U.S. History Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Role of Government in the Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries (1980-2018)**

Place yourself on the continuum below:

The gov’t should support many programs that provide benefits to the public (health care, food stamps, welfare, pre-K education, arts, disability insurance)

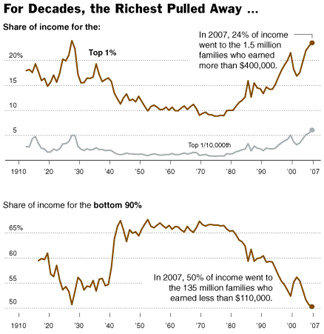
It is not the proper role of government to provide those things. People should be more self-reliant.

Political stance: Liberal/Left-wing Political stance: Conservative/Right-wing

Tend toward this party: Democratic Party Tend toward this party: Republican Party

From the 1930s-1960’s (New Deal, Great Society), in which direction did the government move on the issue of providing aid?

To the left. Government role expanded during these years, even under Republican presidents like Nixon.

In the 1980’s (under Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush presidencies), which direction did the government move?

To the right. This was a big shift, and people call it the Reagan Revolution, or Conservative Revolution.

Reagan’s economic beliefs: Reaganomics

1. Cut taxes, especially on the wealthy

1. Cut spending on social programs and

regulations

3. Increase spending on military

What effects did these

policies have on the country?

Gap begins to widen between the rich and poor in America. “The rich get richer and the poor get poorer”

Source: Piketty and Saez, 2009

Government aid under President Bill Clinton (1993-2001):

Rightward trend continues. “The era of Big Government is over.”

Welfare Reform: a.k.a. “The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.”

Tighter restrictions about who can get welfare and for how long.

Biggest “role of government” issue during the Obama and early Trump presidencies?

Role of gov’t in providing health care. “Obamacare” tried to expand gov’t role in making sure people have “affordable” care. Trump has tried to repeal Obamacare.