



## Real facts about Reagan tax cuts

Mike Brown

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Steve Carn's letter attempting to rebut my and others' letters about the failure of President Reagan's tax cuts suffers from at least two fatal flaws, and never denies our central claims. His only source appears to be a report by the Cato Institute, a self-proclaimed right wing advocacy group devoted to advancing the ideology of low taxes, low-no regulations, and free market capitalism, that has spent decades putting Reagan on a pedestal. This disqualifies Cato as a credible objective source for this discussion.

Mr. Carns blames the largest tax increase in U.S. history signed by Reagan on the Democrats refusing to keep their promise to cut spending \$3 for every \$1 in tax increases. That false Republican talking point was shot down years ago, including by the *Washington Post's* Fact Checker. The Democrats and Congress, including the Republican Senate, never agreed to any such deal, and even if they had Reagan would have had to be a fool to believe it would happen. Such an agreement was merely a wish by his Budget Director David Stockman.

Let's review the main facts we presented that Mr. Carns never refuted in his letter:

President Reagan's tax cuts led to disastrous increases in deficits and unemployment, necessitating correctional tax increases to stop the bleeding.

President Reagan signed 11 separate tax increases, including the largest peacetime tax increase in U.S. history, which eliminated most of his tax cuts.

President Reagan ended his presidency with the debt more than doubled due to large deficits. Tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations ("trickle down" economics) failed miserably under Reagan and W. Bush and in at least four red states, the most recent being the "perfect experiment" in Kansas.

Another fact not mentioned is that Reagan presided over the second largest increase in government spending (President W. Bush having the largest) in modern times, and he didn't have wars to blame it on (Sources: *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*). Mr. Carns is correct that Reagan increased military spending by a whopping \$1 trillion, but much of that was wasted on reviving antiquated useless battleships and some hair-brained expensive "Star Wars" defense. Bottom Line: The proposed Trump/Republican tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations are just more failed supply-side trickle down "Voodoo Economics" as Reagan's VP George H.W. Bush

called them, thoroughly rejected by David Stockman since the Reagan debacle, and won't work any better this time than theirs did.