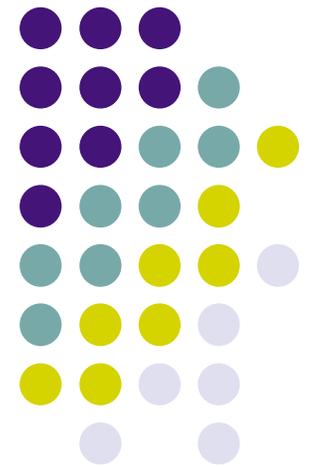
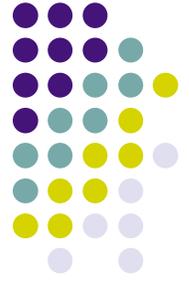


Ronald Reagan

1981-1989



Background



- Born in Tampico, Illinois and raised in Dixon, Illinois
- Graduated from Eureka College with a degree in Sociology-Economics
- Served in World War II
- Famous actor and appeared in over fifty movies
- Previous governor of California

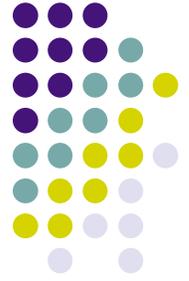
Chief Legislator



- Criteria: Successfully passes legislation and achieved legislative agenda

Evidence:

- Economic Recovery Tax Act 1981- lowered income tax rate
- Expansion of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act- small company's control and regulate their own toxic waste levels
- Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986- Centralized authority in the military
- Tax Reform Act of 1986- Simplified tax law and closed loopholes
- **Overall Grade: A-**
- Reagan passed legislation that furthered his goals and did a good job of pushing his policy initiatives



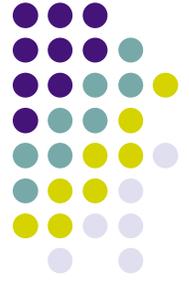
Commander in Chief

- Criteria: Success in military conflicts and handles crises and national emergencies efficiently.

Evidence:

- Military Conflicts:
 - Lebanon: Unpopular military action that was generally unsuccessful
 - Grenada: Successful defeat of communist insurgents
 - Cold War: Ramped up US spending on weaponry and the Cold War was ended during his presidency
- Overall Grade: B
- Reagan was successful in most military conflicts but the failure in Lebanon was damaging.

Chief Executive

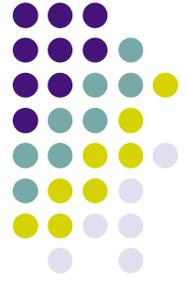


- Criteria: Successful appointment of various positions and success in expanding/decreasing size of government,

Evidence:

- Successful Appointments: Four Supreme Court Justices successfully appointed, one was withdrawn and one was rejected by Senate.
- Decreased size of government in the economic sphere by cutting taxes and giving more power to businesses through legislation like the Expansion of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act while increasing the United State's role overseas and with an expanded armed forces
- **Overall Grade: A-**
- Reagan completed his goals for the economy and expanded/decreased the role of government successfully. Also, he made several successful appointments to the Supreme Court

Head of State



- Criteria: High approval rating by public, domestic stability and wellness, and social initiatives.

Evidence:

- High Approval Ratings: Generally displayed above fifty percent approval rating but had a really low approval when the economy was suffering
- War on Drugs: Just Say No drug awareness campaign and push for an end to addiction
- Air Traffic Controller Strike: Unpopular decisions to fire 12,000 air traffic controllers on strike
- AIDS: Reagan barely touched on the issue drawing harsh criticism

Overall Grade: C+

- Although Reagan fought the War on Drugs and had decent approval ratings, the harsh firing of the air traffic controllers and ignoring of the issue of AIDS gives him a sub par score as head of state

Chief of Party

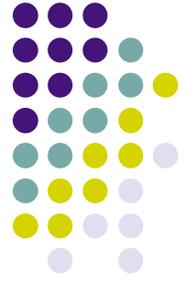


- Criteria: Party perform well during midterm elections and how well liked was the President by his party.

Evidence:

- Midterm Elections: In 1982 and 1986, the Democrats won. In 1984, Republicans did very well
- Party Relationship: Reagan was well liked by his party and received substantial support by them throughout his presidency
- **Overall Grade: B+**
- Not great success at the midterm elections, but Reagan pushed his party's ideology and was a very popular president to the Republicans

Guardian of the Economy



- Criteria: economic prosperity and legislation supporting economic goals/beliefs.

Evidence:

- Economic Indicators: Overall economic prosperity, low unemployment despite brief recession in 1982, substantially cut taxes, and GDB grew at 3.4 percent annually
- Legislation: Economic Recovery Tax Act 1981- lowered income tax rate, Tax Reform Act of 1986- Simplified tax law and closed loopholes
- Economic Beliefs: Believed in small government, low tax rates, and little control of business
- **Overall Grade: A**
- The economy prospered, he pushed his economic initiatives, and his principles became the foundation of the Republicans views

Chief Diplomat



- Criteria: Passed treaties and achieved foreign policy objectives

Evidence:

- Cold War: Conflict came to an end during his presidency
- Treaties: US/Mexico Agreement on environment, signed Nuclear Arms Agreement with China, signed Nuclear Risk Reduction center treaty, signed INF treaty, and signed Canada-US free trade agreement.
- Foreign Policy Objective: “Peace Through Strength” was successful and the strength of the US arsenal could have deterred any attack.
- Iran Contra Scandal: Allegedly sold weapons to Iran to support Contra rebels against Socialist Dictators in South America
- **Overall Grade: C+**
- Although he was successful with a lot of treaties and the end of the Cold War, the Iran Contra Scandal was a big setback in terms of the United States view overseas.



Overall Grade

- B
- Reagan achieved economic prosperity, championed his views, and passed legislation to support his party.
- Reagan though was involved in a major scandal and did not handle some social issues well.



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