

HIST 2112

"Morning in America": The Age of Reagan

- Reagan's Political Odyssey – 1930's-1960's
- The 1970's brought on a conservative era
- People lost a faith in government
- Term
 - o January, 1981 – January, 1989
- Reagan's Political Odyssey – 1930s-1960s
 - o Born in 1911 in Illinois
 - o Lifeguard in his young years
 - o The acting years – 1930s and 1940s
 - o From New Dealer to Right-Winger
 - Reagan the Liberal
 - HUAC and Reagan's Anticommunism
 - Becomes anti-'big government' spokesman for General Electric
 - Joins GOP, gives speeches for Goldwater
 - o Reagan becomes Republican Governor of California – 1966
- Jimmy Carter and the rise of the New Right
 - o Carter the moderate and the "conservatization" of the Democratic Party
 - Age of liberal consensus is coming to an end
 - o The Iranian Hostage Crisis – 1979-1981
 - Angry with America for overruling their revolution and establishing their government
 - Kept American hostages for a year and a half
- President Reagan's Four Promises – 1980-1988
 - o Revive Patriotism and Confidence
 - End the "Vietnam syndrome"
 - Too simplistic?
 - o Dramatically increase military size/strength
 - High-tech weapons
 - Military spending rises 40%
 - "Rollback" – containment, v. 2
 - o Intense support for big business, aggressive capitalism
 - Tax cuts for wealth – "supply-side economics"
 - Cutting welfare programs
 - Deregulation – environment, safety, etc.
 - James Watt and Anne Gorsuch Burford
 - Felt they were excessive, hampering businesses

- Took these companies and put their opponents in charge
 - Burford was a strong opposer of the EPA
 - She was placed in charge
 - Opposed union excesses
 - Air traffic controllers' strike, 1980
 - Push "traditional values"
 - Oppose abortion
 - Oppose gay rights
 - Support (Christian) prayer in schools
 - Contradictions – Reagan not very religious, and the idea of "big-government morality"