**Questions AND ANSWERS for Chapter 31 & 32: From Ford to Obama**

1. How did Gerald Ford become President of the United States?

*Richard Nixon resigned. Because of the Watergate break-in and the consequent cover-up, Nixon released that he would have probably been impeached*

2. Describe the major events of the Gerald Ford Presidency.

*Recession, OPEC increases oil prices, the Salt II treaty is negotiated*

3. What were the major events and problems of the Jimmy Carter Presidency?

*Recession, energy crisis, high interest rates, “Crisis of Confidence,” Iranian Hostage Crisis, Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan*

4. Describe the “sunbelt politics”, religious revivalism, the emergency of the New Right, and the tax revolt that took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s?

*Increased population in southern states from California to Arizona to Florida, belief in “rugged individualism,” growth in “evangelical Christians (born-again)” become political active in opposition to abortion, revolt against high taxes and heavy regulations started in California and spread to rest of country.*

5. Describe the Reagan coalition that led to his election in 1980.

*Reagan led the new Conservative revolt of the late seventies leading to his run for president in 1976 and 1980. His coalition was a collection of the affluent, the middle class, socially and fiscally conservative democrats, and evangelical Christians.*

6. Describe the domestic and foreign policies of President Reagan.

*Reagan projected a positive image, supply side economics, deficit spending on military build-up, Strategic Defense Innovative (“Star Wars”), Anti-communism, assisted Taliban in Afghanistan against Soviet Union occupation.*

7. What was the major scandal of the Reagan Presidency?

*Iran-Contra Scandal (weapons were sold to Iran for their help in the release of American hostages in Middle East, money made from the weapons sale was given to Contras in Nicaragua)*

8. Describe the many factors that led to the demise of the Soviet Union.

*Bankrupt due to arms race, tired army due to the occupation of Afghanistan, inflation, glasnost, perestroika, Mikael Gorbachev*

9. What was the cause and result of the Gulf War?

*Cause: Iraq invasion of Kuwait; Result: Liberation of Kuwait and isolation of Iraq from the world community*

10. Explain how Clinton elected President in 1992 with only 43% of the vote?

*Third party candidate, Ross Perot (reform party) took votes from Bush enabling Clinton to cobble enough states to win the election with a majority of the electoral vote*

11. What happened in 1994 to change the Clinton Presidency?

*Republicans under the leadership of Newt Gingrich, took control of the House of Representatives, using the campaign tactic of having a “Contract with America,” promising reforms if the GOP take over the legislative branch.*

12. Why was President Clinton Impeached in 1998? What was the result?

*Cause: Lying in a deposition about having a sexual affair in the Oval office with White House Intern Monica Lewinsky while being sued by Paula Jones for sexual harassment. Result: acquitted (not one democrat voted for impeachment)*

13. Why was the election of 2000 controversial?

*The Florida vote was so close there was a mandatory recount of the votes. Al Gore sued for a hand recount in four counties. The recounts were conducted using a different standard in each of the counties. George Bush appealed to the Supreme Court arguing that the re-counts were a violation of the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause. Supreme Court voted 6-3 that the “unequal hand counts” were a violation of constitution and the machine counts (that were all conducted using the same standard) would be used. George Bush won the Presidency with a majority of the Electoral votes even though Al Gore won the popular vote.*

14. Why was Hurricane Katrina so destructive? Was President Bush at fault?

*The levies were topped by the storm surge combined with high tide and the severe winds. The city, state and federal government response to the disaster was inadequate to the devastation that was caused. All three governments failed to properly communicate with each other. President George Bush was blamed by the media for the failure of all three governments and their failure. Some people even accuse the president of not liking black people because of the poor response (even though George Bush appointed the first black person to the position of Secretary of State and the first black woman as National Security Advisor.)*

15. How did the Internet begin and what has been the long term result?

*1963 US government does advanced research on electronic communications called the Advanced Research Project, In the 1970s companies started to link together using electronic communications, in the 1980s the Defense Department developed the first elaborate network (eventually becoming known as the internet.*

16. What were the reasons for the NATO invasion of Afghanistan in 2002 and the American/British invasion of Iraq in 2003?

*Afghanistan: Response to the 911 attacks on the United States perpetuated by al-Qaida which was being protected in Afghanistan by the Taliban government (a strict Islamic society)*

*Iraq: Saddam Hussein’s violation of many resolutions passed by the United Nations following the first Gulf War of 1990-91; specifically allowing weapons inspectors to investigate all suspected sites of nuclear or chemical weapons*

17. What is the political and educational background of President Obama? What is his goal for America?

*Background: Raised by white socialist grandparents, mentored by known communist Frank Marshal Davis, taught by socialist/anti-colonialist professors at Occidental College, Columbia University and Harvard University Law School, prayed / was married / children were baptized by Pastor Jerimiah Wright who preached Black Liberation Theology (a racial form of Christianity), and started his political career in the living room of William Ayers (leader of the terrorist organization Weather Underground that blew up government buildings in the 1970s)*

*Goal: “Fundamental transformation of America” into a socialist society similar to Europe.*