

**Unit 9: 1980-present**

**Questions 1-3 refer to the excerpt below.**

The Cold War was many things to many people. It was the division of the world into two hostile camps. . . It was an ideological contest, some said between capitalism and communism, others said between democracy and authoritarianism. It was a competition for the allegiance of, and for influence over, the so-called Third World. . .

The new world of the post-Cold War era is likely to have few, if any, of these characteristics: that is an indication of how much things have already changed since the Cold War ended. We are at one of those rare points of "punctuation" in history at which old patterns of stability have broken up and new ones have not yet emerged to take their place. . . We know that a series of geopolitical earthquakes has taken place, but it is not yet clear how these upheavals have rearranged the landscape that lies before us. . . .

**Source:** John Lewis Gaddis, historian, "The Cold War, the Long Peace, and the Future," 1992

**1. All of the following factors led to the end of the Cold War except**

- a. Increased U.S. military spending
- b. Reagan's diplomatic initiatives
- c. economic problems in Western Europe
- d. political changes in the Soviet Union

**Explanations:**

- a. **Incorrect:** The U.S. significantly increased its military spending under Reagan
- b. **Incorrect:** Reagan's maintained constant pressure on the Soviet Union and had a civil relationship with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.
- c. **Correct:** Eastern, not Western, European economies were faltering under communism
- d. **Incorrect:** Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost policies weakened the Soviet Union

**2. Which presidential administration is considered most responsible for the end of the Cold War?**

- a. Jimmy Carter
- b. Richard Nixon
- c. Ronald Reagan
- d. Harry Truman

**Explanations:**

- a. **Incorrect:** America's standing in the world was somewhat weakened under the Carter Administration as it inherited significant economic problems and exacerbated geopolitical issues.
- b. **Incorrect:** While Nixon's efforts at reducing tensions with China and the Soviet Union saw limited success and resulted in the end of American involvement in Vietnam, his administration's strategic arms limitation efforts ultimately failed.
- c. **Correct:** Reagan persistently asserted U.S. opposition to communism through speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons.

*d. Incorrect: The Truman administration oversaw the first act of the Cold War and were in no position to see it ended. The dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan set the stage for this drawn out conflict between the US and the Soviet Union.*

- 3. Which of the following developments in the late 20th Century and early 21st Century best represent the author's reference to a new "rearranged" world order?**
- a. The increase in U.S.-led military interventions throughout the globe
  - b. The decline in international trade due to the collapse of the Soviet Union
  - c. Diplomatic relationships between the US, Russia, and China improved and flourished
  - d. Immigration from Asia and Latin America steadily declined

**Explanations:**

- a. Correct: Without the threat of a Soviet response, the US was able to unilaterally influence formerly "2nd World" and "3rd World" hot spots throughout the 1990s, such as Iraq, Somalia, and the former Yugoslavia.*
- b. Incorrect: The total value of exported goods continued to rise even after the Soviet Union dissolved.*
- c. Incorrect: Despite a friendly period under Gorbachev and Yeltsin, US-Russian relations were strained and ultimately deteriorated once Putin took office.*
- d. Incorrect: Immigration to the United States from places like the Philippines, China, Mexico, and Central American significantly increased in the 1990s and 2000s.*

**Questions 4-5 refer to the excerpt below.**

It's been nearly 6 months since I first reported to you on the state of the nation's economy. . . I remember telling you we were in the worst economic mess since the Great Depression. In that earlier broadcast, you'll recall I proposed a program to drastically cut back government spending in the 1982 budget . . . and to continue cutting in the '83 and '84 budgets. Along with this I suggested an across-the-board tax cut . . . and the elimination of unnecessary regulations which were adding billions to the cost of things we buy.

In a few days the Congress will stand at the fork of two roads. One road . . . leads ultimately to higher taxes . . . The other road promises to renew the American spirit. It's a road of hope and opportunity. It places the direction of your life back in your hands where it belongs.

In these 6 months, we've done so much and have come so far. It's been the power of millions of people like you who have determined that we will make America great again. You have made the difference up to now. You will make the difference again. Let us not stop now.

**Source:** President Ronald Reagan, Address on Federal Tax Reduction Legislation, July 1981

**4. The ideas expressed in the excerpt were intended to address which of the following developments?**

- a. Widespread corruption in the the corporate and banking world
- b. Soviet criticisms of racial and socioeconomic injustice
- c. Stagnant economic growth and rapidly rising prices for goods
- d. Unemployment caused by new manufacturing technologies

**Explanations:**

- a. **Incorrect:** Many deregulatory actions under Reagan contributed to an increase in corporate and banking growth, accompanied by degrees of corruption.
- b. **Incorrect:** The Soviet Union did point out the hypocrisies in American interventions around the world while, at the same time, glaring inequalities existed there. However, this was not a motivation for Reaganomics.
- c. **Correct:** The term stagflation was coined in the 1970s in the United States during a severe recession. This significantly motivated Reagan's economic policies which ultimately won him the presidency in 1980.
- d. **Incorrect:** It wasn't until the 1980s that unemployment was significantly affected by new manufacturing technologies, such as automated roboticization.

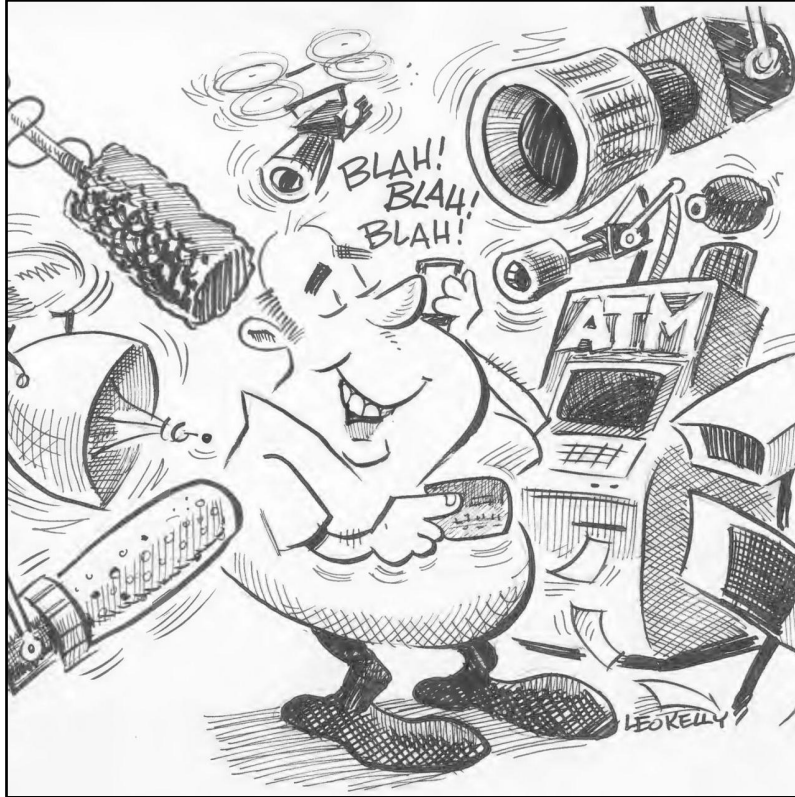
**5. Reagan's economic policies represented a significant departure from all of the following developments in the previous century except**

- a. Progressive Era
- b. Return to Normalcy
- c. New Deal
- d. Great Society

**Explanations:**

- a. **Incorrect:** The Progressive Era saw a government-led effort to regulate the economy and promote social and political reforms.
- b. **Correct:** President Harding's campaign slogan in 1920 represented a return to laissez-faire economic policies akin to those of the Gilded Age. Reagan's call for deregulation, tax-cuts, and downsizing the government struck a similar chord.
- c. **Incorrect:** The New Deal significantly increased the scope of the government and its spending.
- d. **Incorrect:** The Great Society saw a continuation of the New Deal's efforts, promoting the working class through government-funded socioeconomic "safety nets".

Questions 6-8 refer to the political cartoon below.



6. The actions depicted in the cartoon were primarily taken in response to
- immigration from poor and war torn countries instilled fear in many Americans.
  - american militant groups within the country posed a threat to the government.
  - popular culture's obsession with new reality television programs.
  - increased concerns for national security following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

**Explanations:**

- Incorrect:** While Islamophobia contributed to the invasive measures of the Patriot Act, it was not the primary motivation.
- Incorrect:** The growing "patriot" movement did (and does) pose a threat to American governance, as seen in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. However, surveillance efforts increased even more so after 9/11.
- Incorrect:** Reality TV shows are mostly voluntary, meaning the "actors" are aware of their role in the show. The cartoon depicts a figure who is seemingly ignorant of being watched.
- Correct:** The Patriot Act significantly increased the US government's ability to monitor its citizens through numerous mediums with the goal of unveiling terrorist activity before another attack occurred.

7. The most significant effect of the situation depicted in the cartoon was
- more prevalent and serious acts of terror as retaliation.
  - concerns over the protection of civil liberties and human rights.
  - boycotting of companies involved in the surveillance efforts.
  - the suppression of American individuality

**Explanations:**

- a. **Incorrect:** No terrorist attack on American soil has surpassed the death toll of 9/11.
- b. **Correct:** The National Security Administration (NSA) came under intense scrutiny in 2014 for its surveillance of telephone records.
- c. **Incorrect:** Some companies, including Verizon, were embroiled in controversy due to their compliance with NSA requests for data, but no significant boycotts occurred.
- d. **Incorrect:** The individuality of Americans was not substantially affected by new surveillance efforts.

**8. Which of the following developments allowed the situation depicted in the cartoon to expand significantly in the early 2000s?**

- a. Increased public access to the internet
- b. Legislation promoting the use of more advanced satellites
- c. The invention of new cameras with greater range and megapixels
- d. Government nationalization of American technology companies

**Explanations:**

- a. **Correct:** The advent of online communication and social media led to Americans, and people around the world, willingly creating a data profile that governments and corporations could access.
- b. **Incorrect:** Satellite technology did expand the reach and access to the internet but did not directly expand surveillance efforts like the internet did.
- c. **Incorrect:** Camera technology, like most other areas, continued to improve but did not expand surveillance efforts like the internet did.
- d. **Incorrect:** The US government has not nationalized tech companies.