

The Role Of A Lifetime:
The Legacy of President Ronald Reagan

Hunter Schaal & Ben Tidgren

Senior Division

Group Website

(496 Words)

President Ronald Reagan is viewed as the man who put an end to the threat of communism around the world. For four decades Ronald Reagan dedicated his life to serving the American people. He was one of the greatest Americans we will ever encounter. Our History Day project will examine the life and legacy of President Ronald Reagan and how he is viewed as the President who restored hope in the American Government, took down the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall.

When we learned what this year's theme was we immediately agreed on President Ronald Reagan. We both had an interest in how America won the Cold War and what Reagan's involvement with the war was. One of the members of our group's love for Ronald Reagan started last year when they visited Reagan's presidential library in Simi Valley, California. At the library people learn first hand the problems of the late 1970's and early 1980's. Patrons learn how bad the country was before Reagan took office, and how much better shape the country was in when he left office in 1989.

To start our research we both read Reagan's autobiography *An American Life*. We then decided what we would share based on what Reagan wrote. We started our website by sharing information on Ronald Reagan's 1964 "A Time For Choosing" speech and its impact on the conservative movement in America. This speech led to Reagan winning the presidential election in 1980. We then share how Reagan fixed the economy with his tax cuts and Reaganomic plan. The main part of our website focuses on his relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev and how they worked together to end the Cold War.

We chose the website because one of our group members had experience in creating a History Day website before. The best source we used was *An American Life* which is Reagan's autobiography. Also, *Landslide: LBJ and Ronald Reagan At A Dawn of A New American*, *Reagan At Reykjavik: 48 Hours That Ended The Cold War*, and *The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counterrevolution 1980-89* were good sources to gain knowledge from. We used Ronald Reagan's Presidential Library website to get most of our photographs. We took videos from online sources and converted them to

iMovie to meet the time limit. We felt it was important to include campaign ads and speech excerpts in our project.

We selected President Reagan as our topic for History Day this year because we feel the impact he made while in office affects our lives today and fits into this years theme of Leadership and Legacy in History. Ronald Reagan is the president that brought new life and hope to America. His leadership ultimately led America into resolving the Cold War. Ronald Reagan took the United States into the 21st century where we are still referencing his conservative legacy.