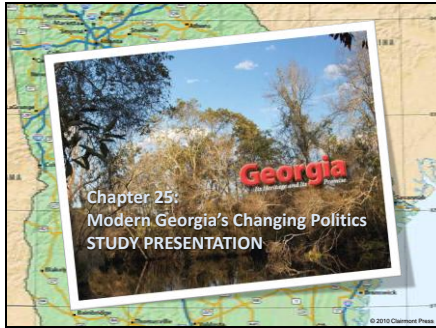
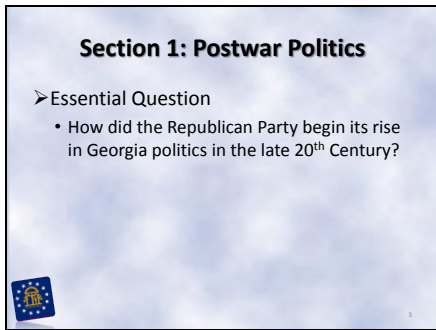


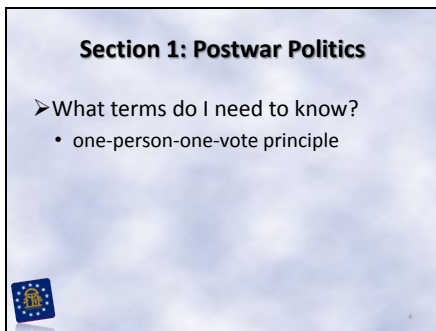
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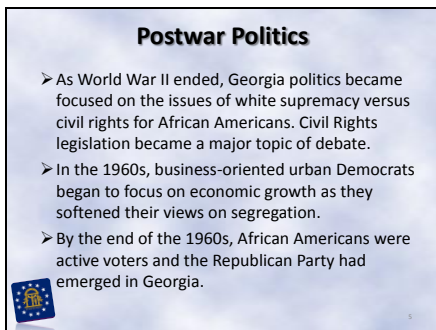
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Slide 6

Georgia's Influence in National Government


- U.S. Representative Carl Vinson was a powerful leader who supported a strong navy and naval air force. He chaired the House Armed Services Committee and helped Georgia maintain a major military presence.
- Senator Richard B. Russell advised Cold War presidents, both Republican and Democrat. He believed in a strong military, but opposed military intervention unless the U.S. had direct interests in the conflict.



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The Three Governors Controversy


- In 1946, Eugene Talmadge won the general election, with Melvin Thompson as his lieutenant governor. Talmadge died before he could be sworn in.
- Herman Talmadge (Eugene's son) took over the governor's office on claims that "write in" votes made him governor. The General Assembly swore in Herman Talmadge as governor.
- Talmadge locked outgoing Governor Ellis Arnall out of his office, and Arnall established an office in downtown Atlanta.
- On January 18, Lieutenant Governor Thompson took the oath of office, and Arnall officially resigned.
- Local newspapers later proved that some of the "write in" votes for Talmadge had been fraudulent, and Thompson retained the governorship.
- Herman Talmadge later won the special election in 1948 to fill the unexpired term of governor-elect Eugene Talmadge and finished out the rest of that term.
- While acting governor, Thompson increased teacher salaries, constructed roads and bridges, and led the state's purchase of Jekyll Island. After one term as governor, Talmadge was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1980.



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Politics in the 1950s


- Southern white supremacists worried about the growing support for civil rights from the national Democrats.
- Major themes of Georgia politics centered on segregation and economic growth.
- The end of the white-only primaries in 1946 led to the registration of thousands of black voters over the next few years. Black voters united to support racially moderate white candidates.
- The U.S. Supreme Court made decisions ending segregation and granting more civil rights to African Americans, but governors Marvin Griffin and Ernest Vandiver (both Talmadge supporters) resisted these changes.



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The End of the County Unit System

- This system gave more power to voters in rural counties than to voters in cities; business-oriented moderates were unlikely to win the governor's office.
- In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the county unit system unconstitutional, ruling that a voter could not be discriminated against based on where he or she lived.
- Carl Sanders, who wanted to attract business and investment for a more modern Georgia, defeated former Governor Marvin Griffin, who focused on defending segregation.
- Sanders won the popular vote which meant he won the election. This would not have necessarily happened under the county unit system.
- Other court decisions required that Georgia reapportion (redraw) the voting districts for the House and Senate and for the U.S. House of Representatives. This gave the urban areas much greater representation.
- The U.S. Supreme Court followed the **one-person-one-vote** principle to make decisions on voting cases. The vote of each citizen should be equal to every other citizen's vote no matter where that citizen lived.






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Baker v. Carr

- *Baker v. Carr*, a case from Tennessee, focused on how voting districts were **apportioned** based on the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Before this decision, the Supreme Court had not been involved in how voting took place within a state.
- This decision opened the door for citizens to sue in states where voting districts were set up to favor a particular group.




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Gray v. Sanders

- In 1963, Atlanta voter James Sanders sued the Democratic Party of Georgia for using the county unit system to determine the outcome of statewide elections.
- The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled that a voter could not be discriminated against based on where he or she lived.
- The Supreme Court ruling determined that Georgia's county unit system was unconstitutional.
- As a result, Georgia politicians could no longer control the state by controlling the rural areas.




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Reapportionment

- Other court cases required **reapportionment**, or redrawing voting districts for both the General Assembly (House and Senate) and the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Once reapportionment was complete, the urban areas had more representation than ever.
- Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census is taken, the Georgia legislature redraws its districts for both the state legislature and U.S. House.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed this process could not be used to draw district lines that could prevent minority groups from having any voting strengths.




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The Rise of the Republican Party

- Lester Maddox, a strong segregationist, won the Democratic nomination for governor in 1966.
- Many Georgians frowned on the civil rights policies of the national Democratic Party. The Republican Party was viewed as more conservative about taxes and spending money, and supportive of big business.
- Howard "Bo" Callaway won a U.S. House seat in 1964, the first Georgia Republican since Reconstruction. That same year, some Republicans were elected to the state legislature.
- In 1966, the state's Democratic-controlled legislature chose Lester Maddox as governor, since Callaway did not receive a majority (more than 50 percent) of the vote.
- In the presidential election of 1968, Independent George Wallace received Georgia's electoral votes, but Republican candidate Richard Nixon was the next most popular choice.






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Section 2: Politics in Georgia Since 1970

➤ Essential Question

- How did the rise of the two-party system change Georgia politics after 1970?



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Section 2: Politics in Georgia Since 1970

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- grassroots campaign




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Politics in Georgia since 1970

- White conservative voters began to shift from the Democratic to the Republican Party.
- Most upper and middle-class whites became Republicans.
- African Americans remained loyal Democrats, as did liberal whites and some moderates.
- Georgia Democrats elected to Congress tended to be more conservative and often voted against many of the bills the national Democratic Party supported.
- By the 1980s and 1990s, the number of Republicans in the state legislature grew.




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Jimmy Carter in the State Senate and as Governor

- Jimmy Carter served as a state senator from Plains for four years during the Carl Sanders administration. Carter was interested in educational improvement and the problems of the poor.
- He was elected governor in 1970 after projecting himself as the traditional common man from rural Georgia. As governor, Carter called for end to racial discrimination and appointed many African Americans and women to state government.
- Carter reorganized Georgia's government to be more modern and efficient. He remained interested in education, preservation of the state's resources, and mental health reforms.



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Jimmy Carter as President and After the Presidency

- Carter ran a grassroots campaign for president. He traveled across the nation for two years, talking directly to ordinary people in small towns and large cities.
- He spoke about moral values and trust in leadership, which Americans wanted after the resignation and scandal of Republican Richard Nixon. Carter narrowly defeated President Gerald Ford.
- President Carter created the departments of Energy and Education. He appointed many minorities to government positions and worked hard for human rights and international peace, including a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.
- Unemployment, high inflation, and a year-long hostage crisis in Iran, led to Carter losing his bid for reelection to Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980.
- Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, after working for three decades as a champion for human rights, international peace, and trying to end diseases in third world countries. He has written more than a dozen books and has brought attention to charities, including Habitat for Humanity.
- The Carter Center in Atlanta supports research on global issues and their impact on people.




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Republicans and Democrats

- Since 1980, Georgia's Presidential electoral votes have gone to Republicans, with the exception of Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.
- Many Democrats have represented Georgia in Congress in the past 30 years, despite Georgia's strong conservative voting in presidential elections.
- Cities were more likely to vote Democrat. Suburbs were more likely to vote Republican.
- In 2002, Sonny Perdue, a former Democrat, was elected Georgia's first Republican governor since Reconstruction.
- Throughout the 2000s, more citizens of Hispanic heritage moved to Georgia which may change the direction of politics in coming years.



Additional Notes:

