*Period 9: Globalized Adjustments (1980 - Present)*

* ***Conservatism Surges:***
* **Election of 1980**
  + Reagan was elected in this election over incumbent Jimmy Carter, who had failed to remove hostages from Iran
  + A wave of conservatism and a record as Governor of California carried him into the White House
* **Reagan’s Domestic Policy**
  + Reagan emphasized supply-side economics, or “Reaganomics,” in which he believed that giving tax cuts and more money to the rich would lead to more investment and job creation
  + This type of economics was denounced by George H.W. Bush
  + He believed that big government was a problem, not a solution
  + Reagan appointed the first female Justice to the Supreme Court and Antonin Scalia as well
  + Reagan continued Nixon’s disastrous “war on drugs” that disproportionately targeted the anti-war left and black people
* **Reagan’s Foreign Policy**
  + In order to secure the release of hostages and stop the spread of communism simultaneously, Reagan secretly secured the help of the Iranian government
  + Weapons were given to the Iranians in exchange for money that was funneled to Nicaraguan Contras
  + This became known as the Iran-Contra Affair
  + Reagan escalated the Cold War by speaking about “mutually assured destruction” and saying the famous line → “Mr. Gorbachev...tear down this wall!”
  + H.W. Bush was elected after Reagan, but did not enjoy the same amount of popularity after his promise of not raising taxes fell through
* ***New Democrats:***
* **Clinton’s Victory**
  + Clinton served as Governor of Arkansas first for four terms and then was elected in 1992 as president
  + Clinton and Gore moved to the center in order to gain more public support rather than only following liberal policies
  + NAFTA was signed and the economy was made a centerpiece in this plan
* **Clinton’s Policy**
  + Clinton wanted to reform the healthcare system of the nation, but failed
  + He also attempted to reform the welfare system
  + He faced opposition from the Republican Contract With America and was struck down by the Supreme Court when his line-item veto of picking and choosing parts of a bill to pass was deemed unconstitutional
  + Abroad, he tried to hold Saddam Hussein accountable for possible WMDs
  + Intervening in Bosnia was another part of Clinton’s foreign policy
* **Clinton’s Scandals**
  + Clinton was almost impeached for perjury after an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky
  + Although denying any sexual relations, leaked tapes proved this to be false
  + The House had enough votes to impeach, but the Senate did not so he was acquitted of charges and finished his term
  + Despite scandal, he remained very popular
* **Bush Jr.**
  + Son of the previous Bush, he was elected in a contested election in 2000 →  *Bush v. Gore*
  + Bush took the country into the Iraq War over alleged WMDs and the attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001
  + He enacted the PATRIOT Act that would surveil citizens for terrorist connections and No Child Left Behind in terms of education reform
* **Obama**
  + Obama became the first black president in 2008
  + He enacted education reform in his Race to the Top program and managed to pass healthcare reform in the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare
  + Obama ended most involvement in Iraq and coordinated a mission that killed Osama bin Laden, the man who led the 9/11 attacks
  + Obama sought to continue his legacy with Hillary Clinton, former First Lady and presidential candidate, winning the presidency in 2016, but she lost in an upset election against Donald Trump, a television personality and businessman with no experience in government