
1957-1958: During the International Geophysical Year, scientists around the world cooperated to conduct research on the Earth’s ocean and atmosphere.

1960: John F. Kennedy elected president.

1962: Publication of Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, a book about the dangers of widespread pesticide use. Carson is often credited with sparking the modern American environmental movement.

1963: Lyndon B. Johnson sworn in as president after the assassination of President Kennedy.

1968: Richard M. Nixon elected president. The Nixon administration proposed numerous laws to safeguard the environment because it recognized the huge political power of the environmental movement at that time.


1974: Gerald Ford sworn in as president after the resignation of President Nixon.


1980: Ronald Reagan elected president. The Reagan administration aimed to undo most of the environmental policies created by previous administrations.

1988: George H.W. Bush elected president. While campaigning, Bush promised to combat climate change but he was inattentive to the issue once in office.