

CHRONOLOGY

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| <p>1973 <i>Roe v. Wade</i> legalizes abortion
Arab embargo sparks oil crisis in the United States</p> <p>1974 Richard Nixon resigns presidency; Gerald Ford takes office
President Ford pardons Nixon and introduces antiinflation program</p> <p>1975 Unemployment rate reaches nearly 9 percent
South Vietnamese government falls to communists
Antibusing protests break out in Boston</p> <p>1976 Percentage of African Americans attending college peaks at 9.3 percent and begins a decline
Jimmy Carter is elected president</p> <p>1977 President Carter announces human rights as major tenet in foreign policy</p> <p>1978 <i>Bakke v. University of California</i> decision places new limits on affirmative action programs
Camp David meeting sets terms for Middle East peace
California passes Proposition 13, cutting taxes and government social programs</p> | <p>1979 Three Mile Island nuclear accident threatens a meltdown
Nicaraguan Revolution overthrows Anastasio Somoza
Iranian fundamentalists seize the U.S. embassy in Tehran and hold U.S. citizens hostage for 444 days
Soviets invade Afghanistan</p> <p>1980 Inflation reaches 13.5 percent
Ronald Reagan is elected president</p> <p>1981 Reagan administration initiates major cuts in taxes and domestic spending.
Military buildup accelerates
AIDS is recognized and named</p> <p>1982 Economic recession grips the nation</p> <p>1983 Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative, labeled "Star Wars" by critics.
241 marines killed in Beirut terrorist bombing</p> <p>1985 Mikhail Gorbachev initiates reforms—<i>glasnost</i> and <i>perestroika</i>—in the Soviet Union</p> <p>1986 Iran-Contra hearings before Congress reveal arms-for-hostages deal and funds secretly and illegally diverted to Nicaraguan rebels</p> |
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