

The Dark Knight Returns by Frank Miller
Historical Context: Reagan Politics

Directions: Use the PBS links in this handout to help you answer the questions about Reagan's politics. Your understanding of Reagan's campaign and policies will improve your understanding of the plot, allusions, and themes in Miller's graphic novel.

Reagan's Foreign Affairs

1. Reagan thought that the Soviets respected _____.
2. He had no intention of thawing Cold War _____ between the U.S. and Soviets.
3. His strategy was to see how the Soviets responded to his increase in U.S. _____
_____.
4. Although Reagan deplored _____, he deployed medium -
_____ in Europe.

Reagan's Domestic Policies

5. The United States suffered from a recession in 1981-82, which led to record _____, bank
_____, and farm _____.
6. Critics claimed that "Reaganomics" - substantial reduction in government _____ and
_____, coupled with _____ caused this economic downturn.
7. Reagan believed that the nation would prosper if the government decreased its _____ in
the affairs of businesses and _____.
8. Due to Reagan's tax cuts and increased spending for defense, his policies increased the federal
_____ and the _____ between the rich and poor.
9. And, due to the relief service cuts, the conditions in inner cities _____.

Reagan on the News

10. The Reagan administration was brilliant in _____ the news media, because they
appealed to the _____.
11. They focused on the _____ they conveyed, rather than the news story itself.