

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Presidencies of...

**NIXON**

**FORD**

**Carter**

**Reagan**

Score			GradeCam ID			
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

# U.S. History – Learning Target Track Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 6: Nixon to Reagan

**Big Idea Question:** What will the lasting legacies of each President be?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Learning Target for the Day</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Personal Perspective</u>
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			

<b>Date</b>	<b>Learning Target for the Day</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Personal Perspective</b>
Thursday			
Friday			

**Big Idea Question:** In three or four sentences, answer the Big Idea question. Do so using at least three vocabulary words of the week.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Outline for Nixon through Reagan

*For each bullet, write a one-two sentence summary describing the term or phrase.*

#### Nixon

- New Federalism
- Stagflation
- Détente/SALT-
- Watergate

#### Environmental Movement

- Silent Spring
- EPA

#### Ford

- Pardon

#### Carter

- Camp David Accords
- Oil Shortage
- Iranian Hostages

#### Reagan

- Reaganomics/Supply Sided Economics
- New New Federalism
- End of the Cold War

## Oil Embargo

Political unrest in the oil-rich Middle East contributed significantly to America's economic troubles. After suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Arab leaders unsheathed a new political weapon--oil. In order to pressure Israel out of territory conquered in the 1967 and 1973 wars, Arab nations cut oil production 25 percent and embargoed all oil exports to the United States. Leading the way was OPEC, founded by Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela in 1960 to fight a reduction in prices by oil companies.

Because Arab nations controlled 60 percent of the oil reserves in the non-Communist world, they had the Western nations over a barrel. Production cutbacks produced an immediate global shortage. The United States imported a third of its oil from Arab nations; Western Europe imported 72 percent from the Middle East; Japan, 82 percent. Gas prices rose, long lines formed at gas pumps, some factories shortened the work week, and some shopping centers restricted business hours.

The oil crisis brought to an end an era of cheap energy. Americans had to learn to live with smaller cars and less heating and air conditioning. But the crisis did have a positive side effect. It increased public consciousness about the environment and stimulated awareness of the importance of conservation. For millions of Americans the lessons were painful to learn.

### Questions for Understanding:

1. Why was oil kept from American trade?
2. How did Americans experience the effects of the oil embargo at home?
3. What do some argue is the positive impact of the oil embargo?

## Détente

As president, Richard Nixon radically redefined America's relationship with its two foremost adversaries, China and the Soviet Union. In a remarkable turnabout from his record of staunch anti-communism, Nixon opened relations with China and began strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) with the Soviet Union. The goal of détente (the easing of tensions between nations) was to continue to resist and deter Soviet adventurism while striving for "more constructive relations" with the Communist world.

Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger believed that it was necessary to curb the arms race, improve great-power relationships, and learn to coexist with Communist regimes. The Nixon administration sought to use the Chinese and Soviet need for Western trade and technology as a way to extract foreign policy concessions.

Recognizing that one of the legacies of Vietnam was reluctance on the part of the American public to risk overseas interventions, Nixon and Kissinger also sought to build up regional powers that shared American strategic interests, most notably China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

By the late 1970s, an increasing number of Americans believed that the Soviet hard-liners viewed détente as a mere tactic to lull the West into relaxing its vigilance. Soviet Communist Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev reinforced this view, boasting of gains that his country had made at the United States's expense--in Vietnam, Angola, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Laos.

An alarming Soviet arms buildup contributed to the sense that détente was not working. By 1975, the Soviet Union had 50 percent more intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) than the United States, three times as many army personnel, three times as many attack submarines, and four times as many tanks. The United States continued to have a powerful strategic deterrent, holding a 9,000 to 3,200 advantage in deliverable nuclear bombs and warheads. But the arms gap between the countries was narrowing.

### Questions for Understanding:

1. What is the purpose of détente?
2. Look up the meaning of the word "adventurism".
3. How did Nixon plan on getting the Chinese and Soviets to cooperate with him?
4. What was the lasting effect or impact of détente? Give evidence.

### **Carter's Triumph**

In the Middle East, President Carter achieved his greatest diplomatic success by negotiating peace between Egypt and Israel. Since the founding of Israel in 1948, Egypt's foreign policy had been built around destroying the Jewish state. In 1977, Anwar el-Sadat, the practical and farsighted leader of Egypt, decided to seek peace with Israel. It was an act of rare political courage, as Sadat risked alienating Egypt from the rest of the Arab world without a firm commitment for a peace treaty with Israel.

Although both countries wanted peace, major obstacles had to be overcome. Sadat wanted Israel to retreat from the West Bank of the Jordan River and from the Golan Heights (which it had taken from Jordan in the 1967 war), to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to provide a homeland for the Palestinians, to relinquish its unilateral hold on the city of Jerusalem, and to return the Sinai to Egypt. Such conditions were unacceptable to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who refused to consider recognition of the PLO or the return of the West Bank. By the end of 1977, Sadat's peace mission had run aground.

Jimmy Carter broke the deadlock by inviting both men to Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, for face-to-face talks. For two weeks in September 1978, they hammered out peace accords. Although several important issues were left unresolved, Begin did agree to return the Sinai to Egypt. In return, Egypt promised to recognize Israel, and as a result, became a staunch U.S. ally. For Carter it was a proud moment. Unfortunately, the rest of the Arab Middle East denounced the Camp David accords, and in 1981, Sadat paid for his vision with his life when anti-Israeli Egyptian soldiers assassinated him.

In 1978, Carter also pushed the Panama Canal Treaty through the Senate, which provided for the return of the Canal Zone to Panama and improved the image of the United States in Latin America. One year later, he extended diplomatic recognition to the People's Republic of China. Carter's successes in the international arena, however, would soon be overshadowed by the greatest challenge of his presidency--the Iran hostage crisis.

#### **Questions for Understanding:**

1. What obstacles did President Carter have to jump in order to broker peace between Egypt and Israel?
2. What was the result of the meeting at Camp David (AKA the Camp David Accords)?
3. Describe the Panama Canal Treaty:

June 2—Queen moved out of his adjoining room into mine so the two of us now share my room  
June 12—much gunfire. Apparently a demonstration by persons who are against the students holding us.

#### ACTUAL DIARY ENTRIES

Nov. 3, 1979. Went to Embassy residence in evening to see movie. After movie was told by Charge' that Consular Section was to be closed the next day so that the front could be repainted where demonstrators had painted slogans. I was surprised to receive this news as I had not heard about it elsewhere.

Nov. 4, 1979: Since I wasn't sure whether we were expected to work at the Consular Section, in view of what the Charge' had told me last evening, I went to the office just the same at 7:30 as I had quite a bit of work to do anyway. When I got there, however, I found that everyone was coming to work as usual but we were not open to the general public. About 9:00 I was in my office when a young American woman, apparently the wife of an Iranian, was shown into my office as she wanted to obtain her mother-in-law's Iranian passport that had been left at the Consular Section a day or so before for a non-immigrant visa. Just as I was talking to her in an attempt to find out to whom the passport had been issued, when it was left with us, etc., we were told by the Consul General to drop everything and get up to the second floor of the Consular Section. I really didn't know what was happening but was told that a mob had managed to get into the Embassy Compound and, for our own protection, everyone had to go upstairs immediately.

I noticed that the Consul General was removing the visa plates and locking the visa stamping machines. I went upstairs with the American woman and could see a number of young men in the area between the rear of the Consular Section and the Embassy CO-OP store. We were told to sit on the floor in the outer hallway offices. A Marine Security Guard was present and was in contact with the main Embassy building (Chancery) by walkie-talkie. After an hour or so we could hear that the mob, which turned out to be student revolutionaries, were also on the walkie-talkie. The Marine Guard then advised that we were going to evacuate the Consular Section.

There were some visitors on the second floor in the Immigrant Visa Unit and the American Services Unit. I was asked to assist an elderly gentleman, either an American of Iranian origin or an Iranian citizen, I don't know, since he was almost blind and was completely terrified, and to be the first one out of the building. When we got outside he was met by a relative who took him away in his car. The students outside the Consular Section appeared to be somewhat confused at that point and the Consul General and about four other American members of the Consular Section, of which I was one, started up the street with the intention of going to his residence. When we were about 1 ½ blocks from the Consular Section we were surrounded by a group of the students, who were armed, and told to return to the Compound. When we protested a shot was fired into the air above our heads.

It was raining moderately at the time. We were taken back to the Compound, being pushed and hurried along the way and forced to put our hands above our heads and then marched to the Embassy residence. After arriving at the residence I had my hands tied behind my back so



tightly with nylon cord that circulation was cut off. I was taken upstairs and put alone in a rear bedroom and after a short time was blindfolded. After protesting strongly that the cord was too tight the cord was removed and the blindfold taken off when they tried to feed me some dates and I refused to eat anything I couldn't see. I strongly protested the violation of my diplomatic immunity, but these protests were ignored. I then was required to sit in a chair facing the bedroom wall. Then another older student came in and when I again protested the violation of my diplomatic immunity he confiscated my U.S. Mission Tehran I.D. card. My hands were again tied and I was taken to the Embassy living room on the ground floor where a number of other hostages were gathered. Some students attempted to talk with us, stating how they didn't hate Americans—only our U.S. Government, President Carter, etc. We were given sandwiches and that night I slept on the living room floor. We were not permitted to talk to our fellow hostages and from then on our hands were tied day and night and only removed while we were eating or had to go to the bathroom.

Nov. 5, 1979: After remaining in the living room the next morning I was taken into the Embassy dining room and forced to sit on a dining room chair around the table with about twelve or so other hostages. Our hands were tied to each side of the chair. We could only rest by leaning on to the dining table and resting our head on a small cushion. The drapes were drawn and we were not permitted to talk with the other hostages. At one point my captors also tried to make me face the wall but I objected since I had no way to rest my head and after considerable objections I was permitted to continue facing the table. Our captors always conversed in stage whispers. We were untied and taken to the toilet as necessary as well as into a small dining room adjacent for meals, then returned to our chairs and again tied to the chair. I slept that night on the floor under the dining table with a piece of drapery for a cover.

Nov. 6, 1979: Spent the day again tied to chairs in the dining room and we were all required to surrender all personal items for "security purposes". I tried to hide my wedding ring and cameo ring that had been given to me by my parents on my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by sitting on them but the following items were forcibly taken from me and my pockets emptied except for some Iranian coins.

- 1 - Gold band wedding ring
- 1 - Gold cameo ring
- 1 - Timex wrist watch
- 1 - Ball point pen with "American President Lines" insignia
- 1 - Pocket comb in Florentine leather case
- 1 - Set of apartment and luggage keys
- 1 - Brown imitation leather notebook

Just after I had gone to bed on the floor under the dining table, I was aroused, handcuffed to another hostage, a blanket was placed over my head, and I was taken in a car or small bus to another building which turned out to be the "warehouse" (building formerly used for certain sensitive equipment). I was placed in a large room with approximately 20 other hostages. It was very hot, almost no ventilation. I had to sleep on a hard floor with only one small pillow cushion. Blankets not necessary as it was so beastly hot. Remained in this warehouse about one week. Toilets were filthy. Had to be blindfolded to go to toilets. Took first shower—water cold—also washed out shirt and underwear in shower stall while taking shower. While in the warehouse a number of the hostages had their valuables returned to them but I was not one of

December 24 and 25, 1979: During the day of December 24 we had been told that the Ayatollah Khomeini had proposed to the U.S. that some priests be sent to Tehran to conduct Christmas religious services for the hostages. On Christmas Eve one of the students came to our room with a number of blank Christmas cards asking whether we wanted to write them to our families. Since I knew that they wouldn't receive them until long after Christmas, I declined to write any. Then later we were told that priests were coming to conduct services and that they would take them back to the U.S. with them for mailing so I then wrote a short letter to my wife. We sat around waiting for a couple of hours on Christmas Even to attend the services but were told that the priest hadn't yet arrived, so we went back to bed. About 2:30 a.m. December 25 we were awakened, told to dress to go downstairs for the services. Our hands were tied as usual and we were blindfolded until just as we entered the residence living room when our hands were untied and our blindfolds removed. We were led into the living room where bright lights were directed at us and cameramen were taking films for TV and stills for newspapers.

Although we had expected that all of us would be in a group for either non-denominational services or a mass for the Catholics, we found instead that only four of us were in the room...Bruce German, myself, the U.S. Army hospital corpsman Don Hohman, and one other I didn't know [William Royer—Iran American Society], flanked on both sides by our captors. The room had been decorated for Christmas with a tree, decorations on the walls, and a table with oranges, apples, some Christmas cookies and Kraft caramels on plates, obviously all this was for public relations (TV), etc., not really to make our Christmas any happier. As nearly as I could determine, the "priests" turned out to be one man—a Rev. Coffin of Riverside Memorial Church in New York who, I later learned, was Dr. Sloan Coffin. He was a large man with a maroon robe who gave us a short talk about how we shouldn't indulge in self-pity (not a very comforting message considering the circumstances) and he then sat at the piano and played a few Christmas carols in which we joined--the four of us.

He apparently had been informed that I was the oldest hostage, as he knew my name and asked me how I was getting along. I told him that if he was under the impression that the students were being kind to us, that it wasn't true. I took one of the plates with an orange, an apple, two Christmas cookies that he had apparently brought with him, and some Kraft caramels. I told him that we could use more fresh fruit as well as more books, as our selection was rather poor. On the floor was a pile of Christmas cards that had been sent to the hostages by Americans in the U.S., apparently as the result of an appeal from a TV newscaster in New York (Alex Paen of WNBC-NY) and Rev. Coffin gave me a handful of about 15-20 cards to take back to my room. I asked him whether he would be available the next day to talk to but he said he wasn't sure. I didn't see him again. We were served a special dinner on Christmas—turkey, sweet potatoes (candied), cranberry jelly, cake and jello.

December 26, 1979: I asked the students for Rev. Coffin's full name, title and correct address so that I could write and thank him for coming to Iran, but it was never give to me, so I wrote him anyway. I also wrote letters to the President, Secretary of State, Senator Warner, Congressman Fischer and the Editor-in-Chief of the Washington Post outlining the conditions under which we were living. I doubted whether any of these letters would pass the censors, but wrote them anyway. I also wrote a five-page letter to the Chairman of the Student Central Committee strongly protesting the violation of our diplomatic immunity; the forcible taking of my personal possessions and demanding their immediate return; the fact that we were not permitted to speak to each other; that we were kept tied at all times; that the lights in our rooms and the constant

## Reaganomics

When President Reagan took office, he promised to rebuild the nation's defenses, restore economic growth, and trim the size of the federal government by limiting its role in welfare, education, and housing. He pledged to end exorbitant union contracts to make American goods competitive again, to cut taxes drastically to stimulate investment and purchasing power, and to decontrol businesses strangled by federal regulation. Even though his policies trimmed little from the size of the federal government, failed to make American goods competitive in the world market, and led to increased consolidation rather than competition, many Americans believed that he had improved the country's economic situation.

Reagan blamed the nation's economic ills on declining capital investment and a tax structure biased against work and productive investment. To stimulate the economy, he persuaded Congress to slash tax rates. In 1981, he pushed a bill through Congress cutting taxes 5 percent in 1981 and 10 percent in 1982 and 1983. In 1986, the administration pushed through another tax bill, which substantially reduced tax rates of the wealthiest Americans to 28 percent, while closing a variety of tax loopholes.

In August 1981, Reagan dealt a devastating blow to organized labor by firing 15,000 striking air-traffic controllers. Union leaders condemned the firings, but in an anti-union atmosphere, most Americans backed Reagan. His popularity ratings soared.

To strengthen the nation's defenses, the Reagan administration doubled the defense budget--to more than \$330 billion by 1987. Reagan believed that a militarily strong America would not have been humiliated by Iran and would have discouraged Soviet adventurism.

Reagan expanded the Carter administration's efforts to decontrol and deregulate the economy. Congress deregulated the banking and natural gas industries and lifted ceilings on interest rates. Federal price controls on airfares were lifted as well. The Environmental Protection Agency relaxed its interpretation of the Clean Air Act; and the Department of the Interior opened up large areas of the federal domain, including offshore oil fields, to private development.

The results of deregulation were mixed. Bank interest rates became more competitive, but smaller banks found it difficult to hold their own against larger institutions. Natural gas prices increased, as did production, easing some of the country's dependence on foreign fuel. Airfares on high-traffic routes between major cities dropped dramatically, but fares for short, low-traffic flights skyrocketed. Most critics agreed, however, that deregulation had restored some short-term competition to the marketplace. Yet in the long-term, competition also led to increased business failures and consolidation.

Reagan's laissez-faire principles could also be seen in his administration's approach to social programs. Convinced that federal welfare programs promoted laziness, promiscuity, and moral decay, Reagan limited benefits to those he considered the "truly needy." His administration cut spending on a variety of social welfare programs, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children; food stamps; child nutrition; job training for young people; programs to prevent child abuse; and mental health services. The Reagan administration also eliminated welfare assistance for the working poor and reduced federal subsidies for child-care services for low-income families. Symbolic of the Reagan social service cuts, an attempt was made by the Agriculture Department in 1981 to allow ketchup to be counted as a vegetable in school lunches.

Reagan left office while the economy was in the midst of its longest post-World War II expansion. The economy was growing faster, with less inflation, than at any time since the mid-1960s. Adjusted for inflation, disposable personal income per person rose 20 percent after 1980. Inflation fell from 13 percent in 1981 to less than 4 percent annually. Unemployment was down to approximately 5 percent.

Critics, however, charged that Reagan had only created the illusion of prosperity. They denounced the massive federal budget deficit, which increased \$1.5 trillion during the Reagan presidency--a deficit that was three times the debt accumulated by all 39 of Reagan's presidential predecessors. His critics decried the growing income gap between rich and poor. They also criticized the expensive consequences of reduced government regulation, namely, cleaning up federal nuclear weapons facilities, and especially, bailing out the nation's savings and loans industry.

Questions for Understanding:

4. List three of the promises made to America by Ronald Reagan:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
5. Why did Reagan believe in having a strong military?
6. Would LBJ and Reagan have gotten along? Why or why not? (Use evidence from above)
7. Give three positive effects of the Reagan policy on economics:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
8. What evidence to critics use to defame the idea of Reagan's "trickle-down economics?"

## **The Collapse of Communism**

For 40 years, Communist Party leaders in Eastern Europe had ruled confidently. Each year their countries fell further behind the West; yet, they remained secure in the knowledge that the Soviet Union, backed by the Red Army, would always send in the tanks when the forces for change became too great. But they had not bargained on a liberal Soviet leader like Mikhail Gorbachev.

As Gorbachev moved toward reform within the Soviet Union and détente with the West, he pushed the conservative regimes of Eastern Europe outside his protective umbrella. By the end of 1989, the Berlin Wall had been smashed. All across Eastern Europe, citizens took to the streets, overthrowing 40 years of Communist rule. Like a series of falling dominos, Communist parties in Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria fell from power.

Gorbachev, who had wanted to reform communism, may not have anticipated the swift swing toward democracy in Eastern Europe. Nor had he fully foreseen the impact that democracy in Eastern Europe would have on the Soviet Union. By 1990, leaders of several Soviet republics began to demand independence or greater autonomy within the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev had to balance the growing demand for radical political change within the Soviet Union with the demand by Communist hardliners. The hardliners demanded that he contain the new democratic currents and turn back the clock. Faced with dangerous political opposition from the right and the left and with economic failure throughout the Soviet Union, Gorbachev tried to satisfy everyone and, in the process, satisfied no one.

In 1990, following the example of Eastern Europe, the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia announced their independence, and other Soviet republics demanded greater sovereignty. Nine of the 15 Soviet republics agreed to sign a new union treaty, granting far greater freedom and autonomy to individual republics. But in August 1991, before the treaty could be signed, conservative Communists tried to oust Gorbachev in a coup d'état. Boris Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Republic, and his supporters defeated the coup, undermining support for the Communist Party. Gorbachev fell from power. The Soviet Union ended its existence in December 1991, when Russia and most other republics formed the Commonwealth of Independent States.

### **Questions for Understanding:**

1. Based on the reading above and your general knowledge of communism and the Cold War, why did the USSR fail?

## **1970s and 1980s Videos & Activities**

As the videos play, answer the questions that are posed. After assigned readings, complete the tasks that follow.

### **1970s Domestic Issues**

#### **A. The Watergate Scandal:**

- a. What year did the scandal take place?
- b. What are the Pentagon Papers?
- c. Why would Nixon be upset these papers were sent to the media?
- d. Why was the group called the Plumbers?
- e. Explain why Nixon would want info from Ellsbury's psychiatrist.
- f. What did the plumbers do at the Watergate hotel?
- g. What evidence do we have to show that the plumbers were successful in imploding the Democratic party?
- h. How did the Democrats do in the 1972 election?
- i. Where was Nixon going to get this money to pay the plumbers?
- j. How much would you expect if you were one of the burglars?
- k. Who are the three people involved with the Washington Post story?
- l. What happened with the Nixon tapes? Why couldn't they be used in any trials?

#### **B. The Pardon of Nixon: <http://www.history.com/topics/watergate/videos/ford-defends-nixon-pardon>**

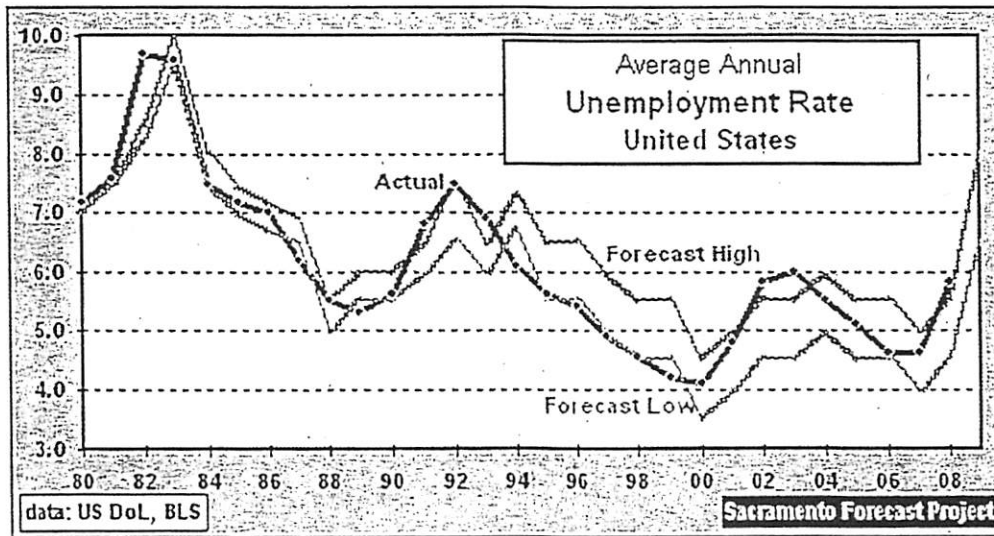
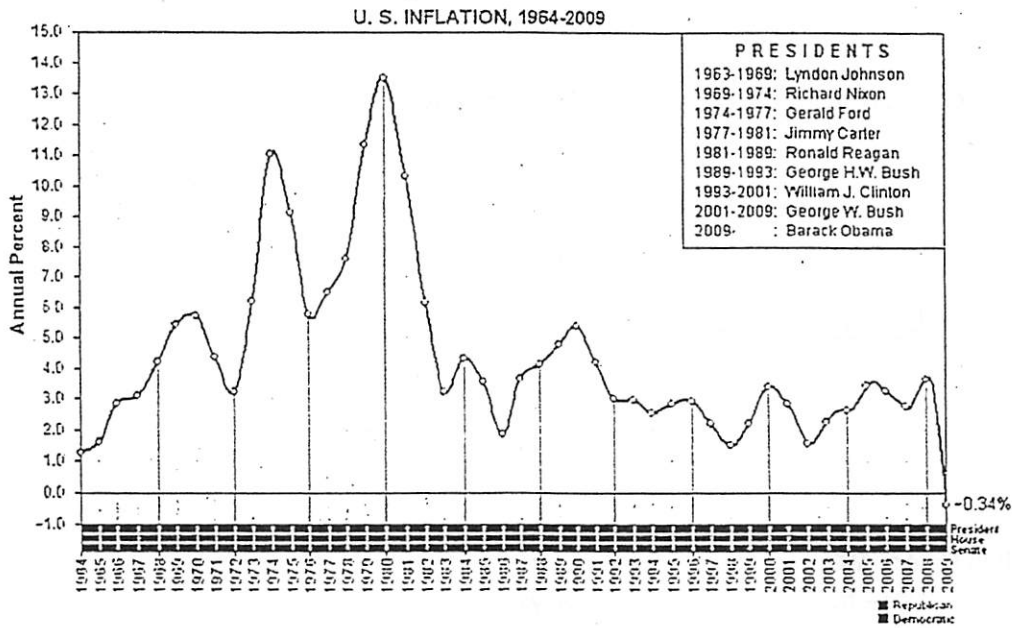
- a. Write two tweets illustrating your feelings if your president pardoned a criminal you wanted to see punished.



The Reagan Era

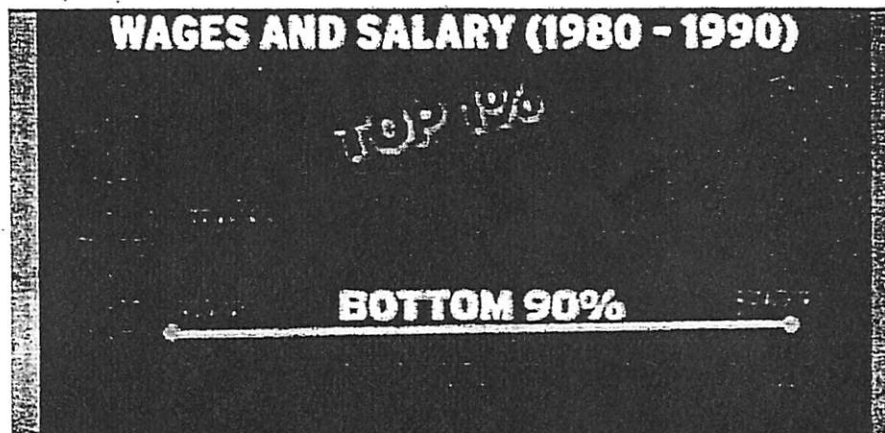
F. Reaganomics

a. Use the charts to determine if you believe "trickle-down" economics worked or not.



**EFFECT OF REAGANOMICS**

**WAGES AND SALARY (1980 - 1990)**





**G. Star Wars**

- a. Why did Reagan spend so much on defense? How did this fit into his economic plans as discussed previously?
- b. Explain Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.
- c. How did this defense plan weaken the Soviets?

**H. Iran Contra Affair**

- a. Take notes on the video as it plays.