

Chapter 21

Section 2

Western Europe and North America

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I. WINDS OF CHANGE IN WESTERN EUROPE

- A. During the 1980s Western economies recovered, but problems remained.
- B. Creation of the European Community (EC) later known as the European Union (EU).

One of its first goals was to establish a common currency, the Euro.

Financial difficulties in Greece and Ireland was a threat to a successful Euro.



c. 1982 Helmut Kohl for a conservative government in West Germany.

1. He benefited from an economic boom in the mid-1980s.
2. The events in East Germany led to the unexpected reunification of the two Germanies in 1990.

d. Erich Honecker, head of the Communist Party in East Germany, ruled harshly.

1. Mass demonstrations against his regime.
2. On Oct 3, 1990 the Berlin Wall fell and thousands of East Germans swarmed across the border.



E. Unified Germany became a leading power in Europe.

1. Soon becomes clear it would take more money than they thought to rebuild East Germany.

F. Kohl was forced to raise taxes.

1. The fall of the wall and higher taxes will lead to extremely high unemployment.
2. 2005 Angela Merkel becomes the first female chancellor in German history.



H. Great Britain in 1997 Tony Blair (Labor Party) becomes Prime Minister.

1. Will lose support from British citizens as he continues to support the U.S. war in Iraq.

a. 2007, Gordon Brown (Labor Party) becomes new P.M.

b. 2010 David Cameron (Conservative) becomes new P.M.

I. French elections in 1993 Jacques Chirac received 80% of the votes.

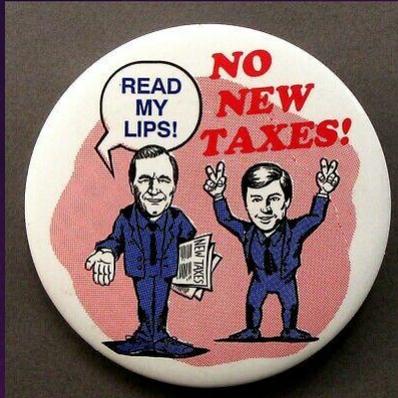
1. He will be president from 1995-2007.



II. THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

- A. As the Cold War came to an end, the U.S. alternated between right and left politicians. Canada and the U.S. will focus on economic problems.
- B. Ronald Reagan reduced welfare policies by limiting food stamps, school lunch programs and job programs.
 - 1. At the same time oversaw the largest peacetime military building up in US history.
- C. Federal spending went from \$631 B in 1981 to over a trillion dollars by 1987.
 - 1. These spending policies created a record government budget deficit.
 - a. A state that exists when a government spends more than it collects in revenues.





D. George Bush, Reagan's vice president, succeed his as president.

1. Inability to deal with federal deficit will lead to economic downturn.

E. 1992 Bill Clinton was elected president in 1992.

1. An economic revival won Clinton popular support, but his second term was overshadowed by charges of presidential misconduct.

a. Clinton's problems will help George W. Bush to win the election of 2000.



- F. Bush's administration was concerned primarily with the war on terror.
 - 1. He cut taxes to boost the economy.
 - 2. From 2004-2008 his popularity will fall due to the ongoing war in Iraq.
- G. In 2008 the first African American, Barack Obama was elected president.
 - 1. His critical legislation was Obama Care.
 - 2. Was reelected in 2012.
- H. In 1993 Canada, United States and Mexico approve the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
 - 1. Many Canadians thought the agreement was too favorable to the U.S.
 - 2. In 1995 Quebec voters nearly left Canada.



III. SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN THE WEST

A. The Women's Movement in the 1990s received a backlash.

1. Some women urged a return to traditional gender roles.

B. The United States dominated the art world after WWII.

1. In 1945 Abstract Artists focused on conveying emotion and feeling.

2. By the 80s, postmodernism emerged.

a. These artists works that include elements of film, performance, popular culture, and sculpture.

