**1970 – Present**

**Rachael Carson**

* Launched the modern-day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movement
* Silent Spring brought environmental concerns to a new height in America
* Silent Spring was met with fierce denial by chemical companies; it spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy
* Led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides
* Inspired a grassroots movement that led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**OPEC and Oil Crisis**

* Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC: Arab oil-producing countries in Middle East and NE Africa
	+ Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Qatar, Nigeria, Algeria
* OPEC agreed to not send oil to US (oil embargo) in response to US financial support for Israel, 1973
	+ US was getting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of its oil from OPEC
* Resulted in fuel shortages, higher prices and long lines

**President Jimmy Carter**

* Elected in ‘76 for honesty & integrity
* Focused on human rights
* Response to Soviet action in Afghanistan was unpopular
	+ boycotted Olympics in 1980
	+ grain embargo
* Viewed as weak in handling the Iran hostage crisis
* Helped secure Camp David Accords between Israelis and Egyptians
* Tried to convince Americans to save energy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ oil

**President Carter’s Energy Policy speech April 18, 1975**

* *“I know that some of you may doubt that we face real energy shortages. The 1973 gasoline lines are gone, and our homes are warm again. But our energy problem is worse tonight than it was in 1973 or a few weeks ago in the dead of winter. It is worse because more waste has occurred, and more time has passed by without our planning for the future. And it will get worse every day until we act.”*

**Iran-Contra Affair**

* 1985-86
* Contras (rebel group fighting Nicaraguan govt.) needed funding for their war
* Iran had US hostages; President Reagan was convinced to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weapons to Iran in exchange for the hostages
* White House Security Council secretly moved the $$ from Iran’s illegal weapons to the Contras’ war effort

**Iran-Contra Affair (cont.)**

* A full-scale Congressional investigation (similar to Watergate) took place
* Reagan admitted to the weapons sale to Iran, but didn’t know about the Contras
* Full details were not known due to cover-ups, destruction of key documents, and perjury

**Fall of the Berlin Wall**

* In 1989, Soviet Union’s leader Mikhail Gorbachev, called for *glasnost*, opening, and *perestroika*, restructuring, of the Soviet Union
* The Berlin Wall coming down signified the end of the Cold War
	+ November \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Persian Gulf War**

* Aug 1990- Feb 1991
* War started when Iraq invaded Kuwait
* United Nations, led by US, sent troops to get Iraq out of Kuwait
* Operation Desert Storm: massive air campaign to destroy the Iraqi air force and anti-aircraft facilities

**Results of the Gulf War**

* Victory over Iraq was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the US
* Avoided nuclear war
* Stopped atrocities against people of Kuwait
* Minimized US troops being killed
	+ due to air, not ground war
* Did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remove Saddam Hussein from power

**September 11, 2001**

* Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaeda, conducted the first attack on US soil since Pearl Harbor.
* May 1, 2011: Navy SEALS killed bin Laden in Abottabad, Pakistan in a covert operation
	+ Al-Qaeda acknowledged his death on May 6, 2011, concurrently vowing to retaliate

**Operation Iraqi Freedom**

* Began in March 2003: WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction) were the main reason the US went in
* Goal was to get Saddam Hussein out of power
	+ Saddam was captured in Dec. 2003

**Results of Operation Iraqi Freedom**

* In 2005, official US govt. report concluded that Iraq had \_\_\_\_\_\_ nuclear or biological weapons (WMDs)
	+ Pres. Bush took heat and was labeled a liar
* Established new Iraqi govt.
	+ Free elections in 2005 led to Iraqi Constitution
	+ Rival religious groups made free elections difficult
* Terrorist groups (former Hussein loyalists and religious extremists) caused violence against US troops and Iraqi civilians
* US exited Iraq in December 2011