

KEVIN M. SCHULTZ

HIST³

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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U.S. History

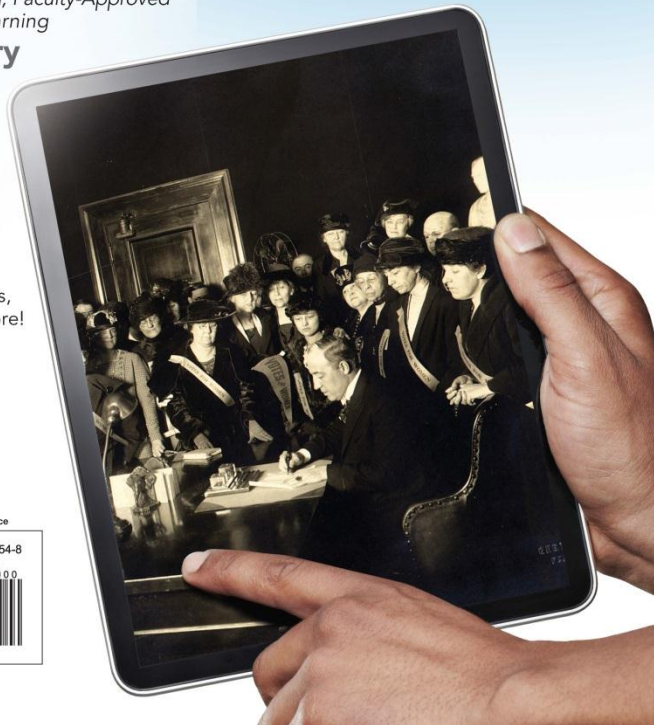
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Chapter 27

Reagan's America



David Paul Morris/Getty Images

What do **you** think?

With the end of the Cold War, the world became a more open, accessible place.

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Reagan's Domestic Politics

- Ronald Reagan handily won the 1980 election
- Republican candidates established a Republican majority in the Senate



Comfortably Conservative

- Supply-side economics



iStockphoto.com/ Andrew Dernie

Deregulation

- Reagan deregulated several industries from government control including:
 - airlines (leading to strikes by air-traffic controllers)
 - savings and loan institutions (leading to a mammoth scandal)
- He loosened regulations on:
 - air pollution (allowing corporations to continue polluting)
 - motor vehicles (delaying air bags in cars for several years)

Judicial and Administrative Appointments

- Reagan appealed to social conservatives
- He encouraged conservative positions on issues like
 - Abortion
 - School busing
 - Affirmative action
 - Prayer in schools

America in the 1980s: Polarization of the American Public

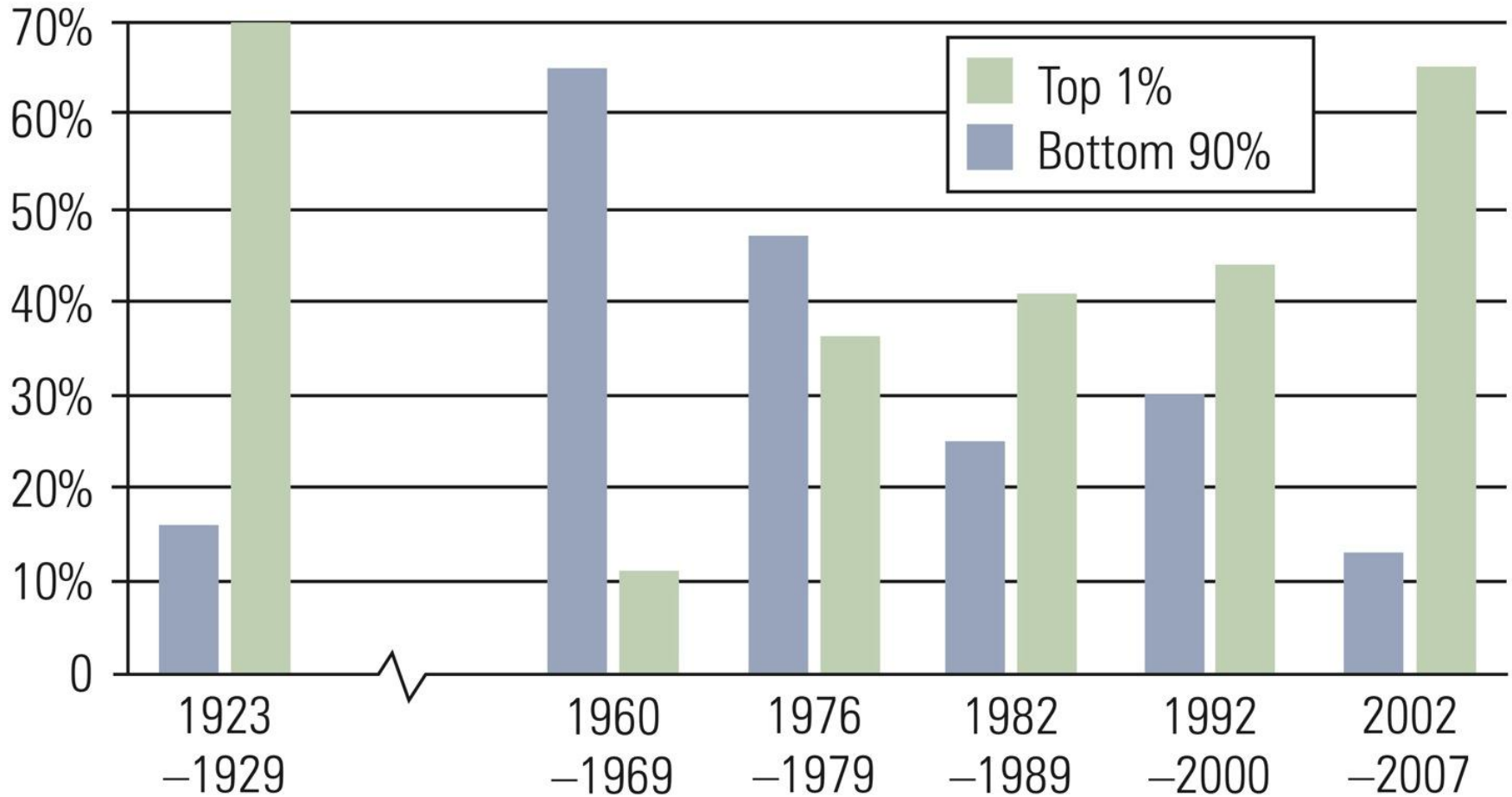
- Divisions figured more prominently in American society and in American politics

Divisions in Wealth

- The Rise of Japan and the American Trade Deficit

Decline of the Middle Class

Share of income captured



Source: CBPP calculations based on data from Piketty and Saez



Paramount Pictures / Courtesy Everett Collection

Continued Crisis in the Cities

- Gang violence
- American prison system was disproportionately populated by racial minorities from cities
- “Just Say No”



Culture Wars

- Evangelical Christians the bulk of the New Right movement
- People for the American Way
- The American Civil Liberties Union
- Two sides argued about the separation of church and state, individual privacy laws, and expanded systems of social welfare

AIDS

- AIDS was first detected in the U.S. in 1981
- By 1988 more than 57,000 cases had been diagnosed
- Throughout the 80s, no one quite knew what it was; its etiology remained a mystery

Cynthia Johnson/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images





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Image courtesy of The Advertising Archives

YOU CAN'T LIVE ON HOPE.

Paying for the Reagan Revolution

- His “revolution” had immense costs that were borne by his successors

The 1988 Election

- Bush turned *liberal* into a derogatory term
- He was elected by a comfortable margin
- Bush increased the conservative majority on the Court

Bush' s Domestic Policies

- The S&L Crisis
- No New Taxes?
- Recession

Foreign Relations under Reagan-Bush

- Reagan and Bush supported an active, interventionist foreign policy
 - disastrous for balancing America's budget
 - helped end the Cold War

The End of the Cold War Era

- Star Wars
- *Perestroika*
- The Middle East
- The Iran-Contra Affair
- The Collapse of the Soviet Union
- The Deadly Hangover





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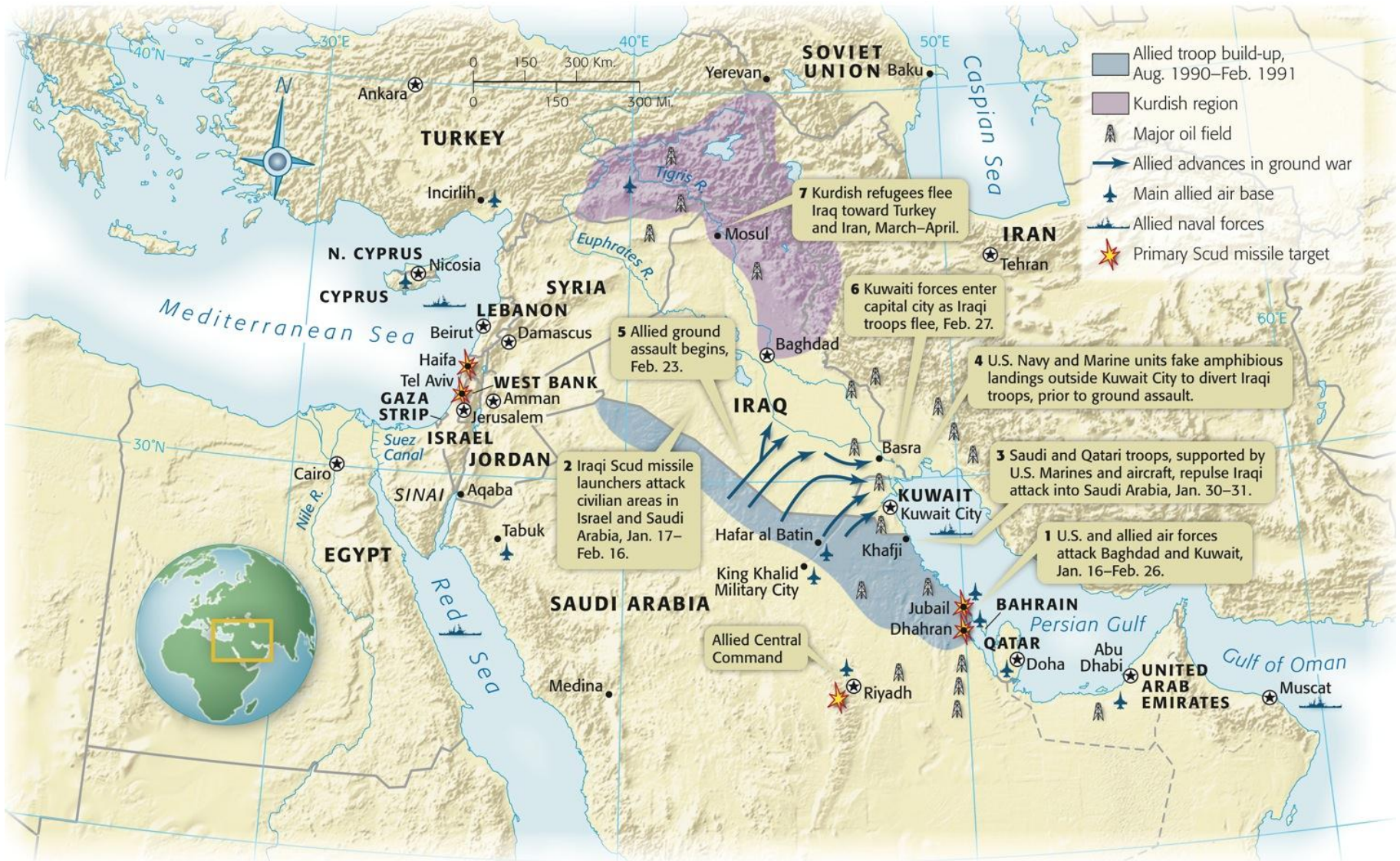
 **Map 27.1.** The End of the Cold War



Other Foreign Affairs

- Tiananmen Square
- The Persian Gulf War





Map 27.2. The Persian Gulf War

What else was happening . . .

- 1982** PacMan is named *Time* magazine's Man of the Year.
- 1986** Tom Cruise stars in *Top Gun*.
- 1990** Children's classic *My Friend Flicka* is pulled from the optional reading lists for fifth- and sixth-graders in Clay County, Florida, because the book reportedly uses objectionable language.
- 1991** First used in 1979 in connection with the Iran hostage crisis, Tony Orlando and Dawn's 1970s hit "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree" has a resurgence in popularity as the anthem for American families with loved ones overseas during the Gulf War. As a result of the tremendous demand for yellow ribbon to tie around trees, one ribbon maker ships 30 million yards of it in a month.