapse of Eastern European communism until the end?



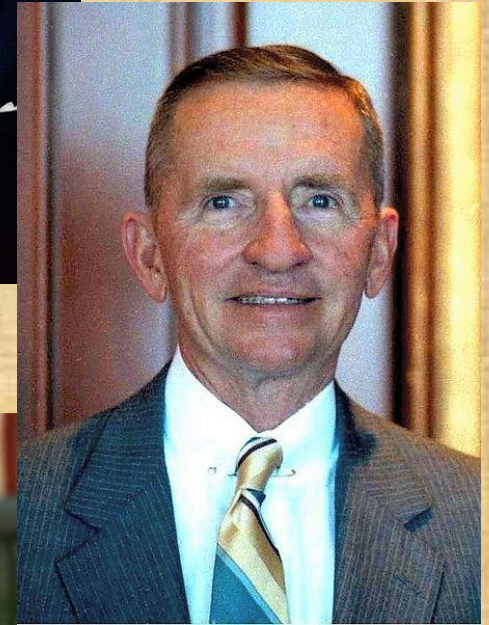
Modern Conflicts

- New World Order
 - US only superpower left
 - policeman of world
 - Panama
 - drugs
 - Persian Gulf
 - Saddam Hussein
 - Iraq invades Kuwait/Saudi Arabia
 - United Nations' Desert Shield/Desert Storm

Bill Clinton's Rise

• 1992 Election

- Clinton
- Bush
- H. Ross Perot
- ***It's the economy, stupid!***
- Too much spending in the 1980s
- Congressional gridlock
- Tax cuts or budget cuts?
- A new political party?
 - A grassroots movement?
- Clinton victory
 - minority president 43%



Review, 1980s-1990s

1. Gorbachev's two words that describe the New Soviet Union were ____ and ____.
2. ____ was the leader of the new Russia in the 1990s.
3. ____ was the last attempts at freedom in China.
4. ____ were an attempt to become aware of the spreading of the Aids epidemic.
5. ____ became the most dangerous threat to freedom in the Persian Gulf.
6. The New World Order of the 1990s focused on ____ becoming the lone superpower left in the world.
7. List the three candidates for president in 1992?
8. President Bush's quote ____ was his summation of why he lost the 1992 election.