

## The Century: Peter Jennings A New World: 1980s

1. How were Vietnam veterans treated when they returned from the war? Why was the memorial so controversial?

When the veterans began to return home they were greeted not with cheers and shouts of joy that soldiers met when they came home from WW2. Instead they found bitterness and discontent and they were often disliked by the public. At first many people didn't want a memorial because everyone just wanted to forget about the war but soon the US government helped the veterans that began the project.

2. What was Reagan's message? How did he make people feel?

Reagan's was always telling the public about how things were going to get better and how everything was under control and that there was new day just waiting to arrive. It was messages like this that made people proud to be Americans it made people feel happy and that was important at the time with the state America was in.

3. What was crack cocaine and what was its impact on society.

Crack was the term used for cocaine in the form of a rock and it led to great deterioration of society. Crack also led to major health and mental problems putting many people in the hospital and driving others to kill, rob, and rape. It was a dangerous time.

4. Describe Wall Street in the 1980's.

Wall street had once again become an important part of America and thousands of people wanted to get in on the action to get rich quick. Only this time there would be no crash and depression instead inflation was stopped and the nation began to heal.

5. What was a hostile takeover by a corporate raider? How did it work?

A corporate raider was someone who would buy a company and sell off the companies assets. Often the corporate raider would buy the companies shareholders to assume control or place new management

in charge of the company who would be more willing to hand over control.

6. What impact did the personal computers have on technology?  
Personal computers helped advance technology beyond what it had been. Since the public always loved new and better merchandise to buy computer companies began making better computers that were faster and more reliable.

7. What happened to the space shuttle Challenger? Who was on that ship?

Shortly after launching the space shuttle suffered from a major technical malfunction and exploded half way into the atmosphere. It was devastating because it was the first space launch that had civilians on board. The first of the civilians chosen was a teacher named Christa McAuliffe who boarded the Challenger with the six other crew members people had hoped that sending a teacher into space would boost support for NASA and the educational system.

8. Compare and contrast MTV and televangelists.

MTV and televangelists were both very renowned networks that brought in thousands of viewers every week because of how popular it was. MTV was often supporting rock and roll music and the pop stars of the time. Televangelists were preachers that mixed old fashioned religion with modern entertainment which was very smart because in this age of extravagance people loved bright lights and loud music.

9. What group does AIDS primarily effect? Why wouldn't the Reagan Administration act? What does Allie Gertz represent?

AIDS mainly affected gay men and by 1983 it had killed 2,000 people across the country. It was very dangerous because once you got it you would most likely die because it affected the immune system. The Reagan Administration consisted of highly conservative people who didn't approve of what the victims of AIDS were doing that caused them to get AIDS so they simply turned away to punish them. Allie was the first person to share their story about their struggle with AIDS and

she represented to the youth what would happen if they weren't careful. The youth had a tendency to believe that they were immortal and that they couldn't be affected by AIDS and Allie wanted to tell them that she had been just like them and AIDS claimed her life.

10. How does Reagan characterize the struggle with the Soviet Union?

Much like the perspective of WW2 where it was good vs evil this same perspective was used by Reagan in the struggle between the US and the USSR. It is unsure if it is true but many people did believe that the Soviets had the intention of dominating the earth.

11. What is SDI and how would it work?

This stood for Strategic Defense Initiative was a satellite and ground based system that would intercept and destroy enemy nuclear missiles. The project did not receive as much support as many had hoped because the ideas were often far fetched since there was idea to use lasers.

12. Who hijacked the TWA flight and why? What was the result?

The flight was hijacked by two muslim extremists that demanded that all muslim prisoners held in Israel and they said they were going to kill someone every five minutes if their demands weren't met. Finally after the plane had made numerous flights and finally landed the muslims killed one man and soon people were fearful that they were going to kill everyone on the plane. Reagan then decided the best thing to do was release some of the the prisoners for the passengers.

13. What was Glasnost? What impact does it have on the Soviet Union?

For the first time in the Soviet Union people were allowed freedom of speech this was very huge for the people of the USSR. This event was initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his choice tipped public support in his favor. He wanted to change the USSR from being ruled by fear to being led by understanding.

14. What was being discussed at the summits? Why did they fail?

The topic of the summits was the disarmament of all nuclear weapons on both sides to ensure peace through understanding not fear. The summit eventually failed when President Gorbachev said that if they were going to go through with this then Reagan had to get rid of SDI. Reagan slammed his hand on the desk said no and left. Though it was the end of the summit it did not end good relations between the two leaders.

15. Describe the personalities of Reagan and Gorbachev and their relationship.

Reagan and Gorbachev both wanted peace to settle for the two nations. Reagan was very brave, decent, and optimistic even at the bad times. Gorbachev was certainly unique because unlike past Soviet leaders he did not resort to military strength to secure his power. Instead he used words and understanding. Reagan and Gorbachev soon became good friends that wanted to end distrust between the two nations. Their actions would soon change the world for the better.

16. What happened at Tiananmen Square in China?

In 1989 thousands of people mostly students marched to Tiananmen Square with the Chinese version of the statue of Liberty seeking to turn China into a Democracy. Sadly the demonstration didn't last long the military was sent in and hundreds of people were killed. However, this event would change China forever.

17. What happened to the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain? Why?

At the end of the decade Eastern Europe was demanding change and independence. Change was especially welcomed in East Germany where after numerous Democracy demonstrations the Eastern German government gave in and the Berlin Wall was torn down. Reagan was right the brighter future had arrived.