

Ronald Reagan

By: Anya Bodenhofer, Sean Herson, and Matt Whouley.



Reagan's Foreign Policy Team



- Had a total of 6 different security advisors during his presidency.
 - Going from Richard Allen to Colin Powell
- The secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger who thought that an increase in the Pentagon's budget was a crucial part for Reagan to deal with the Soviets, was questioned about his involvement in trying to cover up the administrations arms sales to Iran.
- The director of central intelligence William Casey was also under investigation for whatever role he may have played in the Iran-Contra Affair. After he died of a brain tumor. (Which is a mystery to this day.)

Military Buildup

- The military buildup was started due to the analysis that the Soviet Union had not abided by the limitations set by SALT II.
- In response, Reagan raises the military budget up to the largest peacetime budget in history - 220 billion dollars.
- Later his budget planners called for a 7 percent increase in defense spending between in years 1981 - 1985. Totaling at nearly 1 trillion dollars.
 - The money was meant to develop a wide array of new weapons systems, research and development, and improvements in combat readiness and troop mobility.

Reagan Doctrine

- Thought it was necessary to combat the spread of communism across the globe.
- Supported the Carter administration's support of El Salvador's efforts to wipe out marxists rebels during a civil war.
- Increased defense spending in Latin America and Afghanistan
- Thought of Nicaragua as a menace to the western hemispheres stability and blamed it on Cuba.
- During his state of the union address on February 6, 1985, he called for support in the anti-communism from Afghanistan to Nicaragua. And proclaimed that support freedom fighters is self defense.
- Which became known as the Reagan Doctrine.
 - Which later caused some controversy within Nicaragua; that Reagan in return raised a secret army to try and support the contra.

Involvement in Lebanon

1982:

- Reagan believed America had a national security interest in Lebanon to combat the Soviets influence.
- The United States also had a historic relationship with Israel
- During Reagan's first term as president, his relationship with their leader weakened considerably when he watched Israeli bombers bomb Beirut. (The capital of Lebanon.).
 - He demanded that he stop the bombings. Which he did.
- After Israel and other international forces withdrew from here violence broke out again and Reagan ordered American troops back.



Middle Eastern Terrorism

Terrorist started targeting Americans in the Middle East

- The American Embassy was bombed in Kuwait
- Hijackers killed two Americans, with another killing a navy diver soon after.
- Libya hijacked a cruise ship and started bombing airports in Rome and Austria.
- Reagan fired back with over 60 tons of bombs



Iran-Contra Affair

- Sold weapons to Iran under the table
- NSC staff tried to funnel profits from the sale to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua
- Reagan claims he authorized the arms sale but had no idea about the diversion of funds
- Began because the CIA station chief in Beirut, William Buckley, was captured by terrorists with ties to Iran
- Approved the Iran initiative on December 7th, 1985
- Solved the problem of captives initially then more were captured to be used to bargain for more weapons



Reagan and Gorbachev

- Gorbachev rose to power in the Soviet Union
 - Thought he needed to make serious economic reforms
- The two first met in Geneva and developed a symbiotic relationship between their nations.
- During their second meeting in Reykjavik Iceland, their relationship collapsed
 - Gorbachev insisted that Reagan confine the SDI (strategic defense initiative.) to the laboratory.
 - Reagan refused and ended by saying he promised the American people and would not give it up. Then ended the meeting.
- In December 1987, Both Reagan and Gorbachev signed the INF treaty, which decreased the number of nuclear weapons in Europe.
 - Which destructed 2,000 nuclear weapons.



Reagan's Last Year In Office.

December 1988:

- Gorbachev announced to the United Nations that he would reduce his military in Europe by 500,000 soldiers and 10,000 tanks, over the next two years.
- The end of Reagan and Gorbachev's relationship ended during this year, when he decided to visit the Soviet Union to speak to students in the Red Square.
- When asked about calling their country an Evil Empire, he replied " I was talking about another time, another era."
- By the end of Reagan's presidency the Cold War was not officially over, but the end was in sight.