

“The Era of Big Government Is Over”:
The 1980s and 1990s
1980–2000

Year 3
History Unit 6
Workbook

Lessons 1–2: The Reagan Revolution



President Ronald Reagan being sworn in for his second term in the U.S. Capitol, January 21, 1985 (Wikimedia)

To what extent was Ronald Reagan’s presidency revolutionary?

Lesson 1
Do Now



Ronald Reagan giving his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention at Joe Louis Arena, Detroit, 1980 (Ronald Reagan Presidential Library)

1. What are **two** things you notice about the photograph above?

2. What are **two** questions you have about the photograph above?

Lesson 1
Note-Taking Template

Reaganomics	The New Right	Foreign Policy

Lesson 2
Debate Planning Guide

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions to brainstorm ideas for your debate. Be as specific and as thorough as possible!

Your Task: Based on your assigned role (pro or con), was Ronald Reagan’s presidency revolutionary?

DIRECTIONS: Outline your debate below. Make sure that your arguments are simple, clear, and compelling. Then make sure the evidence you choose is convincing and supports your arguments.

- **Argument 1:**
 - **Piece of evidence 1:**

 - **Piece of evidence 2:**

- **Argument 2:**
 - **Piece of evidence 1:**

 - **Piece of evidence 2:**

Lesson 2
Do Now

Answer the following short-answer questions based on your work on your debate planning guide.

1. What is your argument for today's debate?

2. What evidence will you use to support your argument in the debate?

Lesson 6: The Evolution of the American Workforce



Office cubicles in the headquarters of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Photograph by Carol Highsmith, 1980 (Library of Congress: Prints and Photographs Division)

**Why did the American workforce evolve
in the 1980s and 1990s?**

Lesson 6
Note-Taking Template

The Computer Revolution	Immigration	Gender Roles in the Workforce	Changes in Industry

Lesson 6
Exit Ticket

*Bill Gates is the founder of Microsoft, and he was a leader of the computer revolution. Below is an excerpt from his book *The Road Ahead*, published in 1996 by Penguin Books.*

Capitalism, demonstrably the greatest of the constructed economic systems, has in the past decade clearly proved its advantages over the alternative systems. As the Internet evolves into a broadband, global, interactive network, those advantages will be magnified. Product and service providers will see what buyers want a lot more efficiently than ever before, and consumers will buy more efficiently.

1. According to Gates, how would technology affect American society?
 - a. Information technology will make it easier to buy and sell goods.
 - b. Information technology will make capitalism obsolete.
 - c. The lack of regulation of new technology will devastate the economy.
 - d. The costs of information technology will outweigh its benefits.

2. The demographics of the American workforce shifted in all of the following ways except:
 - a. More women joined the workforce.
 - b. New immigrants diversified the workforce.
 - c. Jobs shifted to the service industry and away from manufacturing.
 - d. Men left the workforce in large numbers.

3. To what extent did all Americans benefit from the evolution of the American workforce?
 - a. The growing workforce benefited all Americans, who found jobs in any sector.
 - b. While more Americans had access to the workforce, Americans in the manufacturing industry suffered, as their jobs disappeared.
 - c. While unemployment decreased rapidly, few Americans could afford the benefits promised by the invention of the personal computer.
 - d. Because the workforce evolved so rapidly, few Americans had the skills to work in most new industries.

Lessons 7–9: The Clinton Presidency



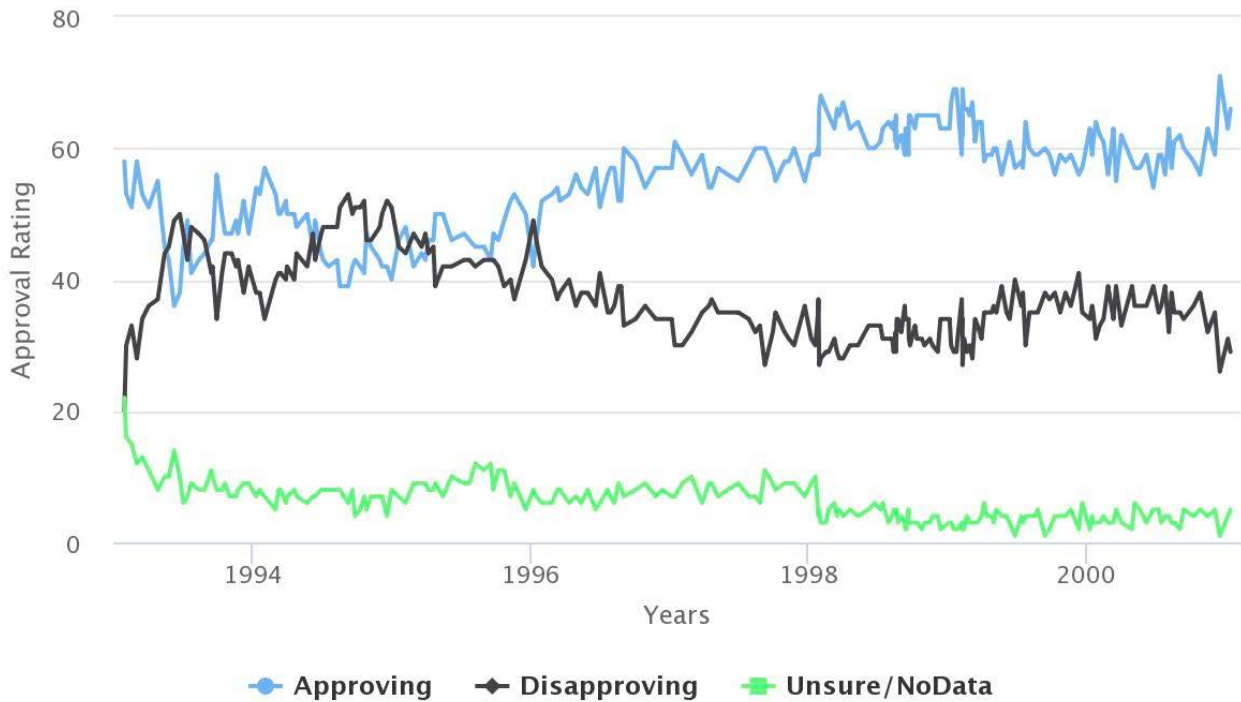
*President Bill Clinton. Photograph by Bob McNeely
(The White House)*

**To what extent was Bill Clinton’s presidency
a time of national prosperity?**

Lesson 7
Do Now

William J. Clinton Approval Ratings

1993-2001



The American Presidency Project

(American Presidency Project, Presidency.UCSB.edu)

1. What are **two** things you notice about the graph above?

2. What are **two** questions you have about the graph above?

Lessons 7–9
DBQ

Historical Context: The 1990s were one of the most economically prosperous decades since World War II: The economy grew, unemployment dropped, and the U.S. government had a surplus for the first time in decades. However, inequality was growing during this era, and controversial measures like welfare reform and “tough on crime” legislation did not positively affect everyone; indeed, their consequences are still debated today. Even so, despite an extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky and an impeachment trial, Clinton left office as one of America’s most popular presidents.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of history, answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers will help you write the essay that follows: *To what extent was Clinton’s presidency a time of national prosperity?*

As you read documents A through D, answer the corresponding questions below:

1. According to the text and the graph in Document A, how did Clinton’s economic policies affect poverty levels in the United States? Be sure to think carefully about your claim and to articulate it simply and clearly.

2. According to Bill Clinton in Document B, how will welfare reform improve American lives? Be sure to think carefully about your claim to and articulate it simply and clearly.

3. According to **both** rates in the graph in Document C, did Clinton’s crime bill affect rates of violent crime and incarceration? Why or why not? Be sure to think carefully about your claim and to articulate it simply and clearly.

4. Based on the excerpt in Document D, what did President Clinton’s impeachment reveal about Congress? Be sure to think carefully about your claim and to articulate it simply and clearly.

DBQ Planning Page

Directions: Write a well-organized essay of no more than 400 words that answers the following question: **To what extent was Bill Clinton’s presidency a time of national prosperity?**

In your essay, be sure to:

- Clearly answer the question being asked. **THINK before you write!**
- Use evidence from **at least** three of the documents provided.
- Include relevant outside information from your knowledge of U.S. history.

Thesis:

Piece of evidence 1:

Analysis:

Piece of evidence 2:

Analysis:

Piece of evidence 3:

Analysis: