

The mandate was against Volcker: will Reagan put America back to work?

by Konstantin George

The landslide victory of Ronald Reagan represents a total repudiation of the economic and foreign policies of the Carter administration. The voters' overwhelming vote against Carter policies can best be summarized as mainstream America's rejection of Carter's slavish submission to the dictates of Ayatollah Khomeini and rejection of Carter's economic depression brought on by the policies of Paul "Ayatollah" Volcker, the mad mullah at the helm of the Fed.

The vote, with Reagan carrying 44 states for a total of 489 electoral votes, represents a greater repudiation of an incumbent President than even the historic 1932 trouncing accorded Herbert Hoover. Both drubbings were administered by a huge bipartisan cross section of American voters, cutting across all regional, ethnic, and occupational lines. Both were administered for the same reason—repudiation of a President whose avowed policies were plunging the United States into a great depression.

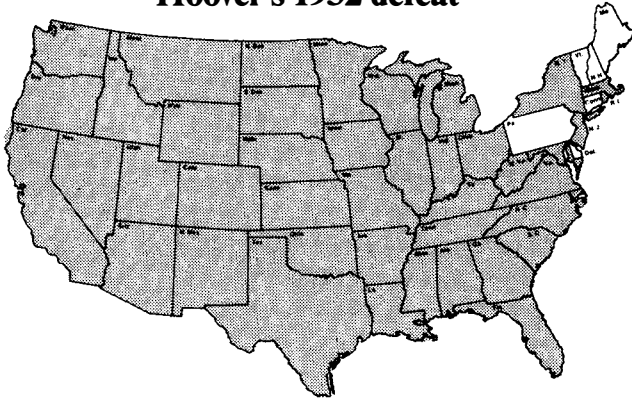
Reagan's vote is a mandate to completely reverse the Carter-Volcker depression policies. Fifty percent of the normally Democratic blue-collar Americans who went to the polls voted for Reagan—that is, in most cases, against Carter.

The Reagan vote among these constituencies, the components of the old "Roosevelt coalition," are record-shattering totals for a Republican candidate. For the first time in modern history, a GOP presidential aspirant won a solid majority—at least 52 percent—of the trade union membership's vote.

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Hoover's 1932 defeat



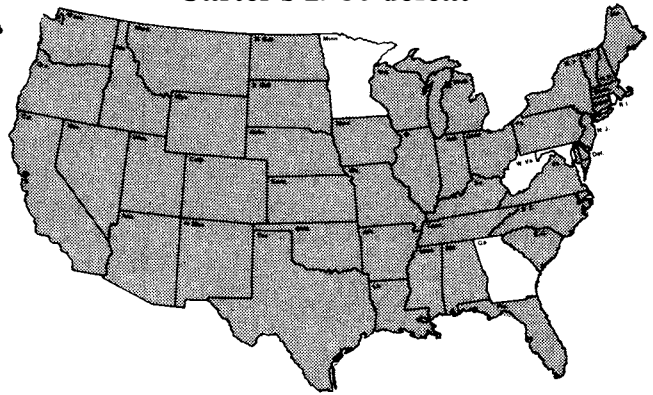
Loser's electoral vote

Pennsylvania	36	New Hampshire	4
Connecticut	8	Vermont	3
Maine	5	Delaware	3

Total electoral vote

Herbert Hoover	59
Franklin Roosevelt	472

Carter's 1980 defeat



Loser's electoral vote

Georgia	12	Hawaii	4
Minnesota	10	Rhode Island	4
Maryland	10	District of Columbia	3
West Virginia	6		

Total electoral vote

James Earl Carter	49
Ronald Reagan	489

vote.

The 52 percent figure is for all blue collar, white and black, averaged out. This puts the Reagan white ethnic/blue-collar vote in the range of 70 percent, meaning a complete mirror-reversal of the standard 70-30 vote breakdown in the Democratic candidate's favor.

To complete the picture, one must add the millions of registered Democrats, including many among minorities, who added their weight to the anti-Carter referendum by staying home.

Whether by voting against him, or by expressing hatred of Carter policies by not voting, every component of the old winning Democratic coalition—blue collar/ethnic, minorities, Southerners—first put together by FDR in 1932, broke with Carter.

Carter became the first Democratic incumbent in history to be decisively turned out of office by each of the components that have made up the historic "Roosevelt coalition" that has made the Democratic Party the majority party, except for a brief interlude, since 1932. Carter became the first Democratic candidate, let alone President, since Roosevelt not to take even one major industrial state. Southern Democratic rejection was on the same scale. Of the ten Deep South states, the old Confederacy minus Texas, Carter carried only one, his home state of Georgia.

The American electorate also broke the near-dictatorial hold on the Democratic Party that has been exercised from 1972 on by the ultraliberal, antigrowth fac-

tion known as the "McGovernites." Along with Carter, every recognized McGovernite senator up for reelection fell, starting with McGovern himself. Getting the ax with McGovern were Bayh of Indiana, Culver of Iowa, Church of Idaho, and Durkin of New Hampshire.

Like Carter, these McGovernites completely miscalculated the antidepression revolt psychology dominant in the population. Underneath all their rhetoric about "concern for the poor," the McGovernites' refusal to fight Volcker's policies showed these hypocrites in their true colors.

With the McGovernites now largely swept out of office, and with remaining ultraliberals on full notice concerning 1982 primaries as to what can modestly be termed their vulnerability, both urban and rural Democratic constituency machines will begin using this mandate to restaff and restructure local and state Democratic Party leaderships in preparation for a showdown fight at the national level against the Robert Strauss/John White DNC leadership, and the other national staff DNC strategists who were responsible for the August convention arm-twisting of delegates that produced the Carter candidacy.

The media role

The thunderous "No" to Carter economic and foreign policies was delivered in the face of the most persevering and most vicious media "plugs for Carter" operation, with national television going through every



Photo: Michael Evans, Sigma

Ronald Reagan on the Philadelphia docks in August.

contortion and distortion to render a Carter reelection scenario seemingly “credible.”

Why did the U.S. media attempt to drum into the population’s head that the race was, to quote the most commonly used phrase of the past month, “too close to call”?

The failed media exercise itself yields some useful insights into what are the political reality principles in 1980. Reality principle number one was that there was no way to mobilize a Carter vote. Carter was doomed to massive defeat because of his policies, unless—through a pre-election hoax orchestrated by the media—an anti-Reagan, or anti-bogeyman, vote could be generated.

The media totally miscalculated. The coming voter tidal wave was neither pro- nor anti-Reagan per se. It was anti-Carter and antidepression, and the new Reagan administration it has swept into office had better take heed.

The “bogeyman” option backfiring, the media and the Carter administration tried one last desperate gamble: a pre-election hostage release. What was conceived of as a last-minute “political miracle” that would save Carter.

This was to be the last miscalculation. The public perceives Carter correctly as devious, corrupt, a liar and

hypocrite, capable of attempting anything to get re-elected. Carter’s pre-election hostage gambit exploded in his face; American voters saw the move for what it was.

The Trilateral question

The outcome of the 1980 election forms an object lesson to the financial interests behind the Trilateral Commission who put the Carter into the White House. A previous mood of “what can I do about it,” or “what’s the use?” as the response to such policy outrages, has been replaced by a moral resurgence.

The new Reagan administration will be inaugurated amid this mandate for a return to policies promoting industrial, technological, economic growth. It can choose to accept this mandate, or to pretend that it is a mere “backlash against big government,” and proceed with austerity policies. That is essentially what the intense in-fighting between the Trilateral Commission and anti-Trilateral nationalist current is all about during this transition period.

Should the new administration, under Kissinger-Trilateral manipulation, tend to violate this voter mandate, it will not be without paying very steep—and for certain sections of the GOP, unacceptable—political penalties.