

OBITUARY : RONALD WILSON REAGAN

1911-2004

**US President.
Actor?**



**War Criminal.
Idiot!**

In 1964 American 'actor' Ronald Reagan ended his career in film; this, it would seem, was his last act of selfless philanthropy. The man who once stated, "I am very proud to be called a pig. It stands for pride, integrity and guts" was soon trouncing and grunting his way through American foreign policy. With a heady mixture of ignorance, astrology, racism, belligerence, sexism and well-written 'spontaneous' gags, Reagan bluffed, bungled, and botched his way through eight years of Presidency.

In just the first four of those eight years, Reagan 'achieved' an astounding amount. In El Salvador the El Mozote massacre in 1981 resulted in the slaughter of 800 men, women and children, with 70,000 eventually being killed - all with the cheery support of uncle Ron. Reagan had overseen the beginning and continuation of a major recession, massive budget cuts in programmes to benefit the poor, and had just about crippled the American working classes through union busting and massive unemployment.

Being true to his military roots - he had appeared in training films during the Second World War - he expanded the defence budget and launched his 'visionary' space defence initiative aka Star Wars. He had also begun to install a social policy : pro-school prayer, anti abortion, with tax exempt status for schools that were racially segregated. He committed the marines to Lebanon, installed a US trained President in Guatemala, and publicly began to support the Contras in Nicaragua.

But the best was still yet to come. Over the next three years Reagan managed to ignore an AIDS epidemic; though even when he started paying attention he never quite figured it out: "Maybe God sent down this plague... [because] illicit sex is against the ten commandments," he stated in May 1987.

For small change (\$10 million), his administration got to manipulate elections in El Salvador. He approved direct and indirect US-Israeli military support of Iran against Iraq. He allowed Oliver North control of arms and sales, with the consequence that in 1986 1,500 anti-tank missiles were sent to Iran. The secret money received from this illegal arms trade was funnelled back to the Contras in Nicaragua, further developing the Reagan doctrine of supporting armed terrorists against Soviet-syndicated governments. He fundraised from Congress \$38 million in non-military aid to the Contras. He also authorised the bombing of Libya.

As his presidency began to wind down, Reagan committed troops to Panama, with resulting deaths totalling over two thousand. His old pal Ollie North was indicted, and Reagan denied knowledge of Iran-contra.

Ronnie, we salute you. You really were a pig.

**Pig-headed.
Ignorant.
Gross.**

