

and video images to create music videos. Music videos were like fast-moving short films, with costumes, makeup, and choreography. MTV was an instant hit, though its videos were often criticized for violence and sexual content. Many performers, such as Madonna and Michael Jackson, boosted their careers by producing videos with their new albums.

Rap music was another new sound of the 1980s. This musical style originated in local clubs in New York City's South Bronx. Emphasizing heavy bass and very rhythmic sounds, rap artists did not usually sing but rather spoke over the music and rhythmic beats. Rap's lyrics frequently focused on the African American experience in the inner city. While rap was initially popular among East Coast African Americans, it has grown in popularity, becoming a multimillion-dollar industry.

While the music industry was changing, new forms of entertainment also developed, including video games. The first video arcade game, called Pong, was released in 1972. In the early 1980s, sales reached about \$3 billion with the release of games such as PacMan and Space Invaders. Video arcades became the new spot for young people to meet. By the mid-1980s, new technology allowed home video games to compete with arcade games in color and speed. Home video game sales rose dramatically in the 1990s.

✓ Reading Check **Describing** What forms of entertainment gained popularity in the 1980s?

A Society Under Stress

Main Idea Social problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, crime, and the AIDS epidemic affected many people during the 1980s.

Reading Connection Does your school have organizations such as Students Against Drunk Driving? Read on to learn more about attempts to limit teen alcohol abuse.

Although the 1980s were prosperous, many social problems continued to plague the nation and forced federal, state, and local governments to find resources to solve them.

Crime and Drugs Ongoing problems with drug abuse in the 1980s made many city neighborhoods dangerous. Drug users often committed crimes in order to get money for drugs, and dealers backed by street gangs fought to protect their territory. Cocaine use increased, especially a concentrated form, crack



Picturing History

Homelessness During the 1980s, many people began living on the streets in makeshift shelters. A lack of low-income housing and care for the mentally ill added to the problem. **How do you think the country's general prosperity influenced people to think about this problem?**

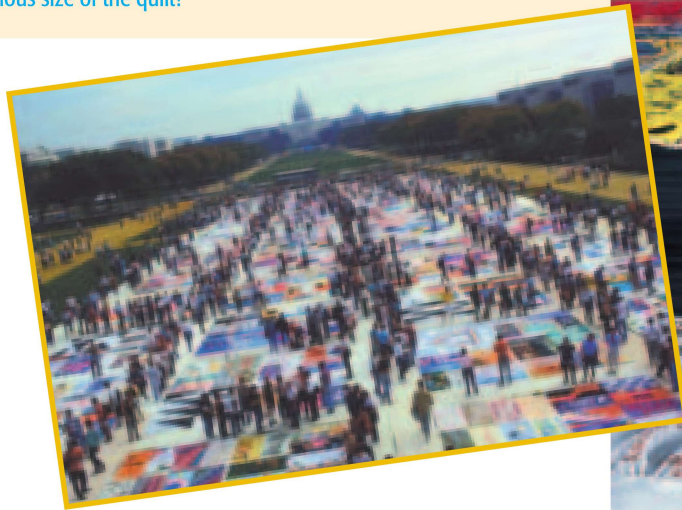
cocaine, which made users hostile and aggressive. First Lady Nancy Reagan tried to discourage teen drug use with her "Just Say No" campaign. Many young people, however, continued to use drugs, especially marijuana and amphetamines. Drug use spread from cities to small towns and rural areas.

Problems With Alcohol Abuse of alcohol was also a serious concern. Teenagers with fake identification cards could easily buy alcoholic beverages. Although teen alcohol use declined during the 1980s, thousands of alcohol-related auto accidents involved young people. In 1980 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), a grassroots organization, was founded to look for effective solutions to underage drinking and drunk driving. In 1984 Congress cut highway funds to any state that did not raise the legal drinking age to 21. All states quickly complied.

A Deadly Epidemic In 1981 researchers identified a disease which caused seemingly healthy young men to become sick and die. They named it

Picturing History

Silent Witness The AIDS Quilt remembers those who have died from AIDS. Comprising more than 40,000 panels, it was first displayed near the Washington Monument. **What lesson do visitors take away from the enormous size of the quilt?**



“acquired immune deficiency syndrome,” or **AIDS**. AIDS weakens the immune system, lowering resistance to illnesses such as pneumonia and several types of cancer. HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is spread through bodily fluids. In the United States, AIDS was first noticed among homosexual men. Soon AIDS began to spread among heterosexual men and women. A few people got the disease from blood transfusions. Other victims included drug users who shared needles and, through them, infected blood. Many people were infected by sexual partners. By 1988 the Centers for Disease Control had identified more than 100,000 AIDS cases in the United States.

Reading Check **Evaluating** What social problems did Americans face in the 1980s?

Social Activism

Main Idea Many groups became more politically active during the 1980s.

Reading Connection What political scandals affecting earlier administrations can you think of? Read on to discover the opposition to Secretary of the Interior James Watt’s programs during the Reagan years.

AIDS increased the visibility of the country’s gay and lesbian community, but some homosexuals had been defending their civil rights since the 1960s. On

June 27, 1969, New York City police raided a Greenwich Village nightclub called the Stonewall Inn. The police had a history of raiding the nightclub and targeting its patrons because of their sexual **orientation**. Frustration among the gay and lesbian onlookers led to a riot. The Stonewall riot marked the beginning of a gay activist movement. Soon after, organizations such as the Gay Liberation Front tried to increase tolerance of homosexuality and media coverage of gays and lesbians.

Although the 1980s witnessed the rise of a powerful conservative movement, liberal organizations and social activists continued to push their agenda as well, particularly on issues involving the environment and developing nations. In addition, elderly Americans began to organize politically for the first time.

Environmental Activism Grows Trying to promote environmental protection during the Reagan years was frustrating for environmental activists. Secretary of the Interior James Watt encouraged development on public lands, saying, “We will mine more, drill more, cut more timber.” Congress, under pressure from environmental groups, blocked many of Watt’s plans. Worried about Watt’s program, many new members joined groups such as the **Sierra Club**.

Picturing History

First Female Astronaut Dr. Sally Ride was accepted into the astronaut program in 1978. She became the first American woman to orbit the earth when she flew aboard the space shuttle Challenger in June 1983. **What effect did Sally Ride's flight in space have on female astronauts?**



The environmental movement born in the 1970s continued to grow in the 1980s. Environmentalists were active in protesting nuclear power plants and protecting fragile wetlands. Communities started recycling programs. Activists became concerned about the ozone layer and rain forests.

Artists Become Activists In the 1980s, ministers, politicians, and others targeted and criticized rock musicians as promoters of drug use and other negative behavior. Still, singers, actors, and other entertainers often organized benefit concerts to help others. In hits such as “Born in the USA,” Bruce Springsteen sang about working-class Americans. A social activist, he gave concerts to benefit food banks and the homeless.

To help starving people in Ethiopia, Irish rocker Bob Geldof organized musicians in England to present “Band Aid” concerts in 1984. The next year, the event grew into “Live Aid.” Musicians including Paul McCartney, Madonna, The Who, and Tina Turner participated in the musical benefits. Its theme song, “We Are the World,” was a bestseller. The same year, country singer Willie Nelson organized “Farm Aid” to help American farmers going through hard times.

Other Groups Become Activists One noticeable political change in the 1980s was the stronger presence of senior citizens and immigrants. Decades of improvements in medicine had resulted in more Americans surviving to an older age. In addition, the birthrate had declined, so younger people represented a smaller proportion of the population. The fact that more Americans were receiving Social Security payments created budget pressures for the government. A dramatic increase in immigration during the 1980s and 1990s also altered voting patterns, increased cultural and religious diversity, and created a need for education reform to address the needs of bilingual students.

Older Americans became politically active, opposing cuts in Social Security or Medicare. Because they tended to vote in large numbers, senior citizens became an influential interest group. Their major lobbying organization was the **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)**.

Reading Check **Summarizing** What issues did environmental activists focus on in the 1980s?

A New Era in Space

Now Idea **As the nation sent out space shuttles and built space stations, it had to cope with several disasters.**

Reading Connection Have you ever considered the dangers of space travel? Read on to find out more about one of the greatest disasters of the space program.

President Reagan, like many Americans, saw space as an exciting frontier. Improved technology and new exploration programs rekindled the nation’s excitement for space exploration.

The Space Shuttle After Americans reached the moon, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began work on the **space shuttle**—a reusable spacecraft with wings that could rocket into space and then glide back to Earth. On April 12, 1981, the first space shuttle, *Columbia*, lifted off its launch pad in Florida. On board were two astronauts: John Young and Robert Crippen. John Young was a hero to many Americans. He had flown three times in

the 1960s and commanded the *Apollo 16* mission to the moon in 1972. After the shuttle landed successfully, Young remarked to the crowd: “We’re really not too far, the human race isn’t, from going to the stars.”

Young and Crippen’s flight demonstrated the shuttle’s capabilities. Previously astronauts had been military pilots, but the shuttle could function as an orbiting laboratory, and civilians could now be astronauts. In 1983 Sally Ride became the first American woman in space, and after her flight, female astronauts became increasingly common.

In January 1986, disaster struck. The shuttle *Challenger* exploded after liftoff, killing everyone on board: Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe. Although Americans mourned the lost lives, President Reagan reminded everyone that the exploration of space is potentially dangerous and requires bravery:

“The Challenger Seven were aware of the dangers, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. . . . They had that special grace, that special spirit that says, ‘Give me a challenge and I’ll meet it with joy.’ They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. . . . We’ve grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we’ve only just begun. We’re still pioneers. . . . [S]ometimes painful things like this happen. It’s all part of the process of

exploration and discovery. It’s all part of taking a chance and expanding man’s horizons. The future doesn’t belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave.”

—from *Speaking My Mind*

In June 1986, a presidential commission reported that defective seals in the rocket boosters had caused the explosion. Engineers fixed the problem, and in September 1988, the shuttle resumed operations.

A Home in Space Between September 1988 and December 2002, the shuttle completed 87 missions. It placed many satellites in orbit, including the Hubble Space Telescope in 1990. This telescope gave astronomers the ability to look farther into space than ever before.

One reason NASA built the shuttle was to provide transportation to **space stations**—manned orbiting platforms in space that serve as a base of operations for space research. The United States had launched the space station *Skylab* in 1973, but it stayed in orbit only until 1979. In 1986 President Reagan announced that the United States would build a new space station to replace *Skylab*.

In the years following Reagan’s announcement, the space station became an international project, and 16 nations helped create the International Space Station. Shuttle astronauts began assembling the station in December 1998, and the station’s first crew

Profiles IN HISTORY

Franklin R. Chang-Diaz

1950–

Born in Costa Rica, Franklin R. Chang-Diaz dates his fascination with space to hearing about the *Sputnik* launching in 1957. His mother told him that a new star, made by humans, had been placed in the heavens. This convinced him, he said later, to become “a space explorer.”

Chang-Diaz managed to save enough money—\$50—to immigrate to the United States at the age of 18. He went to Hartford, Connecticut, where he had relatives. After completing high school and college, he went on to



earn a doctorate in applied plasma physics and fusion technology at MIT in 1977.

His goal of becoming an astronaut came true in 1980 when NASA selected him for the space shuttle program. In the following years, Chang-Diaz worked as part of the astronaut support crew and in early space station design studies.

His first spaceflight came in January 1986 on the space shuttle *Columbia*. In the late 1980s and 1990s, Chang-Diaz flew a number of shuttle missions.



▲ *The space shuttle Discovery*

arrived in October 2000. By December 2002 the shuttle had completed 16 missions to the space station.

Seventeen years after the *Challenger* disaster, tragedy struck again. On February 1, 2003, the shuttle *Columbia* came apart while reentering the earth's atmosphere. All seven crew members were killed. As people around the world mourned, NASA began investigating the accident. Speaking to the nation, President George W. Bush proclaimed, "Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspi-

ration of discovery and the longing to understand." The president then promised that American space exploration would continue.

✓ **Reading Check** **Describing** How was the space shuttle different from previous spacecraft?

HISTORY  **Study Central**
Online

For help with the concepts in this section of *American Vision: Modern Times* go to tav.mt.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central**.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

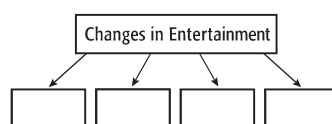
- Vocabulary** Define: yuppie, accumulate, via, orientation, space shuttle, space station.
- Terms** Identify: AIDS, Sierra Club, American Association of Retired Persons.
- Summarize** the causes for which several musicians held concert benefits in the 1980s.

Reviewing Big Ideas

- Comparing** How do the social problems the United States faces today compare with those the nation faced in the 1980s?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** What new innovations occurred in the nation's space program in the 1980s? What would you invent for the space program?
- Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the changes in entertainment in the 1980s.



Analyzing Visuals

- Analyzing Photographs** Study the photo on page 905. Why does the man in the photo make a point of distinguishing himself as a veteran?

Writing About History

- Persuasive Writing** Choose one of the social problems of the 1980s. Write a letter to members of your favorite band asking them to perform a concert to benefit your cause. Your letter should include reasons the cause is important.

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