

# Author acts as spotlight for President Reagan

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assistant news editor

Best-selling author Steven Hayward said Ronald Reagan realized the national issues he was forced to deal with during his presidency were impossible to defeat alone.

Hayward will address students Thursday, Oct. 22, at noon in the TSC Auditorium as one of three speakers in the political science department's project on "Liberty and American Constitutionalism" directed by public law professor Anthony Peacock.

The project has been designed to "explore the meaning of liberty in the American constitutional system, with specific emphasis on the Founders' commitment to limited and responsible government that promotes individual liberty, free markets and a strong national defense," according to its description found at [www.liberty.usu.edu](http://www.liberty.usu.edu).

Hayward's book, "The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counterrevolution: 1980-1989," was published in August and is the second novel written by Hayward on Reagan's presidency. He has also written books covering the lives and attributes of Winston Churchill and Jimmy Carter. Hayward has also had multiple articles published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

His interest in writing a book about Reagan's presidency was heightened when he realized books already published concerning his administration were constructed around the Cold War and neglected to tell the decade's "policy story," Hayward said. He said because Reagan's classified documents and diary have been published, Reagan can be seen

in a new light and Hayward wanted to act as his spotlight. After Reagan's personal documents were studied and a new perspective on his administration was formed, a revision of previous beliefs was in order, Hayward said. He said while writing his second book on Reagan many of his views have been altered, big and small. This always happens when he has done intensive research on a particular subject or person, he said.

"I was surprised at how hard he worked and how much more he knew than we perceived at the time," Hayward said. "I am very critical of his role in the Iran-arms sales that generated the Iran-contra scandal."

Hayward said he will elaborate on the traditional ideas of individual liberty and Reagan's ideas on limited government. Reagan originally wanted to shrink the size of the federal government, but his plans went in reverse, and the government's power continued to swell, he said. Hayward said he hopes to express how difficult reversing the direction a government system is. He also said the national deficit the U.S. faces now is not at all provoked by any of the decisions made in Reagan's presidency.

The lecture will give students historical perspective because many current students were young during presidencies as recent as Bill Clinton's, Hayward said. He will relate conflicts and resolutions from Woodrow Wilson's administration as well as Theodore Roosevelt's to instill this perspective.

"The fruit, I argue, of Reagan's reorientation of the economy in the '80s and the end of the Cold War allowed large cuts in defense spending in the

1990s, but 9/11 and the financial crisis of last year changed all that," Hayward said.

Peacock and Hayward have known each other since their days at Claremont Graduate University and have since worked together on various occasions. Hayward is a gifted speaker and will be a source of knowledge for students, Peacock said.

"He has an encyclopedic array of interests," Peacock said. "His most recent book has made a fairly big splash. It's been nationally reviewed."

Peacock said his purpose in organizing the project is to further students' understanding of liberty in the constitutional system. Students will walk away with an appreciation of liberty, limited government and the roles they play in America's constitutional system, Peacock said. He said a major topic currently debated is whether Congress is acting within the guidelines the original Constitution. Hayward will address many issues related to this question as well as issues that Reagan faced in the '80s.

Topics for new books have been brewing, Hayward said, but he is still trying to recuperate from the work he put into his book published in August. He will first speak to professor Carol McNamara's presidency class and will then give a public speech free of admission. The second speaker of "The Project on Liberty and American Constitutionalism" will be author of "Carnage and Culture," Victor Davis Hanson, who will speak Jan. 13.

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## Briefs

Campus & Community

### Families invited for the weekend

Parents and families of Utah State University students are invited to reunite for a weekend of activities Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24, during USU's Parent and Family Weekend.

The weekend is full of activities, including brunch, a welcome reception with a tour of the Merrill-Cazier Library and an Aggie football game. Families can also participate in other activities around Logan.

"Parents and families can visit their students on campus and experience a beautiful fall weekend in Logan," said Aaron Andersen, associate director in the office of Retention and Student Success at USU. "We have an exciting weekend planned, with events and activities in the community and on campus. We hope parents can make plans to join us."

The weekend will start off with a welcome reception with doughnuts and cider Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Merrill-Cazier Library.

Activities will continue