**Background:**  Most of us have lived much of our lives in the “Age of Reagan,” a period that dates from 1980 and that may still be ongoing today. Historians increasingly agree that the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 represented a “revolution” in American society and, particularly, its politics. Review Reagan’s presidential career to explain what about it precisely was so “revolutionary.”

Video to draw information from:

1. Isbouts, J. & Johnson, B. D. (Writers) & Johnson, B. D. (Director). (1998).  [Powerplay: End of the empire](http://digital.films.com/OnDemandEmbed.aspx?Token=8398&aid=18596&Plt=FOD&loid=0&w=640&h=480&ref=" \t "_new) [Television series episode]. In J. Florescu, J. Isbouts, & B. Johnson (Executive producers), *Inside the Cold War with Sir David Frost.* Los Angeles, CA: Porchlight Entertainment & David Paradine Television. Retrieved from http://digital.films.com/OnDemandEmbed.aspx?Token=8398&aid=18596&Plt=FOD&loid=0&w=640&h=480&ref=

More resources to pull from:

1. (1994).  [“Equal rights are not special”: Advocates call for an end to anti-gay employment discrimination](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6463" \t "_new).  In *Employment Discrimination Against Gay Men and Lesbians*, 103d Congress, 2d Session, June 20, 1994. Retrieved from http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6463
2. Alley, R. (2001).[*Experimenting with our liberties*](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5666). Retrieved from http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5666
3. Apuzzo, V. (1983).  [“A time bomb inside of you”: Social service organizations advocate an improved federal response to AIDS](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6893). In *Federal Response to AIDS: Hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives*, 98th Cong., 1st Sess., August 1 and 2, 1983. Retrieved from http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6893
4. Barack, O. (2009, Sept. 9).[*Address to Congress*](http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-250_162-5299229.html). Retrieved from http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-250\_162-5299229.html
5. *Buchanan, P. (1992, Aug. 17).* [*Address to the Republican national convention*](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/patrickbuchanan1992rnc.htm). Available at http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/patrickbuchanan1992rnc.htm
6. Carter, J. (1979, July 15).[*A crisis of confidence*](http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/carter-confidence.htm)*.* Retrieved from http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/carter-confidence.htm
7. Clinton, W. (1995, April 23).[*Oklahoma bombing memorial prayer service address*](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/wjcoklahomabombingspeech.htm). Retrieved from http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/wjcoklahomabombingspeech.htm
8. Cosby, B. (2004, May 17).[*Address at the NAACP on the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education*](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/billcosbypoundcakespeech.htm). Retrieved from http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/billcosbypoundcakespeech.htm
9. Hill, A. (1991, Oct. 11).[*Testimony to Senate Judiciary Committee*](http://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/126_hill.html). Retrieved from http://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/126\_hill.html
10. Houghton, T. (1992).[*“There’s been no real creative response”: Ted Houghton on homelessness in New York City*](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/7045). Retrieved from http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/7045
11. Kennedy, E. (1980, Aug. 12)*.*[*Address to the Democratic national convention*](http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/tedkennedy.htm). Retrieved from http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/tedkennedy.h
12. Reagan, R. (1982, June 8).[*Address to British Parliament*](http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-parliament.htm). Retrieved from http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-parliament.htm
13. United States Supreme Court. (1973, Jan. 22). [*Roe v. Wade* majority decision](http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/texts/roevwade.html). Retrieved from http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/texts/roevwade.html

I’m analyzing the “Reagan Revolution” and the impact it had on American society and its culture.

How revolutionary was the Reagan Revolution and how was it revolutionary? Consider two of the topics below.

* + The economy
  + The federal debt
  + Federal regulation
  + Social welfare
  + Public health
  + Race relations
  + Gender equality
  + Foreign affairs

In what ways was it beneficial to the American nation and in what ways was it detrimental?

Did the Reagan Revolution make the American nation more united or more divided?