Vocab

POTUS: President of the United States

Embargo: an official ban on trade or other commercial activity
Modern US Presidents
1945-Current
Harry S. Truman
Democrat
1945-1953
Harry S Truman

• Took over after the death of Franklin D Roosevelt

• Approved the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Japan

• Desegregated the US Military in 1948

• Famous line “The Buck Stops Here”
Dwight D Eisenhower
Republican
1953-1961
Dwight D Eisenhower

- Former War II General (European Theatre)
- Campaign Slogan: “I like Ike”
- People believed a former general was necessary due to the spread of communism
- Approved the creation of the modern freeway system
John F Kennedy

- “A Modern Day Camelot”
- Created the Peace Corps (1961)
- Several major mistakes
  - Bay of Pigs (1961)
  - Assassination of the Vietnamese President (1963)
- Succeeded in the Cuban Missile Crises (Oct 1962)
Lyndon B. Johnson
Democrat
1963-1969
Lyndon B. Johnson

• “The Johnson Treatment”
• “The Great Society”
  • Civil Rights Act (1964)
  • The War on Poverty
  • Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
• Inherited the Vietnam War
• “Hey Hey LBJ how many kids did you kill today?”
Richard Nixon
Republican
1969-1974
Lyndon B. Johnson

• Lost to Kennedy in the 1960

• Strength: Foreign Relations
  • First President to visit China
  • Peace w/ honor in Vietnam

• Weakness: Held grudges and was overly paranoid

• Watergate: “I am not a crook!”
Gerald Ford
Republican
1974-1977
Gerald Ford

- Only President the people literally had no say in
- Appointed VP after the resignation of Spiro Agnew
- Succeeded Nixon as POTUS after Watergate Scandal
- Angered many for the pardoning of Nixon (1974)
- Approved conditional amnesty for Vietnam Draft Dodgers
Jimmy Carter
Democrat
1977-1981
Jimmy Carter

- Nice Guys Finish Last
- Low Point in American Esteem
  - Oil Embargo of (1979)
  - Iranian Hostages
- Camp David Peace Accords between Egypt & Israel
- Known more for his post presidential success
Ronald Reagan
Republican
1981-1989
Ronald Reagen

- The Actor turned President
- The “Great Conservative”
  - Reagnomics (lowering taxes)
  - War on Drugs
- Survived Assassination attempt on March 30, 1981
- Credited with ending the Cold War… “Mr Gorbachev tear down this wall”
George H. W. Bush
Republican
1989-1993
George H. W. Bush

- Read my lips “No New Taxes”
- Country fell into a recession after the “Great Reagan Years”
- Saw the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the breaking up of the Soviet Union
- Desert Strom (1990-91)
Bill Clinton
Democrat
1993-2001
Bill Clinton

- A fresh voice in American Politics
- Attempted to pass Health Care Reform but failed
- Balanced the budget and oversaw some of the greatest economic growth in American History
- Monica Lewinsky scandal led to eventual impeachment... later acquitted
George W Bush
Republican
2001-2009
George W Bush

• Was a calming force after the 9-11 terrorist attacks

• Controversial decision to invade Iraq (aka The “Never Ending War”)

• Created the “No Child Left Behind” educational act

• Left the country in an Economic Recession
Barack Obama
Democrat
2009-Present
Barack Obama

- Succeeded in passing Health Care Reform... “Obama Care”
- Considered a major advocate for Women’s & LBGT Rights
- Controversy of his recovery programs revolves more around whether it is working fast enough or not
- Lawmakers are split on current immigration plan