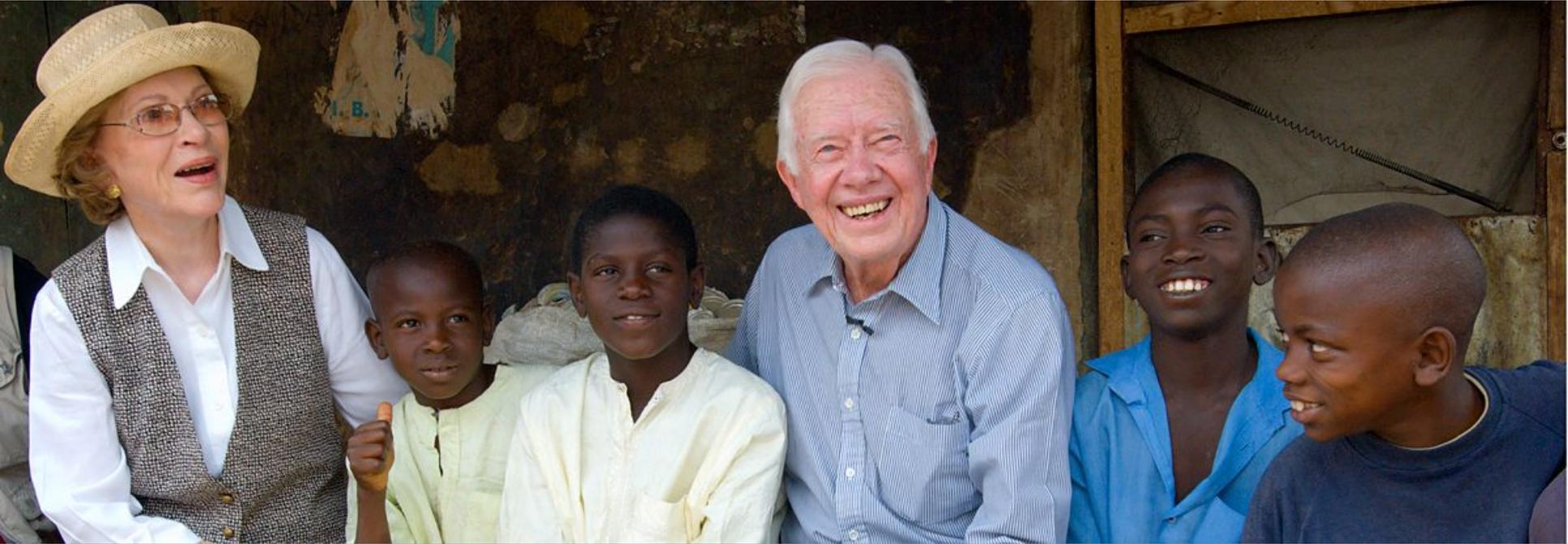


President Jimmy Carter



Presented by:

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39th President of the United States

1977 - 1981



James Earl “Jimmy” Carter was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, GA. He served as Georgia governor from 1971 - 1975. As President, his goal was to achieve a more **“competent and compassionate”** government. However, his conservative values and platform commitment to reducing the national deficit left little room for social reforms.

Before Carter's Run

Nixon Recession (1969-1970)
Oil Crisis Recession (1973-1975)

When Carter announced his run for presidency in 1974, America was already grappling with:

- Unemployment and inflation as a result of:
 - Vietnam War spending increases (1965) during Nixon's presidency, which added to the national deficit.
 - Oil crises in 1974 and 1979. As oil prices rose, employers increased the prices of their goods and services.
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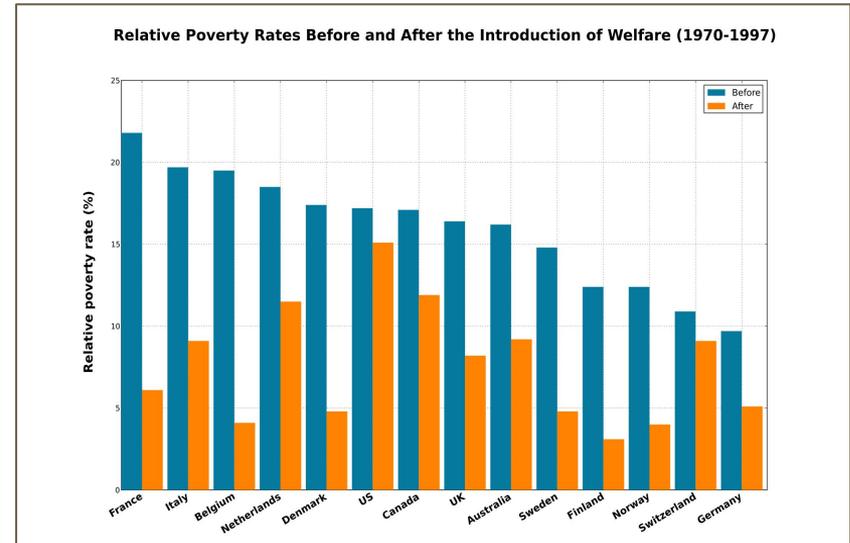
How Jimmy Carter Changed the World



Social Welfare Issues

Welfare Current

- Separate eligibility requirements making system bias and unfair
- Encouraged family breakup in order to receive benefits
- Discouraged working to receive more or higher benefits
- Failed to assist with employment
- Most programs were a waste of tax dollars, created fraud, red tape bureaucracy, errors and anti family



New Program

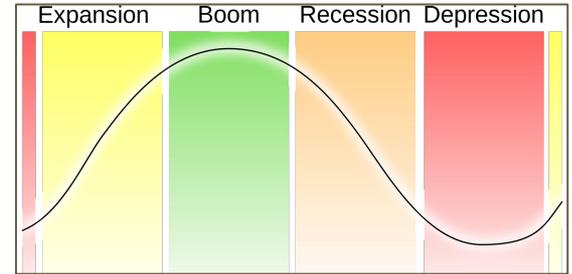
Welfare Transformation

AFDC - Aid to Families with Dependent Children

- Programs needed to break the cycle of welfare
- Provide Job Opportunities
- Work benefits for those who do work but do not make enough to provide for their families
- Income support for those who work part time, unable to work due to age, disabilities, or to care for a minor child under the age of 6
- In the end the Welfare Reform died/Not Passed

Economy: Inflation and Recession

- Worst in 40 years with country recovering from a severe recession
- Economy operating below productive potential
- 6.5 mil / 7.5% people unemployed
- Inflation rate too high
 - Oil prices
 - Problems for disadvantaged
 - Older Americans employment blocked
 - Women had fewer opportunities than men
 - Minority teens unemployment rate very high
 - Minorities unemployment rate was twice as high as whites
- Farm income falling drastically low



The Economic Cycle



Populations Affected by Social Welfare Problems



**Caregivers of
Young Children**

Targeted by Welfare
Reform



Disabled People



Poor People

The Elderly
Targeted by SSI Reform



Not Quite Compassionate

Carter's conservative beliefs left little room for social welfare legislation

Conservative in nature, Carter's presidential agenda leaned less toward social programs (which required funding) and more towards reorganizing the federal government (to reduce spending).

Carter supported and proposed:

- National health insurance
- Restrictive welfare reform
- Long-term placement for children in foster care
- Disabilities rights

Carter did NOT support:

- Expanded funding of child care
- Federal funding of abortion

Major Policies, Programs & Services

In response to: **Unemployment**



Economic Stimulus Appropriations Act - 1977

This \$20.1 billion program was designed to stimulate the economy and provide jobs, especially for disadvantaged groups. Nearly half went to the Employment and Training Administration, which provided:

- Job training for youth and veterans
- Public service employment expansion
- Initiatives for migrant workers and Natives

Major Policies, Programs & Services

In response to: **Lack of Child care / Family Support**



Head Start Program Expansion - 1978

Adoption Assistance & Child Welfare Act - 1980

To encourage local agencies to pursue adoptions for older children, kids of color and those with disabilities, this act:

- Provided subsidies to adoptive families
- Required states to maintain status reports
- Expanded federal assistance to states for foster care

Major Policies, Programs & Services

In response to: **Unequal Rights**



Pregnancy Discrimination Act - 1978

- Barred discrimination against pregnant employees

Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board regulations - 1980

- Required extensive modifications to make federal buildings more accessible to the handicapped

Mental Health Systems Act - 1980

Revolution

In the midst of the Reluctant Welfare State

Sometimes referred to as “The Paradoxical Era,” the 70s were characterized by both *liberal* and *conservative* reforms.

In spite of Carter’s tendency to lean toward the latter, many **radical leaders** and various groups emerged to rally for change in:

- LGBTQ rights
- Women’s rights
- Civil rights

Enacting change came about by:

- Nonviolent marches and demonstrations
- Legislative rulings and regulatory government bodies like the:
 - Equal Employment Opportunities Commission

Major Leaders



Marian Wright Edelman

- Activist for the rights of children
- Helped push the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980
- Founder and president of Children's Defense Fund
- Main goal is to enhance federal policies regarding child welfare and public education systems
- CDF policy priorities
 - Ending child poverty
 - Ensure every child has access to healthcare
 - Provide quality early childhood experiences
 - Ensure every child can read at grade level
 - Protect children from abuse and neglect
 - Stop the criminalization of children

Major Leaders



Rosalynn Carter

- Advocate for mental health
 - Promote awareness about mental health issues
 - Inform public policy
 - Achieve equity for mental health care
 - Reduce stigma and discrimination against those with mental illnesses
- Honorary Chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health
- Annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy

The Women's Movement



- Amend job discrimination
- Reform state laws on rape
- Develop funding for battered women's shelters
- Seek resources for child care
- Obtain legislation allowing maternal and paternity leave
- Secure equal pay
- Increase child support systems from divorced or absent fathers
- Increase training and assistance to displaced homemakers
- Seek legislation to ban sexual harassment in the workplace

Measuring Success

In the midst of the Reluctant Welfare
State

“

Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants. People have the right to expect that these wants will be provided for by this wisdom.

- Jimmy Carter

What happened to major policies and programs?



The Mental Health Systems Act - 1980

- MHSA was seen as a landmark legislation in U.S. mental health policy.
- The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 13, 1981, repealed most of the MHSA
- The Patient's right bill was not rejected.
- The result of the appeal blocked grants for the state's and the federal government's role in providing services to the mentally ill.

What happened to major policies and programs?

Head Start Program



- The program's budget nearly doubled during President Jimmy Carter's 4 years in office.

- President Carter attempted to move the Head Start program to the Department of Education but was opposed.

- The program was revised when it was reauthorized in December 2007.

In 2013 President Obama invested in a new Early Head Start-Child Care partnership for infants and toddlers, serving children from birth through age 3.

FEMA



- April 1, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed the executive order that created the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- The Act merged many of the separate disaster-related responsibilities such as:
 - The Federal Insurance Administration
 - The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration
 - The National Weather Service Community Preparedness Program

Reflecting on the Social Worker's Role

During the Paradoxical Era

“

Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

- Marian Wright Edelman

Roles of Social Work in the Paradoxical Era

As Lobbyists

- Focused on government relations
- Some efforts included:
 - Meeting with policymakers
 - Field organizing
 - Testifying and attending court processions
 - Strategic dissemination of media (publications, ads)



Roles of Social Work in the Paradoxical Era

As Mental Health Counselors

- Providing psychotherapy
- Advocating for clients' rights
- Addressing co-occurring disorders, like substance abuse
- Performing psychosocial assessments
- Navigating health systems



The End

— Thank you for viewing our
presentation! —
