

## **GLOSSARY AND CREDITS**

One thing for sure, history does not stand still! The tumultuous '60s were long gone, only to be replaced by the 1970s; a time in which a nation was trying to regain its identity and sense of self-worth. A terrific breath of fresh air arrived with the election of President Reagan. He labored to get the country back on its economic feet while addressing complicated foreign policy matters. Shortly after Reagan left office in 1989, the world experienced enormous change with the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the Soviet Union.

President George H.W. Bush was the leader as the Cold War ended, and he engaged American forces a little later in freeing Kuwait from Iraqi aggression in 1991. Unfortunately for him, his popularity brought about by dealing with Operation Desert Storm was diminished by economic problems inherited from Reagan, and he lost the 1992 election to Bill Clinton.

### **Chapter 1 - The Reagan Years**

Ronald Reagan was elected to two terms in office and was responsible for getting America's economy back in line. In the process however, he built up a huge Federal deficit, which caused the economy to stumble once again after he left office. Pledging to defeat Communism, he engaged in massive defense spending that forced the Soviets' hand. Unable to keep pace with U.S. advances due to a variety of issues, Mikhail Gorbachev, the Russian leader, opened the door to surprising reforms that played a huge role in future events.

### **Chapter 2 - Broad Change**

In retrospect, it is clear technological and scientific innovations during the '80s played significant roles in America's future. During this decade, PCs came of age, cell phones were invented, and the Internet was born. Now, where would you be without them? In addition, the country's imagination was captured by the Space Shuttle program, which, despite two terrible disasters, expanded human knowledge through the Hubble Space Telescope, among other things.

### **Chapter 3 - The Bush Years**

With a wealth of political and international knowledge, George H.W. Bush was elected president in 1988. He and his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, soon announced an end to the Cold War. The euphoria of such an important event was tempered shortly thereafter by the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein and Iraq. The United Nations condemned the action and

eventually authorized an invasion of its own, which drove the Iraqis out. The Bush years also saw a rise in anti-Western/Israeli sentiment among Arab nations and an escalation of terrorism.

## VOCABULARY

amoral	absence of specific moral values or judgments
awry	to deviate from the expected or go against established plans
Diaspora	the scattering of a people from their homeland
ecosystem	the plants and wildlife that make up a region
extradite	to turn over a prisoner from one place to another
fragility	the state of being fragile or easily broken
galvanize	to stir up or arouse action for a given topic
glasnost	Russian term meaning to be transparent, open, and more accountable
impunity	to be exempted from penalty or punishment
indelible	something not easily forgotten; impossible to get rid of as a memory
infrastructure	the basic core of a large organization
insidious	very dangerous or harmful
liaison	a person who stands between two groups, exchanging information
nullify	to overturn or reverse a decision
perestroika	Russian term meaning to restructure economically and politically
polarizing	something that forces a division between two groups
preemptive	to suddenly act before someone else can
prognosis	the likely outcome of something, such as an illness

rapport	to establish a good relationship with another person
relinquish	to surrender, release, or give up something
reminiscent	to be reminded of something else; similar
resolute	unyielding or firm in purpose or direction
reverberate	to echo over and over again
surmise	to make a guess or assumption about something
tout	to advertise or promote a person or product
unravel	to fall apart