THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY

Episode Guide

This 3-hour television series begins with the events leading up to Ronald Reagan's election to the presidency in 1980 and continues through his departure from office in January, 1989. Unlike previous biographies on Reagan, this series focuses solely on the presidency and on the global events that shaped both policy and decision-making.

HOUR ONE of *The Reagan Presidency* features detailed discussion of domestic policy issues including the impact of the administration's tax decreases and tax increases, supply side economic initiatives (a.k.a. Reaganomics), fiscal and Fed policy especially around interest rates, the impact of and debate over an increasing federal deficit, bi-partisan Social Security reform, bi-partisan tax reform, the AIDS crisis, the farm mortgage crisis, the President's approach to homelessness and immigration policy. Hour one also provides considerable discussion of issues and events surrounding the 1980 election including the Iran Hostage Crisis and then-candidate Reagan's first post-convention speech in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Hour one also covers Reagan's appointment of the first female Supreme Court Justice and the impact of the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan's life.

Key interview subjects in hour one include Paul Volcker, Sandra Day O'Connor, Robert Reich, Walter Mondale, Ed Meese, Gary Hart, Martin Feldstein, Henry Cisneros, Bill Bradley, Andrew Young, Richard Reeves, Jim Angle and Douglas Brinkley.

HOUR TWO of *The Reagan Presidency* covers 1980-1984 and features in-depth discussion on foreign policy including the Cold War, superpower proxy wars in Central America and Afghanistan and new insights into Reagan administration policies in the Middle East. Significant attention is given to President Reagan's 1982 speech to the British Parliament, to Reagan's reversal of America's policy of détente, to administration efforts to fund Contra forces in El Salvador and Nicaragua and to America's invasion of Grenada. Hour two also chronicles the Soviet downing of *Korean Airlines Flight 007* as well as the origins and escalation of America's *Strategic Defense Initiative* (a.k.a. SDI or Star Wars). Hour two includes discussion of the impact of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and substantial discussion of the role America, Syria, Iran and Israel played in the Lebanese Civil War. The episode includes dramatic footage of the massacre

of civilians in *Sabra* and *Shatila* refugee camps in Beirut, the birth of Hezbollah in Lebanon, terrorist attacks on the U.S. Embassy and the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corp barracks at the Beirut airport.

Key interview subjects in hour two include Robert McFarlane, Condoleezza Rice, Trita Parsi, Reza Aslan, Ambassador Sam Lewis, Steven Weisman, Kiron Skinner, Douglas Brinkley, George Shultz, Ambassador Jack Matlock, Andre Grachev, Oscar Arias, Constance Stellzenmueller and Svetlana Savranskaya.

HOUR THREE of *The Reagan Presidency* begins in 1985 with Mikhail Gorbachev's rise to General Secretary of the Soviet Union. Under this new leadership, Reagan and Gorbachev orchestrated a major breakthrough in the long running Cold War by agreeing to a series of Soviet-American summits. Following success at the first summit in Geneva, SDI became a major stumbling block at the second summit in Reykjavik. But change was clearly underway as the Soviet Union initiated Gorbachev's domestic policies of *Perestroika* and *Glasnost* within the Soviet system. Hour three includes Gorbachev's first visit to Washington DC and Reagan's first visit to Moscow as well as the signing of the INF treaty to reduce nuclear arsenals in both the Soviet Union and the U.S. Hour three also provides significant insights into the terrorist capture of American hostages in Lebanon, the administration's defiance of its own policy by bargaining with Iran to supply American weapons in exchange for the release of hostages. The deal was eventually called *Arms-for-Hostages*. The film also details the impact of decisions made by members of the Reagan administration to channel profits from the Iranian arms sale to Contra forces in Central America. The deal was eventually called the *Iran-Contra Affair* and it resulted in the firing of numerous administration officials as well as criminal charges against several participants. Hour three chronicles Iraq's missile attack on the USS Stark and the American downing of an Iranian commercial jetliner en route from Dubai to Tehran. Hour three includes President Reagan's controversial speech at the Berlin Wall in 1987 and his speech to students at Moscow State University in 1988. The film also details events surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall that occurred shortly after Reagan departed office in 1989.

Key interview subjects in hour three include Robert McFarlane, Condoleezza Rice, Douglas Brinkley, Ambassador Jack Matlock, Andre Grachev Constance Stellzenmueller, George Shultz, Richard Reeves, Kiron Skinner and Svetlana Savranskaya.