

## A REVIEW OF A DECADE: HIGH POINTS OF THE EIGHTIES

I am going to write about the Eighties, because I was a teenager in this decade. But the question is: Is it really possible to sum up a decade? The Eighties is a decade of people, decisions and inventions that changed our future. It was 10 years of unchecked, ruthless ambition and explosive technological innovation that combined to produce the historic changes and global events that made us who we are today.

**Technology:** The Eighties was the decade of cell phones sized and shaped like bricks and the beginning of personal computers and gaming consoles inside homes.

**Fashion:** Men wore pastel suits with narrow ties. Everyone had huge hairdos and women wore enormous shoulder pads. Everything was allowed fashion-wise.

**Television:** Dynasty, Falcon Crest are some of the most well-known soap-operas of the decade. There was a profusion of musical programmes on Spanish TV due to the fact that music videos became very popular. Music videos became so spread out that by the end of the 1980s many music fans could not imagine a music record without a video attached to it.

**Music:** Music in Spain was mainly the product of the 'Movida Madrileña' - a movement that came as a result of the transition from the Franco dictatorship to democracy. It meant not only an explosion of new music and lyrics, it simply allowed people to do, say, think and dress as they wished. Alaska, Mecano and The Secrets are some of the most representative singers of this decade in Spain.

**Politics:** During the first part of the decade, Cold War tensions continued. The second part of the decade, however, could not be more different. Gorbachev restructured the economy (perestroika), encouraged openness and moved towards democracy. This new point of view led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Even though this was a fun decade for many people, this decade had many negative sides:

Many people became addicted to drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

- The sexually-transmitted disease AIDS became an epidemic. By the end of the 1980s, the disease had spread worldwide.
- Unemployment was a huge problem in many countries. Very conservative politicians like Ronald Reagan in the USA and Margaret Thatcher in the UK endorsed free market and privatizations. This was great for billionaires but meant sour times for middle and lower class citizens and the poor, who did not receive as much help from the government as in previous decades.

- The Chernobyl disaster, which happened in 1986, also led to a universal fear of nuclear power disasters and had disastrous effects on the local farming industry. Since then the place has become a Ghost Town.