Life of the 1980’s
Chapter 22 Section 4

Space Shuttle
- In the 1980’s NASA developed the Space Shuttle which was a re-usable space aircraft.
- Columbia was the 1st Space Shuttle to take off in 1981
- Tragedy struck in 1986 when the Space Shuttle Challenger blew up and all Astronauts were killed
- Some worried that along with SDI, Space shuttles would lead to militarization of space.
- The space program led to inventions like infrared cameras and treatment for brain tumors.

Uneven Economic Growth
- The 1980’s marked the longest peacetime economic growth up to that time
- 1982-1989 GDP went up 3.5% a year
- Alan Greenspan leader of the FED manipulated interest rates to avoid inflation and recession.
- Unclear whether “Reaganomics” or the FED created the prosperity of the 80’s
- But strong economics of the 1980’s was unevenly distributed.
- Farmers had a tough time: Old industries like steel and auto fell: Rich got richer and poor got poorer.
Rising Deficits, S&L, and Bush

- Tax cuts and increased military spending caused **huge budget deficits**.
- The **deficit** went from 1.2 trillion in 1980 to 5.7 in 1988.
- Reagan’s government deregulated major businesses
- **Savings and Loan Crisis**: Deregulation led these banks to make risky loans, when the housing bust occurred they went bankrupt.
- The Federal Government spent **152 billion dollars to bail out these banks** to save people savings.
- **Economic downfalls** in the US proved to defeat Bush.
- The S&L crisis and recession made Bush break his promise of no new taxes. Even with the taxes, the deficit rose
- Breaking his promise lost him the election of 1992

Essential Questions

1. Why was the Space Shuttle so important?
2. Who was responsible for the good economic times of the 1980’s?
3. What caused huge deficits in the 1980’s?
4. What promise did Bush Break? How did this hurt him?

Milestones

- Women voted in **higher number** than men and they increasingly voted for **Democrats**
- Republicans were against abortion
- Politicians began to listen to them
- **Sandra Day O’Connor** became the 1st woman nominated to the Supreme Court.
- Walter Mondale named the 1st woman vice Presidential candidate: **Geraldine Ferraro**
- **ADA**: Americans with Disabilities Act was signed in 1990 by Bush to end discrimination of people with Disabilities
Social Issues

- Laws from 1980 and 1986 allowed increased immigration to the U.S and gave **amnesty** for illegal immigrants already here.
- Employers were given penalties for **hiring illegal immigrants**.
- **New Jersey v. T.L.O.** made it legal for schools to search student’s belongings.
- **Planned Parenthood of Southeastern PA v. Casey** required 24 hour waiting periods and parental consent for minors for abortions.
- **Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health** ruled that a person could refuse medical treatment to die.

Supreme Court Nominees

- Reagan got to fill 3 seats on the Supreme Court and **tried to choose conservatives**.
- The most controversial choice was **Clarence Thomas**, a black conservative.
- **Anita Hill** claimed that he sexually harassed her and the Senate held hearings on the matter.
- This aggressive questioning **offended many women** and further turned them against Republicans.
- Thomas became the **2nd African-American Supreme Court Judge**.
- **AIDS** became one of the worst infection diseases in human history. People with AIDS were often discriminated against

Essential Questions

1. How did women vote in the 1980’s?
2. Who was Sandra Day O’Connor?
3. How did Reagan try to appoint Supreme Court Justices?
4. Why were women upset with the Senate hearings with Anita Hill?