

Reagan said, "Government is not the solution to the problem. Government is the problem." Through the 1970s, President Carter was faced with major inflation in the U.S. economy causing prices and taxes to rise dramatically. The new president's politics were inexperienced and caused many problems for the people of America. Out of the ten bill that he sent to Congress, none of them were passed. The inflation occurred faster than Americans' income could increase. Because of this, Americans had less and less extra income to spend on things other than the necessities, so there was even less money in the economy.

The conservative ideology was very helpful for the people of the U.S. The Conservatives were split in two: Political and Social. The Political Conservatives wanted to shrink "big government", arguing that it had gotten too powerful. They felt power should be left with state and local governments, closer to the people. They also wanted to lower taxes and curb the government regulation of business. Social Conservatives were concerned with "traditional values," such as family, patriotism, and religion. A Social Conservative leader, Reverend Jerry Falwell, stressed the sacredness of marriage and family and the importance of faith in God. In 1979, he created the the organization Moral Majority. The Moral Majority became active in politics by organizing workshops for people who wanted to enter local politics and by endorsing like-minded politicians. A growing conservative population elected Ronald Reagan as president in 1980.

Reagan pursued these goals by doing a number of things. First he stated his economic program, later known as Reaganomics, where he reduced government spending and taxes. He claimed that this would fire up the economy by giving taxpayers more reason to spend money and businesses more reason to manufacture and sell more goods. He started by cutting \$40 billion from the federal budget, mostly from trimming social programs and cutting jobs. Reagan also reduced costly antipollution regulations and opened federal protected land to oil and lumber companies. These companies praised Reagan for giving them another chance to increase their budget. Reagan did a lot to help our country, along with the presidents following him.

The presidents that followed Reagan continued conservative ideas. First up after Reagan left the presidency was George H. W. Bush. At first, Bush stated that he would follow Reagan's economic plans and stated that he would not create any new taxes. Later on, though, he was faced with major economic problems. He though that the only way to get out of the slump would be to reduce spending and increase taxes. Then in 1991, the nation fell into a recession. Many said it was due to the new taxes. After Bush, Bill Clinton came into office. Clinton called himself a "new democrat." He stated that he would try to make a middle ground between liberalism and conservatism. He wanted to "reinvent" the government by cutting the government's size and deficit, working with business, and reducing welfare spending. Clinton got Congress to raise taxes on higher income groups and reduce some of their spending. The economy was great and better than ever. Even though Clinton was accused of having an improper relationship with a White House intern, he was still a favorite among the people. After Clinton, George H. W. Bush's son, George W. Bush, came into office. The new president made major tax cuts and signed the No Child Left Behind Act which made standardized testing in schools to help study the progress of the students.

Combined with an increase in traditional values, Americans welcomed a conservative political agenda. The conservative ideas got America out of a recession and led them to record high stock markets. The conservative ideas helped America out greatly in times of need.