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Reading Guide for Section 5 “The 1980’s: A Return to Optimism”

Use Section 5: The 1980’s: A Return to Optimism to answer the following questions

1. What was President Reagan’s background before becoming President? What did he tell the American people as he was campaigning?

2. Explain the economic policy that would become known as “Reaganomics.”

3. What were some of the criticisms of Reaganomics? Did it help *all* Americans?

4. Where were large numbers of immigrants coming from during the 1980’s? How did this decade’s immigration compare to earlier in the century?

5. List several of the social problems that seemed to be popping up all over the United States during the 1980’s.

6. Describe the increase in drug and gang related problems from 1980 to 1990.

7. What was the “War on Drugs?” Was it successful?

8. What impact did HIV and AIDS have on American society from 1980 through the present day?