

Continuity and Change over Time... *Federal Spending, Liberalism vs Conservatism*

Directions: Review the content outline excerpts from periods 8 & 9, highlighting the key terms and ideas connected to federal spending from the 1960s through the 1980s, then analyze the graph on the next page using your strategies. Focus your analysis on the historical significance of military spending, regulations, and social welfare spending as well as comparing the budget at the height of liberalism (1964-1969/LBJ) with the height of the conservative resurgence (1981-1989/Reagan). Complete the historical contextualization and address the prompt in the spaces provided or on a separate sheet of paper. Write in complete sentences and include specific historical evidence for each part – go beyond the obvious!

Key Concept 8.1: The United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and working to maintain a **position of global leadership**, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences.

- I. United States policymakers engaged in a **Cold War** with the authoritarian Soviet Union, seeking to limit the growth of Communist military power and ideological influence, create a free-market global economy, and build an international security system.
 - A) Concerned by expansionist Communist ideology and Soviet repression, the United States sought to **contain communism through a variety of measures**, including major military engagements in Korea and **Vietnam**.

Key Concept 8.2: New movements for civil rights and **liberal efforts to expand the role of government** generated a range of political and cultural responses.

- III. **Liberalism** influenced postwar politics and court decisions, but it came under increasing attack from the left as well as from a **resurgent conservative movement**.
 - A) **Liberalism, based on anticommunism** abroad and a firm belief in the efficacy of government **power to achieve social goals at home**, reached a high point of political influence by the mid-1960s.
 - B) **Liberal ideas** found expression in Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, which attempted to use federal legislation and programs to end racial discrimination, **eliminate poverty**, and address other **social issues**. A series of Supreme Court decisions expanded civil rights and individual liberties.
 - C) In the 1960s, **conservatives** challenged liberal laws and court decisions and perceived moral and cultural decline, seeking to **limit the role of the federal government** and enact **more assertive foreign policies**.
 - D) Some groups on the left also rejected liberal policies, arguing that political leaders did too little to transform the racial and economic status quo at home and pursued immoral policies abroad.
 - E) Public confidence and trust in **government's ability to solve social and economic problems** declined in the 1970s in the wake of economic challenges, political scandals, and foreign policy crises.
 - F) The 1970s saw growing clashes between **conservatives and liberals** over **social and cultural issues, the power of the federal government**, race, and movements for greater individual rights.

Key Concept 9.1: A newly ascendant conservative movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980s and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades.

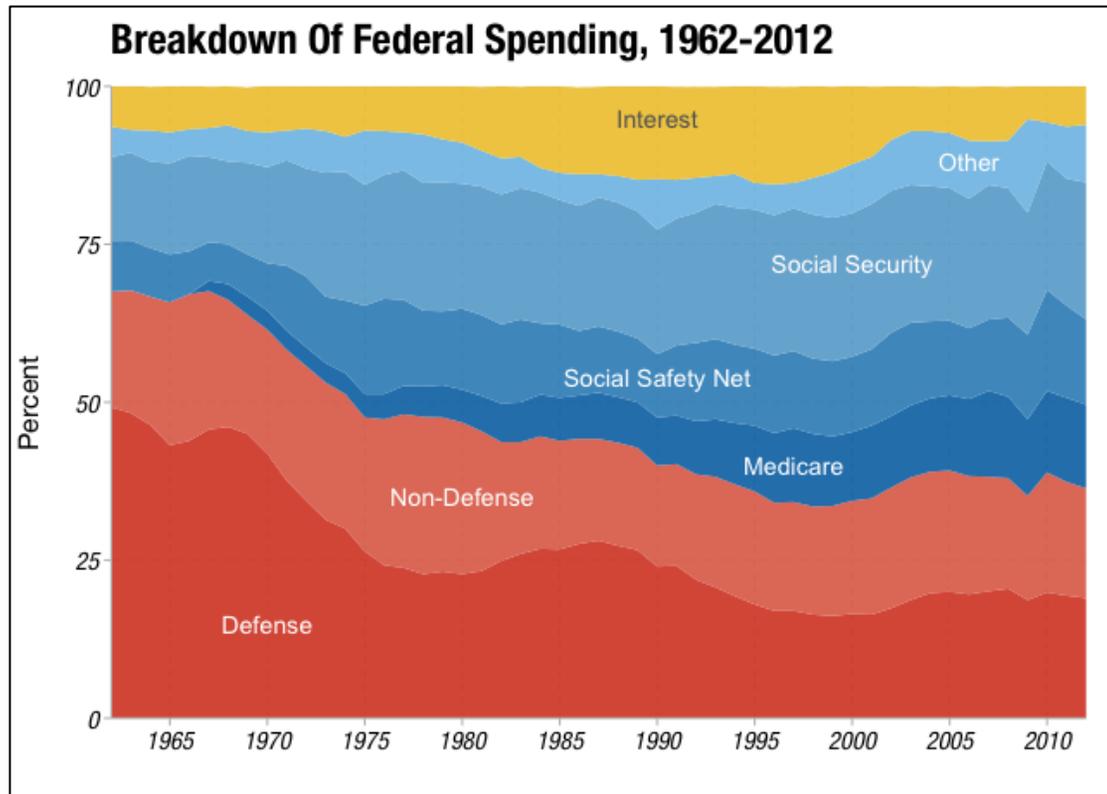
- I. **Conservative beliefs** regarding the need for traditional social values and a **reduced role for government** advanced in U.S. politics after 1980.
 - A) Ronald Reagan's victory in the presidential election of 1980 represented an important milestone, allowing conservatives to enact significant tax cuts and continue the **deregulation of many industries**.
 - B) **Conservatives argued that liberal programs were counterproductive in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth. Some of their efforts to reduce the size and scope of government met with inertia and liberal opposition, as many programs remained popular with voters.**
 - C) Policy debates continued over free-trade agreements, the scope of the government **social safety net***, and calls to reform the U.S. financial system.

**The social safety net includes services provided by the government such as food stamps, welfare, WIC, unemployment payments, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, etc. [State and local governments as well as private charities/organizations may also fund homeless shelters, food banks, healthcare, public transportation, etc.] The goal of these programs is to prevent Americans [and immigrants] from extreme poverty which can have a negative effect on the general health of society by creating a class of potentially unproductive/non-contributing people (and more susceptible to disease or crime). The overall well-being of the nation theoretically improves when such a class of people doesn't exist.*

Key Concept 9.3: The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and role in the world.

- I. The Reagan administration promoted an **interventionist foreign policy** that continued in later administrations, even after the end of the Cold War.
 - A) Reagan asserted U.S. opposition to communism through speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons.
 - B) Increased U.S. **military spending**, Reagan's diplomatic initiatives, and political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were all important in ending the Cold War.
 - C) The end of the Cold War led to new diplomatic relationships but also new U.S. military and peacekeeping interventions, as well as continued debates over the appropriate use of **American power in the world**.

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From the 2015 Revised Framework:

ANALYZE PATTERNS OF CONTINUITY AND CHANGE OVER TIME...

1. Identify patterns of continuity and change over time and explain the significance of such patterns.
2. Explain how patterns of continuity and change over time relate to larger historical processes or themes.

The historical context of the federal spending graph is...

The purpose of the graph is to illustrate...

In the space below, break down the prompt and brainstorm evidence. (*Visible Thinking!*) Then on a separate sheet of paper write a complete introduction using your formula.

Prompt: To what extent did President Ronald Reagan's beliefs regarding the federal government's role in United States society, economy, and national defense maintain continuity and foster change in political debates and policies?