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| 1972 | Watergate | Political scandal involving illegal activities that ultimately led to the resignation of President Nixon |
| 1978 | Camp David Accords | Agreement brokered by President Jimmy Carter between Egyptian and Israeli leaders that made a peace treaty between the two nations possible |
| 1979-1981 | Iranian Hostage Crisis | Iranian radical students invaded the U.S. embassy and took 66 American hostages with support of Khomeini for over one year to oppose the U.S. |
| 1981-1989 | New Federalism | President Reagan’s idea of making the federal government’s role smaller by putting states in charge of taxes |
| 1983-1987 | “Star Wars” | President Reagan’s plan to develop innovative defenses to guard the U.S. against nuclear missile attacks |
| 1983-1988 | Iran-Contra Affair | Political scandal under President Reagan involving the use of money from secret arms sales to Iran to illegally support the Contras in Nicaragua |
| 1989 | The fall of the Berlin Wall | The fall of the wall that was built by East Germany to isolate West Berlin from Communist-controlled East Berlin that signaled the end of the Cold War |
| 1990-1991 | Operation Desert Storm | American-led attack on Iraqi forces after Iraq refused to withdraw its troops from Kuwait in the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush |
| 2001-present | War on Terror | War against Islamic extremists that led to the invasion of Afghanistan to take down the Taliban and Osama bin Laden and Iraq to take down Saddam Hussein |
| 2007-present | The Great Recession and Mortgage Crisis | The U.S. economy nosedived when the housing market collapses as Americans cannot pay their loans/debt |
| Proposed 1972 | Equal Rights Amendment | Proposed amendment to the Constitution to guarantee gender equality (women and men’s equality), which was never actually passed |
| 1973 | Roe v. Wade | Supreme Court decision which assured women the right to legal abortions |
| 1989 | Immigrationand Control Act of 1989 | Legislation that granted resident status to illegal immigrants residing in the U.S. since 1982 and penalized employers who hired illegal immigrants |