

# **Recent U.S. History**

## *Backwards Planning Curriculum Units*

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Backwards Planning Curriculum</b>	
Project #1: Mock Nixon Impeachment Trial .....	3
Project #2: Presidential Posters .....	11
Project #3: Recent History Podcast Project .....	19
Recent U.S. History Multiple-Choice Quiz .....	28
Recent U.S. History Multiple-Choice Quiz Answer Key .....	34
<b>Lecture Notes</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Student Handouts</b> .....	<b>139</b>





# How to Use This Unit

Backwards planning offers an innovative yet simple approach to meeting curriculum goals; it also provides a way to keep students engaged and focused throughout the learning process. Many teachers approach history instruction in the following manner: they identify a topic required by state and/or national standards, they find materials on that topic, they use those materials with their students, and then they administer some sort of standard test at the end of the unit. Backwards planning, rather than just starting with a required instructional topic, goes a step further by identifying exactly what students need to know by the end of the unit—the so-called “enduring understandings.” The next step involves assessment: devising ways to determine whether students have learned what they need to know. The final step involves planning the teaching/learning process so that students can acquire the knowledge needed.

This product uses backwards planning to combine a PowerPoint® presentation, activities that involve authentic assessment, and traditional tests (multiple-choice and essay) into a complete curriculum unit. Although the materials have enough built-in flexibility that you can use them in a number of ways, we suggest the following procedure:

1. Start with the “essential questions” listed on slide 2 of the PowerPoint presentation (these also appear in the teacher support materials). Briefly go over them with students before getting into the topic material. These questions will help students focus their learning and note taking during the course of the unit. You can also choose to use the essential questions as essay questions at the end of the unit; one way to do this is to let students know at the outset that one of the essential questions will be on the test—they just won’t know which one.
2. Next, discuss the activities students will complete during the unit. This will also help focus their learning and note taking, and it will lead them to view the PowerPoint presentation in a different light, considering it a source of ideas for authentic-assessment projects.
3. Present the PowerPoint to the class. Most slides have an image and bullet points summarizing the slide’s topic. The Notes page for each slide contains a paragraph or two of information that you can use as a presentation script, or just as background information for your own reference. You don’t need to present the entire PowerPoint at once: it’s broken up into several sections, each of which concludes with some discussion questions that echo parts of the essential questions and also help students to get closer to the “enduring understandings.” Spend some time with the class going over and debating these questions—this will not only help students think critically about the material, but it will also allow you to incorporate different modes of instruction during a single class period, offering a better chance to engage students.
4. Have students complete one or more of the authentic-assessment activities. These activities are flexible: most can be completed either individually or in groups, and either as homework or as in-class assignments. Each activity includes a rubric; many also have graphic organizers. You can choose to have students complete the activities after you have shown them the entire PowerPoint presentation, or you can show them one section of the PowerPoint, go over the discussion questions, and then have students complete an activity.

5. End the unit with traditional assessment. The support materials include a 20-question multiple-choice quiz; you can combine this with an essay question (you can use one of the essential questions or come up with one of your own) to create a full-period test.
6. If desired, debrief with students by going over the essential questions with them again and remind them what the enduring understandings are.

We are dedicated to continually improving our products and working with teachers to develop exciting and effective tools for the classroom. We can offer advice on how to maximize the use of the product and share others' experiences. We would also be happy to work with you on ideas for customizing the presentation.

We value your feedback, so please let us know more about the ways in which you use this product to supplement your lessons; we're also eager to hear any recommendations you might have for ways in which we can expand the functionality of this product in future editions. You can e-mail us at [access@socialstudies.com](mailto:access@socialstudies.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Aaron Willis  
Chief Education Officer  
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# **Recent U.S. History Backwards Planning Activities**

## **Enduring understandings:**

- The United States underwent significant political and social change in the decades after the 1960s
- Events in the Middle East have frequently dominated foreign policy since 1970
- Scandals such as Watergate, Clinton's impeachment, and the collapse of Enron had a major impact on domestic policy and the American people
- Events such as the energy crisis and changes in U.S. policy after the 9/11 terrorist attacks led to significant changes to the everyday lives of Americans
- The political climate was frequently dominated by conflict between different social groups
- The rise of the Internet redefined communication and commerce in the last years of the 20th century and into the 21st century
- Various political groups such as the Tea Party Movement became more active and vocal during the period

## **Essential questions:**

- What issues and factors have dominated U.S. foreign policy since the 1970s?
- What impact did political and economic scandals have on U.S. policy and the American people?
- How did terrorism and events in the Middle East affect the nation psychologically?
- What U.S. policies contributed to the eventual end of the Cold War?
- How did the rise of the Internet change the U.S. economy and people's everyday lives?
- What factors contributed to the emergence and rising influence of various social and political groups during the period?
- Why did the U.S. government restrict civil liberties in the period following the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

# Learning Experiences and Instruction

Students will need to know...	Students will need to be able to...
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What factors helped shape U.S. foreign and domestic policies during the Nixon Administration</li> <li>2. Fundamental causes of the 1970s OPEC oil embargo and resulting energy crisis</li> <li>3. The causes and effects of the Watergate scandal</li> <li>4. The impact of the presidential administrations of Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama</li> <li>5. How policies of the period from 1970 to the present day shaped the American economy</li> <li>6. What events led to the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001</li> <li>7. How presidents from the 1990s to present day dealt with increased terrorist activities</li> <li>8. Why various groups such as the Tea Party movement formed and gained influence</li> <li>9. How the 2008 recession affected American life and the economy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read and interpret primary source materials from the period of U.S. history from 1970- to the present day</li> <li>2. Identify key people involved in various political and social activities during the period</li> <li>3. Recognize economic, political, and social trends of the period including Watergate, the Christian Conservative movement, and the Tea Party movement</li> <li>4. Understand the causes and effects of U.S. involvement in the 1991 Persian Gulf War</li> <li>5. Understand the causes of the 2003 invasion of Iraq</li> <li>6. Geographically identify various locations of events (Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc.) during the period</li> <li>7. Understand the economic conditions that led to the 2008 recession and related government policies</li> <li>8. Determine the overall impact of the period of 1970 to the present day on American society and politics</li> </ol>

## Teaching and learning activities that will equip students to demonstrate targeted understandings:

- An overview of essential questions and basic understandings
- Class discussion of questions posed in the PowerPoint presentation
- Introduction of common terms and ideas in the essential questions and related projects
- Providing students with primary source materials from which they will complete the unit's related projects
- Students conduct research in groups to be used later in individual and cooperative projects
- Informal observation and coaching of students as they work in groups
- Delivering feedback and evaluations on projects and research reports
- Student creation and presentation of their projects
- A posttest on the presentation, made up of multiple-choice questions and one or more essential questions as essay questions

# Project #1: Mock Nixon Impeachment Trial

## Overview:

In this lesson, students use online research to find the causes and effects of the Watergate Scandal (1972–1974). They then use that information to conduct a mock impeachment trial of President Richard Nixon had he remained in office, not resigned, and never received the pardon from President Gerald Ford.

## Objectives:

As a result of completing this lesson, students will:

- Understand the events surrounding the Watergate scandal, including the break-in, subsequent cover-up, and subsequent investigation and judicial action during the scandal
- Speculate as to why the Nixon Administration might have felt it necessary to take the actions that caused the scandal
- Develop conclusions about the impact of the scandal on the U.S. government and on the American public
- Synthesize information regarding the scandal and analyze its impact on the three branches of government, as well as the Constitutional system

## Time required:

Three to four class periods, although it may be necessary to assign some of the research tasks as homework.

## Materials needed:

Computers with Internet access. Depending on how the class conducts the trial, you may also wish to provide microphones to participants in the trial as well as video equipment for recording the trial for viewing at a later date.

## Lesson procedure:

Before beginning the lesson, students should have a basic understanding of the events surrounding the Watergate scandal, as well as the later cover-up, Congressional hearings, the Watergate tapes, and the eventual resignation of President Nixon. You may wish to review related slides from the PowerPoint with the class prior to beginning the lesson.

After reviewing the events surrounding Watergate, discuss them with the class in more detail. The related Web resources for the lesson offer further background on what happened during the scandal, the U.S. v. Nixon decision, and Nixon's subsequent resignation from office. Next, assign roles for the impeachment trial, either as principals in the case, witnesses, or attorneys. (Note: in an impeachment trial, the Senate would act as a jury to convict or acquit the president, and House managers would act as the prosecutors. The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court would act as the presiding judge.) Depending on the size of the class, you may wish to revise the number of principals, witnesses, House managers, and defense attorneys.

### **Evaluation:**

Allow sufficient time for the students to synthesize their information into position papers. After the activity has concluded, evaluate student work using a suitable rubric that mirrors the objectives of the lesson. You may wish to construct a rubric of your own, or may wish to use a rubric created by your school or school district. (A sample rubric follows this lesson.)

#### **Witnesses:**

- President Richard M. Nixon
- James W. McCord (former CIA agent who worked as a security consultant for the Committee to Re-Elect the President [CREEP])
- G. Gordon Liddy (CREEP official who participated in the break-in and subsequent cover-up)
- Howard Hunt (CREEP official who participated in the break-in and subsequent cover-up)
- John Dean (White House counsel)
- H.R. Haldeman (Nixon White House Chief of Staff who resigned as the depth of the scandal grew)
- John Ehrlichman (Nixon White House Chief Domestic Advisor, who resigned at the same time Haldeman did)
- Bob Woodward (*Washington Post* reporter)
- Carl Bernstein (*Washington Post* reporter)
- Mark Felt (Assistant FBI Director who was "Deep Throat," the source cited in many *Washington Post* stories about Watergate)
- Alexander Butterfield (presidential assistant in the Nixon Administration whose testimony included information about a comprehensive tape recording system in the Oval Office through which many Watergate-related conversations were archived)
- Archibald Cox (Watergate special prosecutor fired in the "Saturday Night Massacre")
- Leon Jaworski (Appointed special prosecutor after Cox's dismissal)

#### **House managers:**

You should appoint a reasonable number of House managers to act as prosecutors. While Nixon never actually faced an impeachment trial, 13 members of the House Judiciary Committee served as managers during the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. You may wish to appoint a smaller number of managers, but make sure you have enough students to fulfill the requirements of the trial as listed below.

**Defense Attorneys:**

You should appoint two to five defense attorneys to represent Nixon in the trial and cover various aspects of the trial as listed below.

**Chief Justice:**

The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court acts as the judge in an impeachment trial. In 1974, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was Warren Burger.

**Other roles:**

Remaining students may assume the roles of research assistants helping the attorneys develop arguments, the bailiff, or members of the Senate “jury” that decides the verdict in the case. (Note: in an impeachment trial, a two-thirds majority of the Senate would be needed for conviction.)

Once roles have been assigned, students should begin their research using the “Impeachment Trial Information Sheet” and suggested Web resources included with this lesson.

<b>Suggested Web resources:</b>
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(Note: Several Web sites provide information on the Watergate scandal. You may wish to have students conduct further Internet searches for other sources to use in completing the project. Also, encourage students to use traditional resources such as encyclopedias, books, and archival newspaper and magazine copies to complete their research.)

**Watergate Resources:**

*Washington Post* “Watergate Story” page:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/>

*Washington Post* “Watergate Story” timeline page:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/timeline.html>

“Watergate Info” site: <http://watergate.info/>

Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum “Watergate Files” page:

[http://www.ford.utexas.edu/museum/exhibits/watergate\\_files/index.html](http://www.ford.utexas.edu/museum/exhibits/watergate_files/index.html)

CNN Watergate 25th Anniversary page:

<http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1997/gen/resources/watergate/>

Musarium “Illusion and Delusion”—The Watergate Decade page:

<http://www.musarium.com/watergate.html>

The Woodward and Bernstein Watergate Papers Exhibit (University of Texas at Austin):

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/web/woodstein/>

Mary Ferrell Foundation Watergate page: <http://www.maryferrell.org/wiki/index.php/Watergate>



Watergate and the Constitution lesson page (National Archives):  
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/watergate-constitution/>

Watergate Trial Conversations (Nixon Library):  
<http://nixon.archives.gov/forresearchers/find/tapes/watergate/trial/transcripts.php>

Watergate Collection (Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center, University of Virginia):  
<http://whitehousetapes.net/transcript/nixon/watergate>

History Commons Watergate timeline:  
[http://www.historycommons.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=nixon\\_and\\_watergate\\_tm1n](http://www.historycommons.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=nixon_and_watergate_tm1n)

TIME Magazine Covers Watergate:  
<http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1862380,00.html>

### **Related Mock Trial Web sites:**

<http://www.peterpappas.com/journals/trial/rules.html>

<http://www.law.indiana.edu/webinit/tanford/Tournament/rules.html>

[www.jms.aps.edu/JMS/Key/documents/mocktrialstudentnotes.doc](http://www.jms.aps.edu/JMS/Key/documents/mocktrialstudentnotes.doc) (*Note: Adobe Acrobat Reader must be installed for this file to open.*)

<http://www.hawaiiifriends.org/mtsmrule.html>

<http://www.classbrain.com/artteensm/uploads/mocktrialguide.pdf> (*Note: Adobe Acrobat Reader must be installed for this file to open.*)

Note: You should review some or all of these resources in order to familiarize students with basic procedures, as well as to prepare them for the actual trial simulation. You should also prepare the class for general procedures in a mock trial. While state laws may vary, most court trials follow this format:

1. Opening statement for the House managers (civil case)/Prosecution (criminal case)
2. Opening statement for the defendant (civil or criminal case)
3. House managers present their case by direct examination of a witness
4. Defense cross-examines witness
5. House managers again question witness (Steps 3–5 continue for each Prosecution/Plaintiff witness)
6. House managers rest
7. Defense presents their case by direct examination of a witness
8. House managers cross-examine witness



9. Defense again questions witness (Steps 7–9 continue for each Defense witness)
10. Defense rests
11. House managers make closing statement
12. Defense makes closing statement
13. Judge gives instructions to the Senate jury
14. Senate jury deliberates verdict

<b>Evaluation Procedure:</b>
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At the conclusion of the trial, evaluate student work using a suitable rubric. To determine the winner of the trial, you may wish to award the side (House managers or Defense) that has the most points according to the rubric, or you can have students in the class act as a jury, deliberate, and determine the winner.

You may wish to use a rubric developed by your school or district, or you can use the sample rubric included in this lesson.

# Nixon Impeachment Trial Information Sheet

Description of the piece of evidence	Does the evidence help your side or hurt it?	How can you best use this evidence or refute it?

# Mock Trial Rubric

Team Evaluated: House Managers (or) Defense

*Attorneys:*

Standard	Poor (1)	Below Average (2)	Average (3)	Above Average (4)	Excellent (5)	Group Score
<b>Opening Statement</b>	Statement poorly delivered; not clear or concise	Statement not delivered well; few effective points made	Statement delivered fairly well; some effective points made	Statement delivered well; most points made effectively	Statement delivered extremely well; all points clear, concise, and effective	
<b>Direct Examination</b>	No questions ask for clear information, witnesses allowed to give mostly irrelevant information	Questions generally do not ask for clear information, witnesses allowed to give a lot of irrelevant information	Questions fairly clear, witnesses allowed to give some irrelevant information	Questions generally clear, witnesses kept from giving much irrelevant testimony	Questions always ask for clear information; witnesses not allowed to give irrelevant testimony	
<b>Cross Examination</b>	Attorneys completely antagonistic and argumentative; no contradictions in testimony exposed	Attorneys antagonistic and overly argumentative; few contradictions in testimony exposed	Attorneys not antagonistic or overly argumentative; fair amount of contradictions in testimony exposed	Attorneys not antagonistic or overly argumentative; most contradictions in testimony exposed	Attorneys not antagonistic; all contradictions in testimony exposed	
<b>Closing Statements</b>	Presentation not organized or reasonable; does not emphasize attorneys' case	Presentation not well organized or reasoned; not effective in emphasizing case	Presentation fairly well organized and reasonable; generally effective in emphasizing case	Presentation well organized and reasonable; presentation effective in emphasizing case	Presentation extremely well organized and reasonable; highly effective in emphasizing case	
<b>Understanding Issues and Law</b>	Lack of knowledge of issues and law	Little knowledge of issues and law	Fair knowledge of issues and law	Reasonable knowledge of issues and law	Exemplary knowledge of issues and law	

<b>Witnesses:</b>						
<b>Characterizations</b>	Witnesses were neither believable nor convincing	Witnesses were sometimes believable and convincing	Witnesses were generally believable and convincing	Witnesses were usually believable and convincing	Witnesses highly believable and convincing	
<b>Performance</b>	Witnesses were not able to answer questions	Witnesses were rarely able to answer questions	Witnesses were generally able to answer questions	Witnesses usually able to answer questions	Witnesses always able to answer questions	
<b>Preparation</b>	Witnesses not familiar with information in fact sheets and notes	Witnesses rarely familiar with information and needed to refer frequently to fact sheets and notes	Witnesses were adequately familiar with information and only occasionally needed to refer to fact sheets or notes	Witnesses were generally familiar with information and rarely needed to refer to fact sheet or notes	Witnesses were completely familiar with information and did not refer to fact sheets or notes	
<b>Team:</b>						
<b>Courtroom Decorum</b>	Voices of team members not clear or distinct; courtesy to other side not exhibited	Voices of team members rarely clear or distinct; courtesy not frequently exhibited toward other side	Voices of team members not clear or distinct at times, courtesy usually exhibited toward other side	Voices of team members usually clear and distinct, courtesy exhibited toward other side	Voices of team members always clear and distinct, courtesy exhibited toward other side	
<b>Involvement of Team Members</b>	Obvious that most team members not prepared	Many team members not prepared	Approximately half of the team members prepared for trial	Most team members prepared for trial	All team members prepared for trial	
<b>Total Team Score</b> <i>(maximum of 50 points)</i>						

# Project #2: Presidential Posters

## Overview:

In this lesson, students research information regarding the life and administration of one of the presidents featured in the unit (Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, or Barack Obama). Students will use Web 2.0 tools such as Glogster.edu (<http://edu.glogster.com/>) or Prezi (<http://prezi.com/>) to create posters, and will be able to include photos, video, and sound effects in addition to traditional poster elements.

## Objectives:

As a result of completing this lesson, students will:

- Understand the domestic- and foreign-policy initiatives of one of the post-Vietnam War presidents
- Speculate as to what events or issues would have been most important in developing these policies
- Develop conclusions about the impact/importance of their selected president's administration
- Synthesize information regarding their assigned president and make conclusions about that president's significance in history

## Time required:

Three to four class periods, although you may elect to take a longer time period to accommodate technology concerns or extend the lesson procedure. Some additional student research time may be assigned as homework.

## Materials needed:

Computers with Internet access. You may also choose to set up folders on the school network if students save graphics, audio files, and/or video files for presentations. If not, you may wish to have students have access to flash drives or other external storage devices in order to save materials. If you wish to have student groups present their poster to the entire class, a large screen monitor or LCD projector should also be available.

Note: Glogster was selected as the “poster software” for this lesson. However, other free, online resources can be used, including Prezi (<http://prezi.com/index/>). You may also decide to substitute an online presentation maker or use traditional presentation software, such as PowerPoint® or Keynote. If technology assets aren't available, the class can still complete the lesson by using poster board and markers, as well as cutting out or drawing pictures.

## Lesson procedure:

Prior to the lesson, students should be familiar with the president that they have been assigned. You may wish to have students review slides in the PowerPoint® presentation dealing with their assigned president's administration prior to beginning the unit. You may also wish to create a chart with each president's name on the chalkboard or overhead, and brainstorm with students to come up with significant events or policies that were a hallmark of that president's term. You should either write these on the chart or ask a student to do so.

Once you've completed this discussion, divide the class into groups of approximately four students each (the number of groups and number of students in each group will depend on your class size) and introduce the assignment. You can use the following sample script or develop one of your own:

*During the period of U.S. history from 1970 to present day, presidents had to confront a number of domestic- and foreign-policy issues. Each president tried to deal with these issues through various programs and policies, achieving various levels of effectiveness.*

*In this lesson, you will be acting as presidential historians, working to develop a poster presentation to highlight the administration of your assigned president. However, instead of using traditional poster board and markers to make your posters, you'll be using multimedia software available online. Your posters should not only include textual information about your president, but can also include graphics, video files, and sound files.*

*Be sure to include the following information in your poster presentation:*

- *Background information about your president*
- *Information about their election to the presidency (remember, in the case of some presidents, they were re-elected, and in the case of one president, he lost the election the first time he ran, only to win a later election)*
- *Information about the president's domestic policies you believe to be important*
- *Information about the president's foreign policies you believe to be important*
- *If applicable, information about what the president did once he left office. Unless your assigned president is currently in office, you should have slides dealing with this part of their career.*
- *Any other information or ideas you feel are appropriate for the poster presentation.*

After reading the script, allow students to decide which president they want to research (you may also wish to assign a particular choice to each group). Provide each group with a "Data Collection Sheet" and have them begin their research.

Once students have had sufficient time to research and collect data, they should start creating their posters. Remind students they should make their presentations as compelling as possible.

### **Evaluation procedure:**

Once presentations have been completed, students in each group should present their work to the class, then field questions from other groups. One idea may be to have students in groups representing presidents who opposed other presidents in elections (for example, Carter and Reagan, or George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton) interact about specifics about their administrations and why one administration was more popular or accepted by the voters than the other.

Once the lesson has been completed, assess student work using a suitable rubric. A sample rubric is included in this lesson which can be used as is or adapted to fit students' needs and abilities.

### **Suggested Web resources:**

Note: a large number of Web-based resources exist about each of the presidents featured in the PowerPoint® presentation. A sampling is included below. Encourage student groups to conduct further research into their president. You may also choose to have students use traditional sources such as books, encyclopedias, or archival newspapers and magazines.

#### **Richard Nixon:**

Miller Center "American President" page on Richard Nixon:

<http://millercenter.org/president/nixon>

Internet Public Library POTUS page on Nixon:

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/rmnixon.html>

Nixon Presidential Library and Museum:

<http://nixon.archives.gov/index.php>

PBS American Experience Nixon site:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/nixon/>

#### **Gerald Ford:**

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum:

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/>

Miller Center "American President" page on Gerald Ford:

<http://millercenter.org/president/ford>

White House Web site Ford biography page:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/geraldford>

Internet Public Library POTUS page on Ford:

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/grford.html>

**Jimmy Carter:**

Jimmy Carter Library and Museum:

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/>

Nobel Prize.org page on Carter:

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2002/carter-bio.html#](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2002/carter-bio.html#)

PBS American Experience Carter site:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/carter/>

National Parks Service Jimmy Carter National Historical Site page:

<http://www.nps.gov/jica/index.htm>

**Ronald Reagan:**

Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library:

<http://www.reaganfoundation.org/>

Miller Center “American President” page on Reagan:

<http://millercenter.org/president/reagan>

Biography.com site on Reagan:

<http://www.biography.com/people/ronald-reagan-9453198>

PBS American Experience Reagan site:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/reagan/>

**George H.W. Bush:**

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum:

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/>

Miller Center “American President” page on Bush:

<http://millercenter.org/president/bush>

White House Web page on Bush:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/georgehwbush>

History.com page on Bush:

<http://www.history.com/topics/george-bush>

**Bill Clinton:**

Clinton Library main page:

<http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/>

Biography.com page on Clinton:

<http://www.biography.com/people/bill-clinton-9251236>

Miller Center “American President” page on Clinton:

<http://millercenter.org/president/clinton>



“Who Runs Gov” (Washington Post) Clinton page:  
[http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/William\\_J.\\_Clinton](http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/William_J._Clinton)

C-SPAN “American Presidents: Life Portraits” page on Clinton:  
<http://www.americanpresidents.org/presidents/president.asp?PresidentNumber=41>

### **George W. Bush:**

Biography.com page on George W. Bush:  
<http://www.biography.com/people/george-w-bush-9232768>

“Who Runs Gov” (Washington Post) Bush page:  
[http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/George\\_W.\\_Bush](http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/George_W._Bush)

History.com page on Bush:  
<http://www.history.com/topics/george-w-bush>

Internet Public Library POTUS page on Bush:  
<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/gwbush.html>

### **Barack Obama:**

White House page on Obama:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama>

CNNPolitics.com page on Obama (2008 election):  
<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/candidates/barack.obama.html>

“Who Runs Gov” (Washington Post) Obama page:  
[http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/Barack\\_Obama](http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/Barack_Obama)

Miller Center “American President” page on Obama:  
<http://millercenter.org/president/obama>

### **Sites highlighting Glogster.edu:**

Glogster.edu:  
<http://edu.glogster.com/>

(Note: Glogster offers several paid subscription levels. However, a basic free version with limited features is also available and should be suitable for this project.)

Scribd presentation on setting up and administering Glogster.edu accounts for students:  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/14015153/Glogster-Instructions>

Free Technology for Teachers Glogster.edu Resource page:  
<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/04/glogster-edu-resource-library.html>

Using Glogster in the Classroom:  
<http://cnx.org/content/m32202/latest/>

Classroom in the Cloud “How to Use Glogster in the Classroom”:  
<http://www.classroominthecloud.net/2009/04/how-to-use-glogster-in-classroom.html>

Jonathan Wylie’s “Using Glogster in the Classroom”:  
<http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/57951.aspx>

### **Sites highlighting Prezi:**

Prezi  
<http://prezi.com/>

Prezi “For Dummies” cheat sheet:  
<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/prezi-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html>

TeachingHistory.org Prezi page:  
<http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom/tech-for-teachers/24457>

You may also wish to review the “Teaching History with Technology” multimedia page (<http://thwt.org/index.php/presentations-multimedia/presentations>) for helpful hints and video tutorials that can be used to help both you and your students with various multimedia software programs.

# Presidential Poster Data Collection Sheet

Student names:

Poster subject:

Description of information	How we will use this in our presentation	Is this a video, audio, visual, or text-based source?	Other information that may help	Web site or URL where we found this information

# Presidential Poster Project Rubric

Category:	Excellent (20–16)	Good (15–11)	Fair (10–5)	Poor (4–0)	Score
<b>Research</b>	Data collection chart completely filled in; evidence of strong research skills	Most of data collection chart filled in; group shows reasonable research skills	Approximately half of data collection chart completed; fair research skills demonstrated	Less than half of data collection chart completed; poor or no research skills demonstrated	
<b>Creativity</b>	Poster shows high level of creativity and imagination	Poster shows reasonable creativity and imagination	Poster shows some evidence of creativity and imagination	Poster shows little in the way of creativity or imagination	
<b>Cooperation</b>	Group worked well together in all instances	Group worked well together in most instances	Group generally worked fairly well together	Group rarely collaborated effectively	
<b>Technology Skill</b>	Group showed high level of technology skill	Group showed reasonable level of technology skill	Group showed fair level of technology skill	Group showed little or no technology skill	
<b>Additional Criteria</b>					
<b>Final Score</b>					

# Project #3: Recent History

## Podcast Project

### Overview:

In this lesson, students select and research a significant “watershed” event from recent U.S. history. They collect information and make podcasts describing the event in order to create a “child’s history” that will help younger students understand the importance of that event.

### Lesson objectives:

As a result of completing this lesson, students will:

- Research information regarding a significant event in recent U.S. history
- Understand the event and its impact on U.S. history
- Develop conclusions about the importance of this event and present them in an effective and understandable manner for younger students

### Time required:

Five to six class periods for creating the podcast. Additional time may be required to allow students to do research as homework.

### Evaluation procedure:

Computers with Internet access; podcasting software (see the Related Web sites section for further information), computer speakers (optional), computer microphones (if not already included in system), video camera (optional). Students may also need flash drives or network space to save pictures, video, or podcasts.

### Methodology:

Prior to beginning the lesson, students should have a working knowledge of many of the events covered in the PowerPoint presentation. Since the presentation covers over 40 years of U.S. history, you may wish to guide students to select a particular event, or provide a listing of events student groups can select from.

Ask students to pick what event they think might have been the most important or influential in recent U.S. history. Many students might select more recent events because they occurred during their lifetime. Some will likely select the 9/11 terrorist attacks or the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan because of what they have viewed on television or seen in movies, read in books, etc.

Reinforce in this discussion that many of the events included had a major impact on U.S. history. Remind students that some earlier events (Watergate or the Iran Hostage Crisis, for example) occurred in an era before 24-hour news networks or the Internet.

Next, introduce the lesson by telling students that they will assume the roles of newscasters and eyewitnesses, as well as principle figures in these watershed events by making “historical news podcasts” covering one selected event from recent U.S. History. The students might also pretend that they are making short presentations to be included in a “child’s history of the late 20th century” that will help younger students understand the significance of events of the period from 1970 to the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

You may wish to have students produce their podcasts in a manner similar to the classic CBS television series “You Are There,” or the 1970s-era PBS series “Meeting of Minds.” Information about both series can be found by doing a Web search. Sample online episodes of “You Are There” can be found at <http://www.tv.com/shows/you-are-there/>, and information about “Meeting of Minds” can be found at <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0075536/>.

(Note: if desired, you may wish to substitute a digital newscast using a video camera instead of a podcast. The newscast can also be done as a simple in-class role-playing assignment as well, bypassing the use of any video or podcast equipment.)

Most newscasts include:

- An anchorperson who welcomes viewers and introduces content. He/she may also ask questions of reporters or guests
- Reporters who cover stories remotely (on the scene)
- A news analyst who further examines stories and may also interject an editorial opinion
- “Man on the street” interviews about news stories and how those events affect those people individually
- Some video content of events which happened in stories that the newscast covers
- Some other news besides the major story covered in the newscast

Once discussion has been completed, divide the class into groups of approximately four to five students, who will then begin research and planning for their podcast. Consider requiring a time length for the podcast, probably somewhere between three to five minutes. This will give students an idea of how much content to include in their podcast.

Suggest to students that some members of the group should serve as anchorpersons and reporters, while others should act as interviewees. This will mean that those students will need to know background information about persons being interviewed. Those students acting as anchors will also need to have suitable information about the subject in order to ask effective questions. All students should contribute to the actual creation of the podcast.

You should also remind students that their podcast is supposed to be geared towards a younger audience (elementary school or middle school), and that content and vocabulary should be geared to that level as well.

Allow student groups to begin their research, filling out the “Event Podcast Data Sheet” as they collect information.

<b>Suggested Web resources:</b>
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Note to teacher: There are many events that are included in the PowerPoint presentation. Some sample resources are included below. However, encourage students to do their own research both online as well as in traditional sources, such as books, encyclopedias, and archival copies of magazines and newspapers from the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Arab Oil Embargo: Arab Oil Embargo of 1973–74:  
<http://www.buyandhold.com/bh/en/education/history/2002/arab.html>

History and Analysis—Crude Oil Prices:  
<http://www.wtrg.com/prices.htm>

American Business Arab Oil Embargo of 1973:  
<http://american-business.org/2300-arab-oil-embargo-of-1973.html>

Watergate and Nixon’s Resignation: The Watergate Story (*Washington Post*):  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/>

What Was Watergate?  
<http://watergate.info/background/>

The Watergate Files (Ford Library):  
<http://watergate.info/background/>

Camp David Accords:  
PBS Newshour page on the Camp David Accords:  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth\\_coverage/middle\\_east/conflict/peaceefforts1.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/middle_east/conflict/peaceefforts1.html)

Jimmy Carter Library Camp David Accords Page:  
<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents/campdavid/>

C-SPAN “American History TV” page on the accords:  
<http://www.c-span.org/Events/Camp-David-Accords--Woodrow-Wilson-International-Center-for-Scholars/10737424170/>

Iranian Hostage Crisis:  
PBS American Experience (Carter) Iranian Hostage Crisis page:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/carter-hostage-crisis/>

CBS News Iranian Hostage Crisis Anniversary page:  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2001/01/18/iran/main265244.shtml>

BBC Iranian Hostage Crisis in Pictures page:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture\\_gallery/04/middle\\_east\\_iran\\_hostage\\_crisis/html/1.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/04/middle_east_iran_hostage_crisis/html/1.stm)

Reagan's "Evil Empire" speech: Text of Reagan's speech:

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/ReaganEvilEmpire1983.html>

"The Other Half of History" analysis of the speech:

<http://historyhalf.com/winning-the-cold-war-the-evil-empire-speech/>

American Ideology Society analysis of the speech:

<http://americanideologicalsociety.com/ais/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=476>

U.S. Invasion of Grenada: PBS American Experience (Reagan) Invasion of Grenada page:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/reagan-grenada/>

Libcom.org's page on the Grenada invasion (Howard Zinn):

<http://libcom.org/history/1983-the-us-invasion-of-grenada>

Latin American Studies Grenada invasion page:

<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/grenada.htm>

Fall of the Berlin Wall: Newseum "Fall of the Berlin Wall" site:

<http://www.newseum.org/berlinwall/>

CBS News photo page on fall of the Berlin Wall:

[http://www.cbsnews.com/2300-500283\\_162-5554834.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/2300-500283_162-5554834.html)

*U.S. News and World Report* page on the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall:

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2008/11/13/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-berlin-wall>

Operation Desert Storm: National Security Archive Desert Storm page:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB39/>

U.S. Department of Defense Desert Storm timeline:

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=45404>

U.S. Navy in Desert Shield/Desert Storm site:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/wars/dstorm/index.html>

Oklahoma City Bombing: Oklahoma City National Memorial:

<http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/>

Oklahoma City Bombing Trial:

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveightrial.html>



*Indianapolis Star* Oklahoma City bombing page:

[http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/crime/national/1995/oklahoma\\_city\\_bombing/ok.html](http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/crime/national/1995/oklahoma_city_bombing/ok.html)

Clinton Impeachment: Clinton Impeachment trial:

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/clinton/clintonhome.html>

*Washington Post* Clinton Impeachment site:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/clinton/clinton.htm>

CBS News page, “The Clinton Impeachment—Ten Years Later”:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/02/11/opinion/courtwatch/main4793383.shtml>

2000 Presidential Election: Library of Congress Web Archives on the 2000 Election:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcwa/html/elec2000/elec2000-overview.html>

2000 Election (American Presidency Project):

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/showelection.php?year=2000>

*New York Times* Election of 2000 page:

[http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/subjects/p/presidential\\_election\\_of\\_2000/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/subjects/p/presidential_election_of_2000/index.html)

September 11th, 2001: Washington Post 9/11 10th anniversary page:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/9-11>

September 11 Digital Archive:

<http://911digitalarchive.org/>

Internet Archive “Understanding 9/11: A Television News Archive” page:

<http://www.archive.org/details/911>

“Operation Enduring Freedom”: U.S. Army—Operation Enduring Freedom:

<http://www.history.army.mil/brochures/Afghanistan/Operation%20Enduring%20Freedom.htm>

Library of Congress 2003 Iraq War page:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcwa/html/iraq/iraq-overview.html>

CNN “War in Iraq” page:

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/>

2008 Election: *Washington Post* page on Obama, McCain:

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/>

PollingReport Election of 2008 page:

<http://www.pollingreport.com/2008.htm>

*New York Times* 2008 Election resource page:

[http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/subjects/p/presidential\\_election\\_of\\_2008/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/subjects/p/presidential_election_of_2008/index.html)

### **Podcasting resources:**

(Note: GarageBand is an Apple product that comes bundled with the iWork suite. It can be used to develop podcasts, as can another program called Audacity. Audacity is also available for PC. You may also wish to do a Web search to see if there is other software or tutorials that can assist in developing podcasts.)

Apple GarageBand support page:

<http://www.apple.com/support/garageband/>

Podcasting Using GarageBand:

[http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/staffdev/maddux\\_j/podcasting/Home.html](http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/staffdev/maddux_j/podcasting/Home.html)

Audacity download page:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Audacity Podcast tutorial:

<http://www.how-to-podcast-tutorial.com/17-audacity-tutorial.htm>

How Stuff Works “How Podcasting Works” page:

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet/basics/podcasting.htm>

Learning in Hand Podcasting page:

<http://learninginhand.com/podcasting/>

Podcasting Tools Web site:

<http://www.podcasting-tools.com/>

Mashable.com Podcasting Tools Web site:

<http://mashable.com/2007/07/04/podcasting-toolbox/>

Tech-Ease Podcasting tutorial videos:

[http://etc.usf.edu/te\\_mac/movies/podcasting.html](http://etc.usf.edu/te_mac/movies/podcasting.html)

EdTechTeacher “Teaching History with Technology” Podcasting page:

<http://thwt.org/index.php/presentations-multimedia/podcasts>

Provide students with guidance as needed in collecting information. For example, students may wish to find still pictures of major players in the event selected and assume they are doing phone interviews with the subject.

You also should be aware that podcasts created with Audacity or GarageBand can be heard (and viewed, if the group uses video content) using iTunes, which is a free download for both PC and Mac.

Once students have finished collecting resources as well as storing information and data using the Podcast Information Collection Sheet, give the groups adequate time to create the podcast or video newscast.

<b>Evaluation:</b>
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You may wish to allow all students in class to view the finished podcasts, which can be done by sharing the podcast on iTunes or by making them viewable on a computer connected to an LCD projector. After podcasts have been viewed, you should assess student work using a suitable rubric. A sample rubric included with this lesson can be used as is or adapted.

# Event Podcast Data Sheet

Student Group names:

Person or event	Information about the person or event we found	Questions for person, or planned event coverage	How we will use this information in our podcast or newscast

# Event Podcast Newscast Rubric

Category:	Excellent (20–15)	Good (15–10)	Fair (10–5)	Poor (5–0)	Group point score
<b>Research</b>	Project shows evidence of significant re-search; all topics are backed by significant evidence	Project shows a fair amount of research; most topics presented are backed by significant evidence	Project shows little research and little to no evidence	No evidence that the group has conducted research	
<b>Evidence of Knowledge</b>	Project shows that group understands all material and concepts	Project shows that group grasps material and concepts	Some evidence demonstrating understanding of the material and concepts	Little or no evidence demonstrating understanding of the material and concepts	
<b>Organization of Material</b>	Project shows significant organization; podcast runs smoothly	Project shows some organization; podcast generally runs smoothly	Project shows little organization; podcast somewhat difficult to follow	Project shows no organization; podcast difficult or impossible to follow	
<b>Podcast</b>	Podcast very engaging	Podcast somewhat engaging	Podcast not very engaging	Podcast not engaging at all	
<b>Originality</b>	Project shows significant evidence of original thought or invention	Project shows some originality but includes a few outside ideas	Little evidence of unique thought; work is a general collection of others' ideas	No evidence of unique thought; work is a minimal collection of others' ideas	
<b>Other Criteria</b>					
<b>Overall Group Score</b>					

# Recent U.S. History

## Multiple-Choice Quiz

1. What most likely made Richard Nixon a more attractive presidential candidate in 1968 than he had been in 1960?
  - A. People felt sorry for him because he lost in 1960
  - B. He was from California, a state with a lot of electoral votes
  - C. His views appealed to many tired of social unrest and war
  - D. He promised that he would only serve one term if elected
2. Which of the following was a part of Nixon's domestic policy?
  - A. Volunteers in Service to America
  - B. America Now
  - C. TSA
  - D. EPA
3. Which of the following was *not* part of Nixon's foreign policy?
  - A. Recognizing the independence of African states
  - B. Development of *realpolitik* and *détente*
  - C. Visits to the USSR and communist China
  - D. Negotiation of several arms limitations treaties
4. Which of the following was *not* a factor leading to the 1973 Arab Oil Embargo?
  - A. American support of Israel
  - B. Nixon's insistence that America build fuel efficient automobiles
  - C. Decrease in value of U.S. dollar
  - D. Yom Kippur War
5. Why did Nixon develop a "law and order" strategy in the early 1970s?
  - A. He wanted to realign political allegiances to favor Republicans
  - B. He was tired of anti-Vietnam War protests
  - C. He wanted to crush his political enemies
  - D. He wanted to get more funding for the FBI

6. What did the Supreme Court rule in the case *New York Times v. U.S.*?
  - A. The newspaper was forced to stop publication of the Pentagon Papers on the grounds of national security
  - B. The newspaper was forced to stop publication of the Pentagon Papers because it was in possession of stolen property
  - C. The newspaper was allowed to continue publication because they paid a fine to the government
  - D. The newspaper was allowed to continue publication because the government could not prove publishing the papers endangered national security
7. Who was the Democratic candidate for president in 1972?
  - A. George Wallace
  - B. George McGovern
  - C. Edmund Muskie
  - D. Thomas Eagleton
8. This Nixon Administration staff member warned Nixon that there was “a cancer growing on the presidency”:
  - A. Alexander Butterfield
  - B. H.R. Haldeman
  - C. John Dean
  - D. John Ehrlichman
9. Who was “Deep Throat”?
  - A. A secret source who gave information to *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein
  - B. An assistant director of the FBI
  - C. Someone who went public about his role in the Watergate controversy in 2005
  - D. All of the above
10. What event quickly led to the end of President Gerald Ford’s “honeymoon” period?
  - A. The Nixon pardon
  - B. His “Whip Inflation Now” policy
  - C. The swine flu scare
  - D. The fact that he supported the Equal Rights Amendment

11. What was “Desert 1”?
- A. The Camp David cottage where Begin and Sadat met to hammer out a peace agreement
  - B. A secret meeting between Carter and the Iranian government to negotiate release of the hostages
  - C. The code name for the failed operation to free the hostages
  - D. The name of the flight that returned the freed hostages to the United States
12. Which nation did Reagan identify as an “evil empire”?
- A. Iran
  - B. North Korea
  - C. Iraq
  - D. The Soviet Union
13. Reagan ordered the U.S. invasion of this Caribbean nation in 1983:
- A. Antigua
  - B. Cuba
  - C. Grenada
  - D. The Bahamas
14. What eventually happened to the Strategic Defense Initiative program?
- A. It was abandoned in the 1990s
  - B. It was implemented towards the end of Reagan’s term
  - C. Bush cancelled the program because it was too costly
  - D. Fearing it, the Soviet Union collapsed before it was built
15. What was the effect of the Iran-Contra Scandal on Reagan’s administration?
- A. He was forced to resign from office
  - B. It had little impact on him
  - C. He was nearly impeached
  - D. The scandal did not become public until after he left office
16. Which event was responsible for the 1991 Gulf War?
- A. Iraq’s invasion of Iran
  - B. Iran’s invasion of Israel
  - C. Iraq’s invasion of Jordan
  - D. Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait



17. What was the result of the 1994 Congressional elections?
- A. The Democratic majorities in the House and Senate increased
  - B. The Republicans gained control of the Senate and Democrats controlled the House
  - C. The Republicans gained control of both the Senate and the House
  - D. Democrats managed to hold onto powerful committee-chair positions
18. This person was convicted and executed for his role in the Oklahoma City Bombing:
- A. Timothy McVeigh
  - B. Terry Nichols
  - C. David Koresh
  - D. John Hinckley
19. What was the outcome of the Clinton impeachment trial?
- A. He was convicted and removed from office
  - B. He was acquitted of all charges in the Senate
  - C. He was acquitted of all charges in the House
  - D. He reached a plea-bargain agreement and the trial ended
20. What impact did the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web have in the 1990s and early 2000s?
- A. It transformed commerce
  - B. It led to a sharp rise in the stock market
  - C. It led to a flood of “dot-com” companies whose value was based more on potential than actual profits
  - D. All of the above
21. Which of the following is *not* true about the 2000 presidential election?
- A. Bush won the popular vote
  - B. Bush carried Florida by 537 votes out of approximately 6 million cast
  - C. The Supreme Court ordered that the original Florida vote be official
  - D. Nader’s candidacy most likely hurt Gore
22. Who was the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks?
- A. Mohammad Atta
  - B. Zacharias Moussaoui
  - C. Osama bin Laden
  - D. Saddam Hussein

23. Which of the following was *not* one of the findings of the 9/11 Commission?
- A. The attacks could possibly have been prevented
  - B. President Bush ignored intelligence about the possibility of terrorist attacks in the U.S.
  - C. The FBI and the CIA failed to cooperate and share information with each other
  - D. The FAA ignored potential security risks
24. Which of the following was part of the increase in security after the 9/11 attacks?
- A. Development of the TSA
  - B. Creation of a Cabinet-level Homeland Security department
  - C. Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act
  - D. All the above
25. What was the Bush Doctrine?
- A. Nations who harbored terrorists were as guilty as the terrorists themselves and were subject to reprisals from the U.S.
  - B. Nations in the Middle East should be required to allow American troops to patrol their borders
  - C. Americans' civil liberties needed to be limited in time of war
  - D. The U.S. military would only be used for self-defense
26. Which of the following was the code name of the U.S. invasion of Iraq?
- A. Operation Just Cause
  - B. Operation Rolling Thunder
  - C. Operation Enduring Freedom
  - D. Operation Urgent Fury
27. This Houston-based energy corporation was at the center of one of the worst corporate scandals of the period:
- A. Enron
  - B. Tyco
  - C. Halliburton
  - D. Texaco
28. This candidate won the presidential election in 2008:
- A. Hillary Clinton
  - B. Barack Obama
  - C. John McCain
  - D. Sarah Palin

29. Which of the following was the major factor of the 2008 recession?
- A. A stock market crash
  - B. A crisis in the housing market
  - C. The growing federal deficit
  - D. Collapse of the dollar in foreign markets
30. Which of the following best describes the “Tea Party Movement”?
- A. Populist political movement
  - B. Republican Party platform in 2008
  - C. Democratic political action committee
  - D. Outlawed religious sect

# **Recent U.S. History**

## **Multiple-Choice Quiz Answer Key**

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. D
10. A
11. C
12. D
13. C
14. A
15. B
16. D
17. C
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. A
22. C
23. B
24. D
25. A
26. C
27. A
28. B
29. B
30. A





## Recent U.S. History



An American flag is framed by the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York City shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

The 9/11 attacks were one of the most traumatic events to strike the nation in the last 40 years; their long-term effects are felt to this day.

Social Studies School Service

A very different United States greeted the dawn of a new decade in late 1969. The 1960s began with the promise of a “New Frontier” and the goal of putting a man on the moon, but soon became a decade of protest at home over domestic concerns and an unpopular war in Vietnam. The watershed election of 1968 saw Richard Nixon elected president with a promise of a law-and-order administration. However, by the end of the 1970s, Nixon was forced to resign in disgrace over the Watergate scandal. Gerald Ford became the first unelected vice president—and then president—in U.S. history. Jimmy Carter defeated Ford in the 1976 election, but his term was shaken by economic downturn as well as the Iran Hostage Crisis.

Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980. Backed by conservative groups such as the “Moral Majority” and the “Christian Coalition,” he sought to return America to a position of strength and power in the world. During his eight years in the White House, Reagan worked to diminish the threat of the Soviet Union and hasten the end of the Cold War.

The 1988 election led to the ascendancy of George H.W. Bush as president and the end of the Cold War and collapse of communism in eastern Europe, including the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. In 1991, Bush sent American troops to lead a coalition of forces against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein after Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait. However, an economic downturn led to Bush’s defeat in the 1992 election to Democratic candidate Bill Clinton, governor of Arkansas.

Clinton’s eight years in office were highlighted by an economic upturn as well as a reduction in government spending. However, his foreign policies in nations such as Rwanda and Somalia were less successful.

In 1995, 168 people died when Timothy McVeigh bombed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in the worst “homegrown” terrorist attack on U.S. soil. In 1996, Clinton won a second term, but was impeached when it became evident that he had an “improper affair” with a White House intern. While acquitted of charges, the scandal haunted Clinton’s last years in office.

The closest electoral result in U.S. history marked the election of 2000, with Texas Governor George W. Bush narrowly defeating Vice President Al Gore by an electoral vote tally of 271–266. Gore had won the popular vote by a margin of nearly 500,000, but disputed results in Florida eventually were declared by the Supreme Court to be in favor of Bush, thus giving him the election.

In Bush’s first year in office, 19 hijackers commandeered four commercial airliners on September 11th, 2001. The hijackers, who were members of Saudi Arabian terrorist Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda group, killed nearly 3000 Americans in a suicide attack on New York’s World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania after an apparent attempt by passengers to seize control of the plane from the hijackers.

Soon after the attacks, Bush ordered an invasion of Afghanistan in an effort to find bin Laden. Soon after that, he had American troops invade Iraq because intelligence reports suggested that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was stockpiling “weapons of mass destruction.” However, a full-scale search of Iraq after the invasion failed to find any such weapons. Hussein was captured and executed in 2006, and bin Laden was killed by Navy Seals in Pakistan in 2011, but the fighting in Iraq lasted until close to the beginning of 2012 and U.S. troops still remained in Afghanistan at that time.

By 2008, a major recession wracked the country and voters were ready for a change. Illinois Senator Barack Obama became the first African American president. Obama’s economic policies did not provide a swift end to the recession, and voter dissatisfaction and the rise of the “Tea Party Caucus” led to huge losses for the Democrats in the midterm elections of 2010. As the U.S. entered the second decade of the 21st century, it was uncertain which direction the nation would take.

## Essential Questions

- What issues and factors have dominated U.S. foreign policy since the 1970s?
- What impact did political and economic scandals have on U.S. policy and the American people?
- How did terrorism and events in the Middle East affect the nation psychologically?
- What U.S. policies contributed to the eventual end of the Cold War?
- How did the rise of the Internet change the U.S. economy and people's everyday lives?
- What factors contributed to the emergence and rising influence of various social and political groups during the period?
- Why did the U.S. government restrict civil liberties in the period following the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

Social Studies School Service



## Nixon Becomes President



Richard Nixon prepares to take the Presidential Oath from Chief Justice Earl Warren on January 20, 1969

- Won close victory against Humphrey in 1968 election
- Considered himself a “law and order” candidate
- Views resonated with many tired of social unrest and war

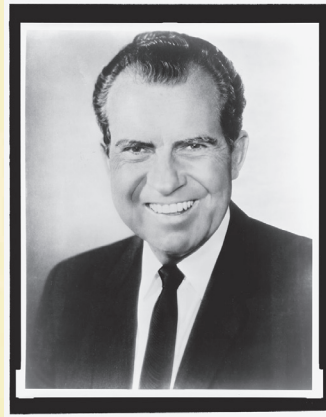
Social Studies School Service

The 1968 Presidential election pitted Republican Richard Nixon, who lost an extremely close election to John F. Kennedy in 1960, against Democrat Hubert Humphrey, who was the current vice-president. Humphrey, saddled with President Lyndon Johnson’s record in Vietnam as well as a disastrous Democratic National Convention in Chicago, found it impossible to overcome a large early lead by Nixon.

Nixon’s campaign effectively used a “law and order” theme to win over voters. His television ads frequently showed anti-war campus demonstrations and he railed against the Supreme Court’s liberal record in regard to the rights of accused persons. Many voters, tired of social unrest at home and war overseas, looked to Nixon to provide a sense of security and protect the rights of the “silent majority.”

## Richard M. Nixon

- Served in House, Senate
- Eisenhower's VP
- Lost narrowly to JFK in 1960
- Defeated for California Governor in 1962
- Elected president in 1968, 1972
- Resigned in 1974



Social Studies School Service

While Richard Nixon had been out of politics for several years prior to his election in 1968, he had a long political career. Born in 1913 in California, Nixon graduated from Whittier College, and then earned his law degree from Duke. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After returning from military service, Nixon served in the House of Representatives. In 1952, Republican presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower picked Nixon as his running mate. Nixon served as vice-president for eight years.

In 1960, he narrowly lost to Democrat John F. Kennedy in the presidential election. Two years later, Nixon lost again, this time while running for governor of California. In his concession speech, he bitterly remarked to the press that they “wouldn’t have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore.”

However, in 1968, he launched a second bid for the presidency and defeated Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and Alabama Governor George Wallace in a close contest. Four years later, Nixon defeated South Dakota Senator George McGovern in a landslide. However, Nixon soon found his administration embroiled in scandals. His vice president, Spiro T. Agnew, was forced to resign over ethics violations that occurred while Agnew had served as governor of Maryland. Under the terms of the 25th Amendment, Nixon appointed House Minority Leader Gerald Ford as vice president. Later, a break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. sparked a major scandal. Investigation into the Watergate incident soon proved that Nixon was involved in a cover-up; in August 1974, he became the first president to resign.

## Nixon's Domestic Policies



- “New Federalism”
- Environmental policies (Clean Air Act, EPA)
- OSHA and workplace safety
- Women’s rights
- “Revenue sharing”
- Revamping welfare

Social Studies School Service

Once Nixon entered office, he embarked on a massive restructuring of the federal bureaucracy. Believing that a large-scale federal government stifled economic growth, he sought to shift its responsibility and revenues to state and local governments.

Once in office, Nixon significantly changed his own stand on environmental issues as well as policy on pollution control. After noting the large number of people who participated in the first Earth Day in April 1970, he sent Congress the Clean Air Act of 1970, which created federal guidelines on air pollution and set stricter limits on emissions. He also created the Environmental Protection Agency in December 1970. Designed to provide for the establishment and enforcement of environmental protection standards, the EPA soon became the federal symbol of environmental policy.

The Nixon Administration also sought to provide protection for the on-the-job health and safety of workers. In 1970, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which required that each employer provide workers a safe and hazard-free workplace. The OSH Act also created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in order to ensure enforcement of the act’s provisions.

While Nixon had campaigned as a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, a major women’s rights initiative, he did little to ensure its passage after he took office. However, he did increase the number of female appointments to federal positions and created a task force on women’s rights. He also took steps to limit sex discrimination.

Nixon created a new system to put states more in charge of revenue, called “revenue sharing,” which redirected some federal tax money directly to states and local governments. Local governments were pleased that they could spend revenue without the burdensome red tape that frequently went along with federal programs. However, the Reagan Administration ended the program in 1986 due to mounting budget deficits.

Nixon also sought to revamp the United States welfare system through what he called the “Family Assistance Plan” (FAP). Nixon’s proposal called for eliminating most forms of welfare with direct cash payments for qualifying families. In order to qualify, recipients would be required to work or participate in some sort of job training. Nixon’s plan was roundly criticized, both by conservatives who believed it provided an annual income for persons who didn’t work, and by labor leaders who saw it as a threat to minimum-wage laws. By 1972, Nixon abandoned the FAP idea.

## Nixon's Foreign Policy

- Development of realpolitik and détente
- Role of Henry Kissinger
- Visits to China, USSR
- Arms limitation treaties
- CIA involvement in 1973 Chilean coup



President Nixon views the Great Wall of China in February 1972

Social Studies School Service

While many who voted for Richard Nixon in 1968 might have recalled his hardline, anti-communist stand, Nixon as president exhibited an entirely different philosophy regarding foreign policy. Rather than following a tough “containment” strategy in dealing with communist expansion, Nixon followed a realpolitik view, in which U.S. foreign policy was geared more towards practicality than ideology. In other words, the U.S. would deal with individual situations, taking into account the usefulness of a nation’s power and condition.

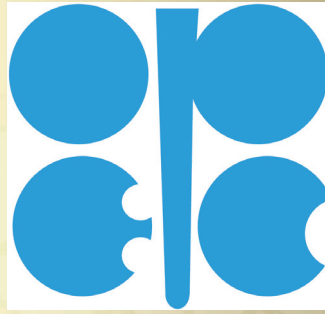
The father of realpolitik was National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger. Kissinger soon began to develop a policy known as détente (A French word meaning “relaxation of tensions”) between the U.S. and USSR. During Kissinger’s term as National Security Advisor and later as Secretary of State, the two nations enjoyed peace in their political relations. In addition, Nixon became the first U.S. president to make trips to the People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union in an attempt to help normalize relations and ease Cold War tensions.

Nixon parlayed this reduction in Cold War tensions into new arms treaties, including the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. The framework of Nixon’s détente policy was maintained through the Ford Administration. However, with the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, détente came to an end.

The Nixon years also saw the controversial involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in a coup to overthrow the pro-Marxist government of Chilean President Salvador Allende. Fearful that Chile might become “another Cuba,” the Nixon Administration cut off most financial aid to the South American nation. In 1973, the CIA indirectly helped establish a significant opposition to Allende, and allowed a coup which overthrew his government. Allende died in the coup, probably by suicide.

## Arab Oil Embargo

- OPEC cut production by 25% due to U.S. dollar devaluation and Yom Kippur War
- Gasoline prices increased, oil consumption decreased
- American auto market declined
- Move towards energy conservation



Social Studies School Service

OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, was founded in Baghdad in 1960. Five of the world's top oil-producing nations—Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Venezuela—agreed to join together, primarily by coordinating export policies and production levels. By 1973, seven more countries had joined OPEC, representing more than two-thirds of the world's oil production.

Back in the U.S., in an effort to stimulate the private sector, President Nixon greatly increased spending in spite of the fact that the U.S. was running a deficit. In order to correct the deficit, he also devalued the dollar and instituted wage and price freezes. After winning reelection in 1972, Nixon removed the price freezes with voluntary guidelines that proved to be ineffective. This caused a huge increase in the rate of inflation. As the dollar lost its value because of increased demand, and in an effort to further its political aims, OPEC raised oil prices.

At the start of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, OPEC placed an oil embargo on the United States as well as other pro-Israel countries. While the Yom Kippur War ended in less than three weeks, the Arab oil-producing states continued the embargo for nearly five months. OPEC nations gradually cut production by 25%. While the total drop in U.S. oil supply was only 7%, the psychological impact on American consumers was much more significant. Many areas in the country endured significant gasoline shortages. Businesses either passed higher fuel costs on to their customers, raising prices, or closed their doors.

Many Americans, used to cheap fuel prices and larger, less fuel-efficient automobiles, soon found themselves less likely to travel, and more likely to trade in their “gas guzzlers” for more fuel-efficient models. American automobile manufacturers saw a decline in sales as consumers sought smaller, more fuel-efficient automobiles, most of which were built by Japanese auto companies. Ford, GM, and Chrysler found themselves in competition with Nissan, Toyota, and Honda.

While the U.S. government responded by encouraging new oil exploration and drilling, and also by passing legislation mandating fuel efficiency standards for cars, energy conservation also became more widespread as many people opted to drive less and use less electricity in their homes.



## Discussion Questions

1. What was President Nixon's "New Federalism" program? In your estimation, how effective was it?
2. What did Nixon do regarding environmental issues?
3. How did Nixon change his views regarding the USSR and communist China? Describe the effect this had on arms limitation agreements.
4. What factors caused the Arab Oil Embargo, and what short- and long-term impact did it have on the U.S. economy and society?

Social Studies School Service

1. "New Federalism" involved taking federal money and federal responsibility for government programs and shifting them to the states. The centerpiece of New Federalism was "revenue sharing," a policy under which federal money was returned to the states with little red tape and few restrictions. Revenue sharing was highly effective, but the Reagan Administration ended it in 1986 due to high budget deficits.
2. After Nixon became aware of the number of participants in the first Earth Day in 1970, he realized the potential of environmental concerns as a political issue. He sent Congress the Clean Air Act of 1970, which created federal guidelines on air pollution. He also placed stricter limits on auto emissions. To coordinate environmental policy, he created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970.
3. Nixon relied on his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, to help evolve his strategy regarding relations with the USSR and communist China. Kissinger developed the realpolitik strategy as well as the concept of détente. As a result of a more pragmatic view of U.S. relations with communist countries, tensions between the superpowers subsided to some extent, which led to more beneficial arms limitations agreements.
4. The two major factors which led to the embargo were continued U.S. support for Israel (especially during the Yom Kippur War) and the devaluation of the U.S. dollar. The impact of the oil embargo could be seen in a number of ways. Gasoline prices increased dramatically (45%), which caused a decrease in demand for large "gas guzzlers," as well as a drop in oil consumption. This led to a movement towards energy conservation, as well as a rise in demand for more fuel-efficient cars, most of which were produced by the Japanese. In addition, the increase in fuel prices led to price increases in other market sectors.

## Nixon's "Law and Order" Strategy

- Nixon sought to realign political allegiances into a new Republican coalition
- Southern Strategy
- Harassment of "militant groups"
- "Enemies List"

Social Studies School Service

Early in his presidency, Nixon sought to create a new Republican coalition, carved from the old Democratic "Solid South." To accomplish this, he instituted a "Southern Strategy" designed to turn Democratic blue-collar workers and small-town residents into Republican voters during the 1968 campaign. To accomplish this, Nixon took strong stands against crime, drugs, and anti-war protesters. He also spoke out against the use of forced busing to achieve racial equality in schools. He used the Internal Revenue Service to audit the tax returns of suspected militants, and ordered the FBI to tap their phones. Working with local law officials, the Nixon administration successfully harassed and hindered the operations of militant groups such as the Black Panthers.

The president also kept a personal "Enemies List" that numbered in the hundreds. Some notable names on it were actress Jane Fonda, actor Paul Newman, comedian Dick Gregory, and former-Beatle John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono. As the federal government began to more completely investigate Nixon during the Watergate scandal, it became apparent that he had used the IRS to audit the tax returns of and harass several people on the list. At one point, names of nearly 576 supporters and staffers of Democratic Senator George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign were sent to the IRS for investigation.

## The Huston Plan

- Named after White House aide Tom Charles Huston
- Sought to provide coordination of domestic intelligence assets
- Plan called for domestic burglary, electronic surveillance, and mail fraud
- Use of IRS to harass subjects
- “White House Plumbers”

Social Studies School Service

The Huston Plan, a document outlining proposed internal security operations, stemmed from Nixon’s desire to provide for more coordination and effectiveness of gathering information against supposed “left-wing radicals” and the anti-war movement. The author of the plan was White House aide Tom Charles Huston.

In July 1970, Nixon approved the Huston Plan and forwarded it to the FBI, CIA, Defense Department, and National Security Agency. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover opposed the plan, as did Attorney General John Mitchell. Nixon finally killed the plan, but certain provisions of it were implemented anyway.

Huston’s plan called for such acts as domestic burglary of possible enemies, increased electronic surveillance, and opening the mail of supposed “domestic radicals.” In one version, detention camps to house anti-war protesters were also considered. In addition, the plan contained Nixon’s “Enemies List.”

The plan also included the establishment of the “White House Plumbers,” a covert unit designed to undermine Nixon’s enemies. The primary target of Nixon’s Plumbers was Daniel Ellsberg, a RAND Corporation employee and Pentagon analyst who had leaked thousands of pages of a top-secret history of American involvement in the Vietnam War. The group eventually folded into the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP).



## The Pentagon Papers

- Compiled history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam War
- Top-secret documents leaked by Daniel Ellsberg, a RAND Corporation employee and Pentagon consultant
- Documents published by *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, other newspapers
- Nixon Administration sought injunction to stop publication, led to *New York Times v. U.S.*

Social Studies School Service

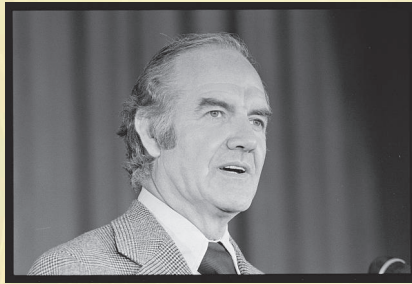
The Pentagon Papers, commissioned by the Department of Defense, showed a series of lies and misinformation that the government had made regarding the early days of the war. The documents contained details of secret bombing raids in Cambodia and Laos as well as other attacks on Vietcong and North Vietnamese strongholds as early as the Kennedy Administration. It also included the Johnson Administration's plan to widen the war before the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964 that Johnson had used as justification to escalate the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam.

On June 13th, 1971, the New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers. President Nixon, fearing that the release of the Pentagon Papers would establish a precedent allowing for easy publication of sensitive documents, sought an injunction (a court order) blocking the New York Times and other newspapers from revealing them. The Times appealed the injunction, and the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

By a 6–3 vote, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Times and allowed continued publication of the Pentagon Papers. In its ruling, the majority of the Court determined that publication of the documents was protected under the First Amendment; it also determined that the government failed to meet the “heavy burden” test established by the Supreme Court decision in *Near v. Minnesota* that “prior restraint” (a type of censorship) was allowed in cases where publication might endanger national security.

As a result, the *Times* and other newspapers continued to publish the Pentagon Papers. In May 2011, the entire contents of the Pentagon Papers were declassified and made public by the National Archives and Records Administration, and released to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California.

# 1972 Presidential Election



Democratic nominee Senator George McGovern  
of South Dakota

- Nixon sought second term
- Wallace shot
- Democrats nominated McGovern
- Eagleton Affair
- Nixon won in a landslide

Social Studies School Service

Nixon's popularity ratings jumped after his triumphant trips to China and the USSR. He announced he would seek another term in 1972. However, the Democratic Party was in disarray. Still reeling from the 1968 presidential convention fiasco, in which the Chicago police had made a bloody crackdown on antiwar protesters outside the convention hall, the Democrats sought to liberalize party rules, which eliminated the "old guard" from the nominating process, and instead required inclusion of minorities, women, and young delegates. Actress Shirley MacLaine noted the 1972 California delegation as "looking like a couple of high schools, a grape boycott, a Black Panther rally, and four or five politicians who walked in the wrong door."

As a result, most of the established Democratic challengers were swept aside early in the campaign. Alabama Governor George Wallace, who mounted a third-party challenge to Nixon in 1968, was eliminated from the race in May 1972, when he was shot and paralyzed by a would-be assassin. The only candidate still standing was liberal South Dakota Senator George McGovern, a strong critic of the Vietnam War.

After his nomination, McGovern's campaign was doomed from the start. His handlers allowed his nomination celebration to go on for hours, and he wasn't able to give his acceptance speech until the early hours of the morning. However, an even more disastrous situation was the "Eagleton Affair."

After offering the vice-presidential nomination to several politicians, who all turned him down, McGovern settled on Missouri Senator Thomas Eagleton. However, he did not do an extensive background check on Eagleton, and when it became known that Eagleton had been hospitalized for mental illness and had received electroshock therapy, McGovern dropped him from the ticket and replaced him with President Kennedy's brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver.

Nixon won the 1972 election in a landslide, carrying 49 of 50 states (McGovern carried Massachusetts and the District of Columbia). By the end of the campaign, McGovern's own party deserted him, with "Democrats for Nixon" ads appearing almost hourly.

## Discussion Questions

1. How did Nixon develop a “Southern Strategy” during his term of office?
2. What was the strategy behind the Huston Plan and the “White House Plumbers”?
3. Why was Nixon opposed to publication of the Pentagon Papers? Explain the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *New York Times v. U.S.*

Social Studies School Service

1. Nixon wanted to create a new Republican coalition similar to the coalition Democrats had maintained from the 1930s through 1960s. To do this, he developed a strategy that would try to make Democratic blue-collar workers and small-town dwellers into Republican voters. Nixon tried to appeal to them by taking strong stands against crime, drugs, and anti-war protesters. He also spoke out against forced student busing as a means to integrate schools.
2. The Huston Plan and the “Plumbers” composed a covert security strategy designed to stop leaks of classified materials and to undermine the Democratic Party and anti-war protesters. The plan called for domestic burglary of possible enemies, increased electronic surveillance, and opening the mail of supposed “domestic radicals.” The Plumbers carried out many of these operations.
3. Although the Pentagon Papers did not implicate Nixon or his administration, he feared that publication of the documents might set a precedent allowing publication of classified materials. Nixon ordered the Justice Department to seek an injunction against newspapers planning to publish the documents. The New York Times appealed the injunction and the justices ruled 6–3 in favor of the Times. In the view of the Court, the government had failed to meet the “heavy burden” test established by the Supreme Court in the 1937 *Near v. Minnesota* case. In other words, the government couldn’t prove that publication of the Pentagon Papers would endanger national security.

## The Watergate Break-In

- June 17, 1972
- Security guard discovered evidence of a break-in
- Five men found and arrested
- Attempted to place wiretaps on phones at Democratic headquarters



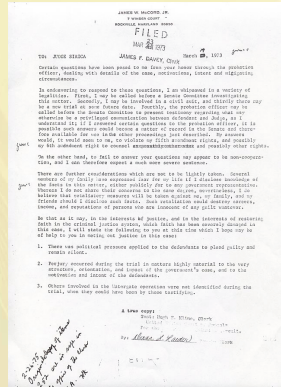
The Watergate Building in Washington, D.C., where the Democratic National Committee had its headquarters

Social Studies School Service

The first unraveling of Richard Nixon's presidency came early in the morning of June 17, 1972, with the arrest of five men who had broken into the Democratic National Committee office, located in the Watergate Complex in Washington, D.C. The break-in was discovered by night watchman Frank Wills, who noticed tape on door latches which allowed the doors to close but not lock.

Wills called the District of Columbia police, who arrested five men attempting to plant listening devices in phones at the Democratic National Committee headquarters. One of the men arrested, James W. McCord, was a former CIA agent who worked as a security agent for the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP). Later, a grand jury investigation uncovered that two other CREEP officials, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, were also involved in the initial break-in, and were guiding the burglars via walkie-talkie from a hotel room opposite the Watergate complex.

# The Cover-Up Unravels



In this March 1973 letter, Watergate burglar James W. McCord admitted a cover-up to Judge Sirica

- Slush fund uncovered
- Money given to burglar traced back to CREEP
- *Washington Post* covered story
- McCord admitted defendants were pressured into confessing and committing perjury
- Haldeman and Ehrlichman resigned

Social Studies School Service

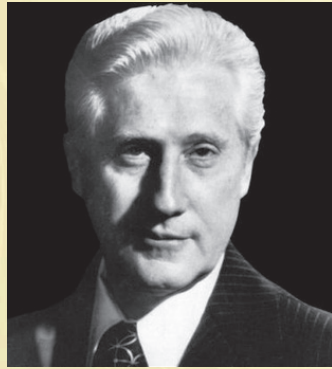
Nixon's re-election campaign continued and he cruised to an expected landslide victory. However, evidence was beginning to prove that the "third-rate burglary" described by Nixon Press Secretary Ron Ziegler may have been much more than originally thought. Oval Office tape recordings from days after the break-in revealed a conversation between Nixon and Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman in which they discussed how to contain the scandal, including tactics such as using the Central Intelligence Agency to block the FBI's investigation into the scandal. Nixon also announced that Chief White House Counsel John Dean had conducted a "thorough" investigation into the break-in, but no such investigation had ever taken place. It also was discovered that money from CREEP was deposited into the bank account of at least one Watergate burglar.

Most of this evidence was originally uncovered by two Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. While most national media scarcely covered the break-in and related scandal, the Post ran multiple front-page stories that brought more information to light.

More evidence of a cover-up arose with a letter written by Watergate burglar James W. McCord to Judge John J. Sirica, who presided over the original Watergate trials. In his letter, McCord alleged that several of the defendants in the break-in trial had been pressured to confess to the original charges and had also committed perjury by lying under oath.

As the investigation into the scandal grew, Nixon asked for the resignation of two of his most influential aides, Chief of Staff Haldeman and Chief Domestic Advisor John Ehrlichman.

## “Deep Throat”



FBI assistant director Mark Felt

- Secret source who provided “deep background” information
- Communicated with *Post* reporter Woodward
- Identity kept secret for nearly 30 years
- In 2005, Felt acknowledged he was the source cited in Woodward and Bernstein’s stories

Social Studies School Service

Perhaps the most important source during the *Washington Post*’s coverage of the Watergate scandal was “Deep Throat,” a highly secret source who provided “deep background” into federal investigations of the Committee to Re-Elect the President. The source was named “Deep Throat” after the title of an adult movie of the period.

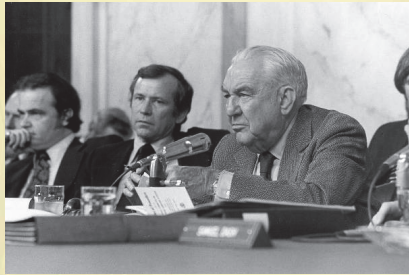
Deep Throat is mentioned in *All The President’s Men*, a book written by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, two investigative reporters at the *Washington Post* who covered the Watergate scandal. Woodward had direct contact with the source. If Woodward needed to meet with him, he placed a potted plant with a red flag on his apartment balcony. If Deep Throat needed to meet with Woodward, he circled a page number on a copy of the *Washington Post* delivered to Woodward’s apartment, with the time to meet drawn in clock hands on the page.

Because Deep Throat provided such significant information about the scandal, Woodward and Bernstein took extreme care not to release his identity. According to Woodward, an agreement existed between Deep Throat, the two reporters, and *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee that no announcement of “Deep Throat’s” identity would be made except on the event of his death or Woodward and Bernstein’s death.

In 2005, Assistant FBI Director Mark Felt announced publically that he was Deep Throat. Woodward and Bernstein confirmed this.



## The Senate Watergate Hearings



Senator Sam Ervin, Special Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities Chair

- Summer 1973
- Senate established Special Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities
- Dean's testimony
- "What did the president know, and when did he know it?"
- Revelations about taping system

Social Studies School Service

In February 1973, the Senate created a special committee to investigate allegations about Watergate and various activities that had occurred during the 1972 presidential campaign. Headed by North Carolina Senator Sam Ervin, the committee spent the summer of 1973 interrogating various figures in the Nixon Administration and/or had been involved in the Watergate scandal.

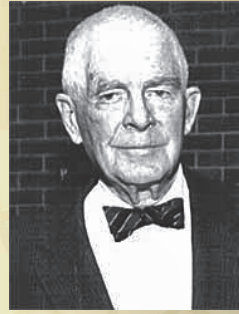
Some of the most riveting testimony during the hearings came from former White House counsel John Dean, who began cooperating with federal investigators once he realized he might become a scapegoat for the scandal after President Nixon fired him when he refused to continue in the cover-up.

Starting on June 25, 1973, Dean testified that he stated to Nixon during a March 21st meeting that "there was a cancer on the presidency," and warned that Nixon's presidency might be "killed" by it. In later testimony, Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the committee, asked former Nixon Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman the famous question, "What did the President know, and when did he know it?" regarding Watergate. While Haldeman gave an expected evasive answer, Baker's question became a catchphrase for the Watergate hearings and Nixon's involvement.

The most explosive testimony of the Senate hearings came from presidential assistant Alexander Butterfield, who was in charge of maintaining Nixon's daily schedule as well as collecting historical records about the administration. His revelation in July 1973 that a tape recording system in the White House was used to capture most of Nixon's conversations in the Oval Office soon caused investigators to issue subpoenas for the tapes in the hopes of discovering evidence against Nixon.

## “Saturday Night Massacre”

- Cox appointed special prosecutor by Richardson
- Cox subpoenaed Watergate tapes
- Nixon offered compromise on tapes; Cox refused
- Nixon ordered Richardson to fire Cox; Richardson resigned in protest
- Ruckelshaus also refused, resigned
- Bork carried out order to fire Cox
- Jaworski replaced Cox



Special Prosecutor  
Archibald Cox

Social Studies School Service

One of the most controversial moments of the Watergate scandal occurred on October 20, 1973, in what became known as the “Saturday Night Massacre,” which led to the firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox as well as the resignation of Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Assistant Attorney General Richard Ruckelshaus. The outcome of the “Massacre” was a shift in public opinion toward favoring impeachment of Nixon.

Richard appointed Cox special prosecutor in the Watergate investigation in May 1973. With the announcement of the existence of the Oval Office tapes in July, Cox sought to subpoena them. Nixon initially refused, but later offered a compromise: he would allow South Carolina Senator John Stennis to listen to the tapes and summarize them for Cox. However, Stennis was in his seventies and nearly deaf, so Cox refused the compromise.

Enraged, Nixon demanded that Richardson fire Cox. However, Richardson refused Nixon’s order and resigned in protest. The president then demanded that Assistant Attorney General Richard Ruckelshaus carry out his order to fire Cox. Ruckelshaus also refused and resigned. Finally, Nixon ordered Solicitor General Robert Bork to carry out the firing order. Bork complied.

Cox was replaced by Leon Jaworski, who continued Cox’s subpoena for the tapes and conducted further investigations into related aspects of the Watergate scandal.



***U.S. v. Nixon***

Nixon released transcripts of some tapes in April 1974

- Cox, then Jaworski, subpoenaed tapes
- Nixon released transcripts
- Sirica denied motion to stop subpoena
- Both sides appealed to Supreme Court
- Supreme Court ruled that tapes must be released
- Decision led to Nixon's resignation

Social Studies School Service

The new Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, continued to pursue a subpoena to require Nixon to release tapes of meetings regarding the Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. Nixon refused to release the tapes. Instead, in April 1974, he offered to release transcripts of 43 conversations, including 20 conversations specifically mentioned in the subpoena. Jaworski refused to accept the transcripts.

Nixon's lawyer, James St. Clair, then asked Judge Sirica to quash the subpoena, citing the concept of "executive privilege" between the chief executive and his advisors. In St. Clair's view, release of the tapes might cause a breach of national security and also violate separation of powers.

Sirica refused to quash the subpoena. Both Jaworski and St. Clair appealed directly to the Supreme Court. Hearing arguments from both sides on July 8, 1974, the Court issued its unanimous opinion three weeks later. (Associate Justice William Rehnquist disqualified himself because he had served in the U.S. Justice Department during the Nixon Administration.) In the decision, the Court ruled that Nixon was required to release the tapes. In an opinion written by Chief Justice Warren Burger, the Court agreed that Jaworski had proven a "sufficient likelihood that each of the tapes contained conversations relevant to offenses charged in the indictment (of Watergate conspirators)." The Court also rejected Nixon's claim to "an absolute, unqualified presidential privilege of immunity from judicial process under all circumstances."

Within a few days of the Supreme Court's ruling, Nixon decided to resign the presidency.

## Nixon's Resignation



Nixon addresses the White House staff shortly before leaving Washington for California on August 9th, 1974

- House Judiciary Committee recommended impeachment articles
- Nixon decided to resign
- Announced resignation on August 8, 1974
- Ford became president the next day

Social Studies School Service

As the summer of 1974 continued, it became more obvious that Nixon's base of support was quickly eroding. In late July, the House Judiciary Committee voted to recommend articles of impeachment be handed down against him. Most polls noted public support for Nixon was also waning rapidly, and it became more and more evident that Nixon would lose an impeachment trial.

In the face of this, he decided to resign the presidency. Making his formal announcement on August 8, 1974, Nixon noted that, "I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body. But as president, I must put the interest of America first. America needs a full-time president and a full-time Congress, particularly at this time with problems we face at home and abroad. Therefore, I shall resign the presidency, effective at noon tomorrow."

Succeeding Nixon as chief executive was Vice President Gerald Ford, who himself had been appointed to the position when Vice President Spiro Agnew had been forced to resign in late 1973 as part of a plea bargain agreement which kept him out of jail on charges of accepting bribes while governor of Maryland.

## Discussion Questions

1. How did the Watergate break-in spark the scandal that eventually brought down Nixon's presidency?
2. Who was John Dean and what facts came to light during his testimony during the 1973 Senate Watergate Hearings? What was the significance of Alexander Butterfield's testimony?
3. What was the significance of the "Saturday Night Massacre"?
4. What did the case *U.S. v. Nixon* involve, and how did the Supreme Court rule on it?

Social Studies School Service

1. The break-in involved former CIA agent James McCord, who worked as a security agent for the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP), and two other CREEP officials, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt. The Nixon Administration tried to cover-up its connection to the burglars, and committed more crimes to prevent investigation into the break-in. As revelations about the cover-up became public, many congressmen and members of the general public began to push for the president's impeachment.
2. John Dean, the former White House counsel, feared that he would become a scapegoat as prosecution of Watergate-related crimes continued. As a result, he cooperated with the Senate Watergate Committee. He claimed in his testimony that Nixon knew of the cover-up and refused to abandon it in spite of Dean's warning to him that a "cancer was growing on the presidency" and that the presidency might be "killed" by it. Presidential assistant Alexander Butterfield provided testimony that proved a tape recording system had been installed in the Oval Office and had captured most of Nixon's conversations.
3. The "Saturday Night Massacre" refers to the firing of Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox. Nixon had ordered that Attorney General Elliot Richardson fire Cox because of Cox's insistence that Nixon surrender the Watergate tapes. Richardson resigned in protest, as did Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus when Nixon then ordered him to fire Cox. Finally, Nixon ordered Solicitor General Robert Bork to fire Cox, and Bork complied. The "Massacre" seemed to provide more evidence of a White House cover-up.
4. The case resulted from Nixon refusing to release the Oval Office tapes, citing the concept of "executive privilege" and claiming that releasing the tapes would be a breach of national security as well as a violation of the principle of separation of powers. The Supreme Court rejected this contention and directed Nixon to surrender the tapes. Within a few days of surrendering the tapes, Nixon resigned the presidency.

## Gerald R. Ford



- 38th President
- Michigan congressman
- House Minority Leader
- Became Nixon's VP after Agnew resigned, the president after Nixon resigned
- Criticized for pardoning Nixon
- Died in 2006

Social Studies School Service

Gerald Ford, a Republican congressman, became the only U.S. president never to be officially elected to the office.

Ford had served 13 terms as a House representative from Michigan. As a member of the House, Ford quickly rose through the Republican ranks, becoming House Minority Leader. In 1963, he was selected as one of the members of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

After the resignation of Vice-President Spiro Agnew in 1973, President Richard Nixon tapped Ford to succeed Agnew under the terms of the 25th Amendment. Ford was confirmed by the Senate in late 1973, and when Nixon resigned in 1974, Ford became president.

Since Ford had been appointed vice-president rather than acceding to the position as Nixon's running mate during the election, he became the first unelected president of the United States. In his first speech as president, admitting that he was a "Ford, not a Lincoln," he noted that "our long national nightmare is at an end." In the first days of his presidency Ford enjoyed a "honeymoon" period, during which his popularity soared. However, a month after taking office, Ford caused a national uproar by issuing Nixon a full pardon for any offenses committed while he was president. Many felt that a chance to tell the full story of Watergate and assign blame was lost when Nixon accepted the pardon. The pardon caused Ford to lose the votes of many citizens in the 1976 election.

In that election, Ford withstood a strong challenge from former California Governor Ronald Reagan to win the GOP Presidential nomination. However, he was defeated by Democrat Jimmy Carter in the general election. He died in 2006 as the longest-lived ex-president at 93. He was also the third-longest-living former president.

## Ford's Domestic Programs

- “Whip Inflation Now” (WIN)
- 1975 recession
- Tax cuts
- Aid to struggling cities
- Support for the ERA



Ford meets in the Oval Office with his chief of staff, Richard Cheney, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

Social Studies School Service

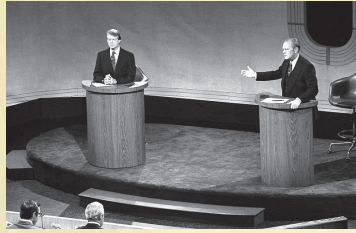
In addition to having to help the country get beyond the Watergate scandal, Ford also had to deal with mounting price inflation, as well as a recession in 1975. In order to reduce the impact of inflation, he initiated the “Whip Inflation Now” program, in which citizens would limit spending and consumption of goods in an effort to reduce rising prices. The symbol of the program was a “WIN” button worn by those supporting Ford’s plan.

Ford also called for a 5% tax increase for wealthy taxpayers, but as unemployment increased in 1975 and the country moved into recession, the administration changed its focus and instead called for a one-year tax cut. During the recession, major cities faced severe budgetary shortfalls, including New York City. At first, Ford did not support tax-funded bailouts for these cities. but as more and more cities began teetering toward bankruptcy, Ford again changed course and supported bailouts.

While Ford might have been perceived as a conservative, he strongly supported the Equal Rights Amendment and also identified himself as pro-choice. He did, however, support a planned constitutional amendment to allow each state to set its own laws regarding abortion.



## 1976 Presidential Election



President Gerald Ford makes a point during a televised debate with Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter during the 1976 campaign

- Ford held off challenge from Reagan to win GOP nomination
- Carter won nomination over large field
- Ford's debate blunder
- Nixon pardon
- Carter's evangelical support
- Carter won narrow victory

Social Studies School Service

In 1976, Ford sought his own full term in the White House. Overcoming a stiff challenge by former California Governor Ronald Reagan, Ford managed a narrow victory and got the Republican nomination. Ford selected Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate.

The Democratic primary field was wide-open, with 12 candidates at one point. Eventually, Jimmy Carter, the former Georgia Governor, surged ahead of the crowded field and used his status as a “Washington outsider” to win the nomination on the first ballot. He selected Minnesota Senator Walter Mondale to run as his vice-president.

Carter took a commanding lead in public opinion polls soon after the conventions, as many voters believed that while Ford was not directly involved in the Watergate scandal, he was close enough to the scandal to be tainted by it. In addition, his pardon of Nixon also angered many voters.

However, Carter had his own problems. In the fall, he granted an interview to Playboy magazine in which he admitted that while he was an “evangelical Christian,” he had “lusted in his heart.” Many conservative Christians saw this as a weakness, and their support for him wavered. However, Ford may have made a more fatal blunder during one of the televised presidential debates when he asserted, “There is no Soviet domination of eastern Europe and there never will be under a Ford administration.” He also said that he did not think the Polish people considered themselves to be dominated, nor did other eastern European nations. While Ford later tried to clarify his view, many voters saw him as out of touch with foreign policy, and his momentum slowed substantially.

On election day, Carter managed a narrow victory. While Carter carried small majorities in the popular vote and Electoral College, Ford carried 27 of the 50 states. Carter also carried 90 percent of the African American vote.

## President Jimmy Carter

- 39th President
- Elected in 1976
- Governor of Georgia
- Peanut farmer
- Naval Academy graduate
- Awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2002



Social Studies School Service

James (Jimmy) Earl Carter, was born in 1924 in Plains, Georgia. After high school, Carter attended the Naval Academy in Annapolis, then served on diesel-powered and nuclear submarines. After the death of his father, he returned to Georgia to run the family peanut farming business.

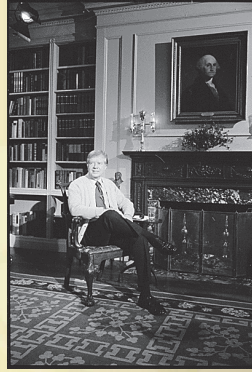
He also became interested in Georgia state politics, and first was elected to the state Senate, and then as Georgia governor in 1971. In 1976, he announced his candidacy for president.

He narrowly defeated Gerald Ford for the presidency in 1976. Entering office with a 66% approval rating, his popularity soon declined because of economic difficulties, rising gas prices, and the Iran hostage crisis. He lost his bid for re-election to Ronald Reagan in 1980.

After the end of Carter's term, he became a political activist, focusing on human rights issues and improving the lives of the poor. In 2002, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

## Carter as President

- Ongoing energy crisis
- High inflation
- Love Canal
- Protection of Alaskan wetlands
- Three Mile Island
- Creation of Departments of Education and Energy



A few days after taking office, President Carter delivered a “fireside chat” on energy conservation

Social Studies School Service

Carter had to deal with significant domestic and economic events that occurred during his four years in office. His attempts to address these events were hindered by his status as a “Washington outsider,” and he soon discovered that most members of Congress weren’t willing to work with him to make deals necessary to assure the success of his administration.

A rapid rise in inflation, fueled by rising energy prices, plagued his term. Early in 1977, Carter, wearing a sweater and sitting by a fireplace in the White House, urged Americans to conserve energy, and called the energy crisis “the moral equivalent of war.” In an effort to show solidarity in the fight, Carter also ordered thermostats in the White House turned to a lower setting. However, he was not able to do much to decrease Americans’ dependence on foreign oil sources.

The administration also faced a major environmental crisis in dealing with Love Canal, a housing neighborhood near Niagara Falls, New York, when it became known that a chemical company has used it as a dumping ground for hazardous materials. The company had covered the dump site with dirt and sold it to the city, which built nearly 500 homes and several schools on it. Soon, residents were complaining of substances oozing from the ground, and a much higher rate of cancer, birth defects, and miscarriages. Tests soon proved that the area was polluted with several chemicals, including dioxin, and Carter freed federal money for relocation of Love Canal residents. He also created the EPA “Superfund” to help with clean-ups of industrial sites.

In 1979, the government faced its first real “nuclear crisis” when an accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania resulted in the release of radioactive steam. While no serious injuries or deaths were reported, public resistance to nuclear power grew and it made it more difficult for Carter to implement his energy plans. Carter did manage to score an environmental victory, however, with the Alaska Land Act, which provided preservation guarantees for thousands of acres in the 49th state.

Although Carter came to the White House promising a streamline of government influence, two new Cabinet departments were created during his term: the Department of Education, responsible for creating and implementing policies for the nation’s schools; and the Department of Energy, which sought to coordinate several energy-related departments within the national government.



## Equal Rights Amendment



First Lady Betty Ford shows her support for the ERA by displaying a banner for the amendment in front of her desk

- Proposed by Congress (1972)
- Banned discrimination on the basis of gender
- Controversy over ratification process
- Failure to ratify amendment
- Recent attempts to reintroduce

Social Studies School Service

As the women's rights movement grew in influence and numbers during the 1960s and 1970s, support increased for an "Equal Rights Amendment" that would ban discrimination on the basis of gender. As early as the 1950s, proposed amendments were introduced in Congress, but it wasn't until 1972 that a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress agreed to an amendment and sent it to the states for ratification.

The text of the ERA was simple. It stated that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." It also gave Congress the power to enforce the amendment by "appropriate legislation," and stated that the amendment would take effect two years after its ratification.

Soon after its proposal, 30 state legislatures ratified the ERA, with only eight more states needed to approve it in order for it to become a Constitutional amendment. The original proposal established a seven-year time limit on the ratification process, and by 1978 it appeared that the ERA would fail with 35 states ratifying the amendment—three states short. In a controversial move, Congress passed a bill that extended the ratification window by 39 months. However, during this time, no new states ratified the amendment.

Five states then rescinded their ratification votes before the deadline, including Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota. A court challenge to the withdrawals was made, and a federal court ruled that the original extension was unconstitutional, and agreed that a state could rescind its approval. By 1982, it was announced that the ERA had failed to win ratification.

While the ERA has not specifically been reintroduced as a Congressional proposal since the mid-1980s, there have been attempts to resurrect it in various forms. In 2011, several Democratic members of the House of Representatives encouraged Congress to remove the six-year time limit for ratification of the Amendment to make it possible for states to approve it, similar to what occurred with the 1992 ratification of the 27th Amendment.

## Camp David Accords

- Sadat's "peace initiatives"
- Camp David talks
- Terms of the agreements
- Aftermath of the Accords



From left, Sadat, Carter, and Begin signing the Camp David Accords

Social Studies School Service

While the Carter Administration had a checkered record regarding domestic issues, the “Camp David Accords” Carter brokered between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin was a major foreign policy achievement for the president. Carter made the stalled Middle Eastern peace issue a prime concern of his presidency, and moved to restart the process after overtures from Sadat.

In November 1977, in a surprising announcement, Sadat announced his intention to visit Jerusalem, the first visit to Israel by the head of an Arab nation. While not diplomatically official, his visit implicitly recognized Israel’s right to exist.

Throughout 1977 and into 1978, Carter continued to work with Sadat and Begin to develop a peace strategy. The continued talks led to the two leaders meeting in person for 13 days in September 1978 at the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland. Carter’s personal skills as a mediator and conciliator kept the talks from breaking down on several occasions.

Finally, on September 17th, the agreements were announced. The original accords had three distinct parts. The first was a preamble which provided a framework for negotiations to create a self-government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and recognized the “legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.” The second segment of the accords dealt specifically with diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt. The third section established a set of “associated principles” that would govern relations between Israel and its neighboring Arab states.

Normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt became official by January 1980, with the two nations exchanging ambassadors and establishing diplomatic missions. Air travel also began between the two countries. In addition, the Camp David Accords and Egypt’s willingness to negotiate with Israel signaled the crumbling of a united Arab bloc against Israel. The accords proved that fruitful negotiations between Israel and Arab nations were possible.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why did President Ford pardon Richard Nixon for crimes he may have committed while in office? How did the public respond to the Nixon pardon?
2. What were the Camp David Accords? What were their significance?
3. Evaluate the Carter presidency in regard to both his domestic and foreign policies. What grade would you give him? Why?

Social Studies School Service

1. Ford's pardon of Nixon was intended to help the country move beyond the Watergate scandal and heal the "wounds" it had caused. However, the pardon instead angered much of the American public. Many felt that Nixon had escaped justice by not standing trial for Watergate-related offenses, and as a result, Ford's approval ratings plummeted.
2. The Camp David Accords were the most significant foreign-policy achievement of Carter's term. In the fall of 1978, Carter served as a mediator between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in ongoing peace negotiations. The significance of the Accords was that Egypt would recognize the legitimate government of Israel and both sides would work together to create a self-government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Accords also recognized "legitimate rights of the Palestine people."
3. Student answers in regard to a "grade" for Carter will vary. Previous slides noted his mixed record on domestic policies and his foreign-policy triumph with the Camp David Accords. Some students who are leaning towards giving him a higher grade may also take Carter's post-presidency accomplishments (Habitat for Humanity, winning the Nobel Peace Prize) into account. Those more inclined to give him a low grade may point to the lack of progress in fixing the nation's economic and energy crises.

## Iran Hostage Crisis: Origins



President Carter and staff meet with the Shah of Iran in 1977

- Shah came to power in 1953 with CIA assistance
- Regime harsh, but pro-Western
- Shiites supported Khomeini
- Shah fled Iran; Khomeini became leader

Social Studies School Service

Carter had little time to bask in the glory of the Camp David Accords. One year later, his administration was overwhelmed by a crisis that would help lead to his defeat in the 1980 election—the Iran Hostage Crisis.

The U.S. and Iran had enjoyed a close relationship over the years. The Central Intelligence Agency had assisted in a coup that had restored the Shah of Iran to power in the country. While the Shah led an oppressive regime, he also was very pro-Western. This appealed to the U.S. government, who saw the Shah as a bulwark against Soviet aggression.

However, Shiite Muslims in the country opposed the Shah's rule and instead supported their spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In early 1979, the Shah had lost so much support that he had to flee the country and seek exile. Khomeini then became the leader of Iran. Upon taking power, Khomeini instituted strict Muslim rule in Iran and also denounced the United States.

## Hostages Taken

- Shah sought medical treatment in the U.S.
- American embassy in Tehran seized
- Students took hostages, demanded the Shah be returned for trial
- Embargo on Iranian oil, economic sanctions
- Secret diplomacy



Anti-Iranian sentiment in the U.S. increased as the hostage crisis dragged on

Social Studies School Service

Iranian resentment against the U.S. had been growing since the CIA assisted in the 1953 coup that brought the Shah back to power. Continued U.S. support for the Shah over the years in spite of his oppressive regime helped further stoke anti-American sentiment. The situation came to a head in the autumn of 1979, when the deposed Shah sought medical treatment for cancer. At first, President Carter was reluctant to allow him into the U.S., but once he became aware of the seriousness of the Shah's condition, he decided to permit it on humanitarian grounds.

Enraged Iranian militants briefly overran the American Embassy in Tehran in February 1979, holding the ambassador hostage. However, Khomeini supporters released the diplomat. On November 4th, students supporting Khomeini overran the embassy again. This time, more than 60 embassy personnel and military guards were taken as prisoners. Khomeini supported the students' action against the American "den of spies," and the students announced they would not release the hostages until the U.S. returned the Shah to Iran to stand trial, and returned billions of dollars the students claimed the Shah had stolen from Iranian citizens. Some female and African American hostages were later released, but 53 Americans still remained captive.

Carter looked for a way to release the hostages while assuring their safety. He chose to exert pressure on Iran by placing an embargo on sales of Iranian oil to the U.S. and instituting severe economic sanctions against Iran. In the meantime, Carter advisor Hamilton Jordan embarked upon secret diplomatic talks to free the hostages. At first, most Americans supported Carter's efforts. However, public support waned in the early months of 1980 as diplomacy and the economic sanctions failed to do anything to resolve the crisis. Anger at Iran and Iranians also began to increase, and many began to clamor for a military rescue.

## Rescue Attempt Disaster



The wreckage of the crashed helicopter

- “Desert 1”
- April 1980
- Attempt failed because of weather, aircraft malfunction
- Helicopter crashed into transport plane
- 8 crewmen died
- Failure a psychological disaster

Social Studies School Service

As the crisis dragged on, Carter realized he needed to take more drastic action to free the hostages. In April 1980, he gave the go-ahead for a high-risk operation code-named “Desert 1,” that would attempt to land troops in Tehran and free the hostages.

However, a sandstorm caused the government to abort the mission due to three malfunctioning helicopters. Soon after, another helicopter crashed into a C-130 transport plane while it was taking off. Both the transport plane and the helicopter were destroyed, eight U.S. servicemen died, and three more were injured.

Carter was faced with the difficult task of informing the American public of the failed rescue. To add to the fiasco, the Iranians triumphantly broadcast footage of one of their soldiers picking through the remains of the rescue attempt. Many Americans felt totally helpless and believed their government had failed them.



## The “Malaise” Speech

- Called on American people to “redeem” themselves
- “Crisis of confidence”
- Pollster Caddell called it the “malaise” speech
- Carter shook up Cabinet
- Speech had “boomerang” effect; Carter blamed for America’s problems



Social Studies School Service

On July 15, 1979, Carter went on national television to deliver what he hoped would be the most important speech of his administration. Originally planned as a speech on energy policy, Carter turned it into something that he thought would be much more.

Carter had earlier invited political and civic leaders to join him at Camp David. For nearly a week, he listened to the criticism of his leadership skills and his administration, including an unattributed quote from Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, who noted, “Mr. President, you are not leading the nation. You are just managing the government.”

In his address to the American people, Carter noted the nation was suffering a “crisis of confidence,” adding: “It is a crisis that strikes at the very heart and soul and spirit of our national will. We can see this crisis in the growing doubt about the meaning of our own lives and in the loss of a unit of purpose for our nation.” Carter then admonished the American people to conserve resources such as energy in order to make the nation strong. Pollster Patrick Caddell later called it the “malaise speech,” even though Carter hadn’t used the word “malaise” (which in this sense referred to a sense of ill-being, helplessness, and despair). Unfortunately for Carter, the name stuck.

While Carter enjoyed an early bump in approval ratings after the speech, he soon bottomed out. Some began to suggest that there was nothing wrong with the American people, but that the real problem was lack of leadership in the White House. Carter did not help matters by asking his entire Cabinet for their resignations; Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, and Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano were the only ones who ended up resigning in the end.

Within six months of making the speech, Carter lost his bid for re-election to former California Governor Ronald Reagan. Some historians believe that while Carter was able to identify problems facing the American people, his inability to provide concrete solutions to those problems cost him a second term.

# 1980 Election



Reagan campaigns in front of the Statue of Liberty

- Reagan won nomination over Bush
- Carter holds off challenge from Kennedy
- Hostages, economy main issues
- Christian conservatives
- Debate between Carter and Reagan
- Republicans won handily

Social Studies School Service

The faltering economy and continuing hostage crisis dogged Carter in his 1980 reelection bid. With his popularity rating hovering around 26%—lower than Nixon’s during Watergate—Carter faced a challenge for the Democratic nomination from Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, the brother of former president John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy. However, the Kennedy name did not help his campaign, which started off badly in a hastily produced television interview. Carter swept through the primaries and easily captured the Democratic nomination.

Ronald Reagan, the former California governor, defeated a large field of Republican challengers to win the GOP nomination. Although 69 years old, he campaigned with the strength and vigor of a much younger man. He selected George H.W. Bush, the former CIA director and Ambassador to China, as his running mate.

The continuing hostage crisis and declining economy continued to cause Carter to lose popularity. In addition, various Christian conservative groups, such as the Rev. Jerry Falwell’s “Moral Majority” and Rev. Pat Robertson’s “Christian Coalition” actively campaigned for Reagan, and conservative political action committees (PACs) used mass mailings and phone outreach to promote the Republican message.

In a head-to-head matchup between the two candidates, Reagan also easily bested his opponent. When Carter touted his administration’s record on various issues, Reagan retorted, “There you go again,” a quick and semi-humorous dismissal that was characteristic of Reagan’s ability to say simple and folksy things that connected with many American voters. Later in the debate, Reagan summed up his message with this question to the national audience, “Are you better off now than you were four years ago?”

In the balloting, Reagan won over 51% of the popular vote to Carter’s 41%. In addition, the GOP took control of the Senate for the first time in 25 years. The Republican triumph also signaled the beginning of the end of the New Deal Coalition and the Democratic “Solid South,” as the Republicans carried every Deep South state except Carter’s Georgia, and carried every state west of the Mississippi River except Minnesota and Hawaii.



## Ronald Reagan

- Early career included radio announcing and acting
- Shifted political views from liberal to conservative
- Elected governor of California
- Elected president in 1980



Social Studies School Service

At age 69, Ronald Reagan became the oldest man elected president of the United States. Prior to his run for the White House, Reagan served as Governor of California from 1967 to 1975.

Born in Tampico, Illinois, in 1911, Reagan was a graduate of Eureka College, majoring in economics and sociology. However, he soon gravitated to acting, working first as a radio announcer in Iowa and then moving on to Hollywood, where he performed in mostly forgettable films. Later, he transitioned to television and became a spokesman for General Electric. He also served as president of the Screen Actors' Guild.

During the early 1950s, Reagan, who had been a self-described "FDR Democrat," changed his views and became a conservative. In 1966, he was elected Governor of California and served until 1975. In 1976, he unsuccessfully attempted to wrest the Republican presidential nomination from incumbent Gerald Ford, but lost by only a narrow margin. In 1980, Reagan ran for president again, winning the Republican nomination over a large field of opponents. He then easily defeated Jimmy Carter in the general election.

## End of the Hostage Crisis



The freed hostages deplane at  
Andrews Air Force Base

- Iranians saw little advantage in holding the hostages any longer
- Carter continued negotiations
- Hostages freed after Reagan inaugurated
- Carter part of delegation that welcomed the hostages home

Social Studies School Service

As the Iranian Hostage Crisis dragged on, the Iranians saw little advantage in continuing to hold the 52 Americans. By this point, they had gotten all the publicity and propaganda opportunities they needed out of the situation, and the economic sanctions the U.S. had placed on Iran were taking a major toll.

Although he had lost the election, in his lame-duck period, Carter still continued nearly round-the-clock negotiations with the Iranians in an attempt to free the hostages before he left office in January 1981. However, while the Iranian government finally agreed to a deal to release the hostages, in one final snub, they delayed freeing them until after Reagan had been sworn in as the 40th president.

The hostages were taken to Germany for medical treatment before coming back to the U.S. As ex-president, Carter was part of the delegation that welcomed them home. However, most of the hostages were not pleased with the way Carter had handled the crisis.

## Discussion Questions

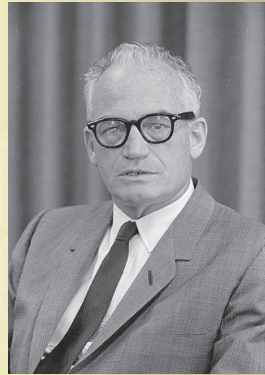
1. Why did the U.S. support the Shah's regime in Iran? What led Iranians to seize the U.S. Embassy there?
2. What early responses did the Carter Administration take to the hostage crisis? Evaluate the effectiveness of these steps.
3. Why did the "Desert 1" operation fail? What effect did this have on morale? Why?
4. What characteristics made Ronald Reagan an effective campaigner in the 1980 election? What groups tended to support him?

Social Studies School Service

1. The Shah was pro-West and anti-communist, which led the U.S. to support him in spite of his oppressive regime. Iranians resented the U.S. for assisting in the 1953 coup that brought the Shah back to power and for continued support of him despite his poor treatment of the Iranian people. The final straw came when President Carter allowed the deposed Shah to come to the U.S. for medical treatment. Anti-Americanism in Iran surged, and students and militants seized the U.S. Embassy.
2. After the seizure of the hostages, Carter placed an embargo on the sale of Iranian oil to the U.S. and instituted several economic sanctions against Iran. He also had advisor Hamilton Jordan work through secret diplomatic channels to attempt to secure the hostages' release. Many people became discouraged at the slow pace of negotiations, however, and clamored for military action against Iran. Carter's approval rating plummeted, as much of the public felt he wasn't doing enough to resolve the hostage situation.
3. The "Desert 1" rescue attempt failed because of poor weather conditions at the staging area, which led to aircraft malfunction. In addition, another helicopter crashed into a transport plane, causing the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen and the injury of three others. The effect of the failure on morale was devastating. Many Americans, listening to Carter's explanation as to why the rescue attempt failed and viewing videotape of Iranian soldiers picking through the remains of the rescue helicopter, felt totally helpless and demoralized.
4. Although Reagan was in his late 60s in 1980, he appeared young and vigorous in campaign appearances. He also had the ability to say simple and folksy things that connected with many American voters, including the resonant question, "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" Reagan's experience as a movie and television actor also helped him come across more effectively to the American voter. Reagan drew support not only from the Republican base, but from various Christian conservative groups as well, such as the "Moral Majority" and "Christian Coalition." These groups' political action committees used mass mailings and phone outreach to drum up support for Reagan.

## Rise of the Conservative Movement

- Goldwater's 1964 candidacy
- The "Religious Right"
- Moral Majority and Christian Coalition
- 1980 election of Reagan
- Impact on 21st-century politics



Barry Goldwater

Social Studies School Service

While conservative politics existed in the American political landscape long before 1970, the modern conservative movement originated with the 1964 presidential candidacy of Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. While Goldwater was soundly defeated by incumbent President Lyndon Johnson, he did create many “converts” to the conservative cause, including Ronald Reagan.

During the mid- and late 1970s, the conservative movement began to evolve, with Reagan emerging as one of its leaders. Religion began to become more and more a part of conservative politics and ideology, leading to the development of the segment of American society that would become known as the “Religious Right.” Angered by the controversial 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision on abortion, many Christians began to flock to conservative politics in the hopes of getting the Court to overturn the decision.


The year 1976 saw the rise of the “Moral Majority” movement, spearheaded by Rev. Jerry Falwell. The Moral Majority was able to help shape Republican politics and policy through the use of political action committees, as well as its broad base of members and strong central organization to drum up support for politicians and political issues. It proved instrumental in getting Reagan elected president in 1980. When it disbanded in 1989, Falwell declared that the organization was no longer needed because it had “achieved most of its goals.”

Pat Robertson’s “Christian Coalition” was a similar group that included various religious and conservative groups, including many “neo-conservatives”—former liberals who had changed philosophies and joined the conservative movement. The Christian Coalition was active as a political force, and Robertson personally mounted a presidential bid in 1988.

The impact of the conservative movement on American politics has been significant, with three conservative presidents being elected since 1980 (Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush), and the Republicans holding the White House for 20 years during the period from 1980 to 2008. The Republicans also gained control of both the House and Senate at various times during this period. Various sections of the country with large numbers of conservatives, most notably the formerly Democratic “Solid South,” have since turned into Republican strongholds.

**Recent U.S. History**

## **Reagan's Domestic and Economic Policies**



- Air traffic controllers strike
- “Reaganomics”
- Immigration reform
- War on Drugs (“Just Say No” program)
- Supreme Court selections

Nancy Reagan at a “Just Say No” anti-drug rally

Social Studies School Service

Soon after Reagan’s inauguration, he showed his willingness to take a tough stand against organized labor when the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) went on strike demanding better working conditions, pay, and hours. First, Reagan used the 1948 Taft-Hartley law forbidding federal employees to strike and ordered the controllers back to work. More than 11,000 controllers refused, so Reagan not only fired them but also ordered them barred from future federal employment.

Reagan’s economic policy drew upon the theory of supply-side economics, which asserts that the best way to achieve economic growth is by removing burdens on businesses and producers so that they can make a greater amount of goods and services available to consumers at lower prices. “Reaganomics” therefore focused on reducing taxes and easing federal regulations on business. The tax cuts also represented the “trickle-down theory” of economics in action, working from the idea that tax cuts for the wealthy would spur growth in the economy as a whole and the benefits would “trickle down” from the wealthy to the rest of society. Reagan proposed a 30% cut in federal income taxes to be eased in from 1981 to 1983, and also proposed cuts in many federal programs such as school lunches, student loans, transportation, and job training in order to make up for the lost revenue. Congress reduced the tax cut to 25% and limited cuts in “entitlement” programs, such as Social Security, but many southern Democrats went along with Republicans, and the cuts became law.

The Reagan Administration also cut government regulations in various areas, including banking and savings and loans, as well as the broadcast and automobile industries. He also directed Secretary of the Interior James Watt to open federal wilderness areas to oil exploration and drilling.

Reagan also made the “war on drugs” a major priority of his first term, increasing federal funding for drug enforcement as well as requiring mandatory sentencing guidelines for drug dealers and users. First Lady Nancy Reagan created the “Just Say No” drug awareness program, which was aimed at finding ways to discourage children and teenagers from using drugs.

During his two terms, Reagan appointed several new members to the Supreme Court, most notably the first female justice, Sandra Day O’Connor. While most of the appointments were easily confirmed, the Senate rejected the appointment of Robert Bork because of his ultra-conservative leanings. Another nominee, Douglas Ginsburg, withdrew his name from consideration after he admitted using marijuana.



## Savings and Loan Crisis

- Deregulation of savings and loan institutions
- S&L speculation in real estate and commercial loans
- 1983: 35% of S&Ls “unprofitable”; 9% bankrupt
- State and federal regulators ran out of money to refund depositors
- Federal government bailed out S&Ls
- Total cost: \$153 billion; taxpayers’ share: \$124 billion

Social Studies School Service

Although Reagan’s federal deregulation policies were applauded by many, they caused a significant crisis involving the nation’s savings and loan institutions. Once the government deregulated the S&L industry, the institutions began to make speculative loans in real estate and commercial ventures in order to make up for lost revenues from deposits lost to higher interest-bearing money-market accounts.

However, a large number of these borrowers defaulted on their loans, and the institutions lost a significant amount of their assets. By 1983, 35% of the nation’s S&Ls were categorized as “unprofitable,” and a full nine percent were ruled bankrupt. State and federal agencies designed to regulate the industry and refund lost deposits to customers were overwhelmed and could not repay all the lost assets.

By 1989, the federal government realized the depth of the crisis and took action to stem the S&L problem. It created a system which would provide for a taxpayer-funded bailout and created a new government agency called the Resolution Trust Corporation to resell S&L assets and use those proceeds to refund lost money to depositors. S&L regulations were also revised to ensure that a second crisis would not occur.

In all, the total cost of the bailout was \$153 billion. The taxpayers’ share was \$124 billion. The S&L industry eventually contributed the rest.

## The “Evil Empire” Speech

- Reagan’s increasingly aggressive stance toward the USSR
- Delivered to the National Association of Evangelicals
- Referred to the USSR as an “evil empire”
- The “Reagan Doctrine”



President Reagan prepares to deliver what became known as the “Evil Empire” speech

Social Studies School Service

Early in his presidency, Reagan had given hints that his administration would move away from the policy of détente regarding the Soviet Union. In a 1982 speech to the British Parliament, Reagan asserted that “the forward march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of history.” The next year, he stated his belief that communism would soon fall, saying that “Communism is another sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages even now are being written.”

However, his harshest words about the Soviet Union came in a 1983 speech delivered to the National Association of Evangelicals. He suggested that Americans should not be complacent towards the USSR and ignore the “aggressive impulses” of an “evil empire,” or call the arms race a “giant misunderstanding” and “remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil.” Many conservatives praised the speech, but others felt that Reagan had unnecessarily inflamed tensions between the two nations.

The speech highlighted the aggressiveness with which Reagan planned to oppose not just the USSR but communism in general. The guiding Cold War policy of his administration became known as the “Reagan Doctrine.” It moved away from the earlier strategy of “containment” (which merely advocated restricting the spread of communism) to one of “rollback,” in which the U.S. would provide financial support, military training, and weapons to rebel groups in communist-led countries.

## El Salvador and Nicaragua



*Contra fighters in 1987*

- Reagan backed El Salvador junta fighting the Castro-backed insurgency
- U.S. opposed Sandinistas in Nicaragua
- Contras supported by CIA
- Congress cut funding for contras
- 1988 truce ended fighting

Social Studies School Service

The Reagan Doctrine went into effect in revolutions that occurred in Central America. In El Salvador, the U.S. backed a military junta opposed to a leftist insurgency supported by Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. In 1984, a moderate backed by the U.S. government was elected president of El Salvador; however, the military junta continued its oppressive crackdown on the insurgency.

In Nicaragua, the Reagan Administration reversed a policy established by President Carter and opposed the communist Sandinista government that had seized power during a revolution. Instead, Reagan backed a force known as the “contras” that was based in Honduras and Costa Rica. The contras conducted raids in Nicaragua against the Sandinistas.

Reagan strongly supported the contras, but many feared that the struggle might eventually draw in U.S. troops and lead to another Vietnam war. In 1982, Congress voted to suspend funding for aid to the contras for a year. In 1984, Congress suspended aid for two more years. Still, the Reagan Administration continued to funnel money to the contras through foreign governments as well as right-wing groups. In 1988, the fighting in Nicaragua finally ended when other Central American governments brokered a truce between the Sandinistas and contras.



# 1983 Grenada Invasion

- “Operation Urgent Fury”
- Aimed to oust Castro-backed communist government
- American medical students
- U.S. invaded; within days, ended Cuban involvement
- Invasion successful



“Black Hawk” helicopters on patrol during the Grenada invasion

Social Studies School Service

In October 1983, a coup replaced the government in the Caribbean nation of Grenada with a pro-Castro regime. Not only did the country contain a modern air landing strip which could be used as a strategic location by communist forces, but the security of nearly 800 Americans, most of whom were attending medical school in Grenada, was at stake.

On October 25, 1983, Reagan sent 5000 U.S. troops into the island nation. Within two days, they had taken the airfield and had subdued air and ground forces. In the operation, 19 Americans were killed and 119 were wounded. The medical students on the island were rescued unharmed.

The invasion was a great success for Reagan. U.S. troops had defeated a communist-supported force, and also sent a warning to the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Though a majority of people in the U.S. supported the invasion, some in the international community criticized it as a violation of Grenada's sovereignty.

## U.S. in Lebanon



Smoke billows from the Marine barracks at the Beirut Airport on October 23, 1983, after it was heavily damaged by a suicide bomber

- Lebanese government collapsed
- Civil war broke out
- Reagan sent peacekeeping forces
- 241 Marines killed in suicide bombing
- Reagan removed troops the next year

Social Studies School Service

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon in order to stop Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) raids on Israeli settlements. While the invasion ended the PLO threat, it also caused the collapse of the Lebanese government. A civil war broke out between Christians and Muslims in the country.

In order to help maintain order, President Reagan sent troops into Lebanon. On October 23rd, 1983, a suicide bomber attacked the U.S. barracks at the Beirut Airport, killing 241 Marines. According to the official government report after the bombing, the suicide bomb carried the force of 12,000 pounds of TNT, the largest non-nuclear blast on record. The report added that the blast ripped the building off its foundations and caused the floors of the building to collapse on top of one another, crushing the soldiers.

The next year, Congress pressured Reagan to remove the remainder of the peace-keeping troops in the country. By the end of February 1984, the last American troops left Lebanon. In total, 265 Americans were killed while operating as peacekeepers.

## SDI (“Star Wars”)

- Strategic Defense Initiative
- Reagan proposed SDI in March 1983
- Nicknamed “Star Wars” after the film
- Concerns about program
- Abandoned in 1990s



In this Department of Energy artist's conception, an American SDI unit uses lasers to destroy incoming Soviet missiles

Social Studies School Service

In March 1983, Reagan proposed what was officially known as the “Strategic Defense Initiative” (SDI). SDI included a sophisticated anti-ballistic missile system that could destroy incoming missiles in-flight, thereby reducing the threat of nuclear attack from other countries—especially the USSR. The system would use an intricate system of lasers and mirrors in order to shoot down incoming missiles before they could land on U.S. targets. Seemingly something out of a science fiction, the system soon earned the nickname “Star Wars,” after the 1977 film.

While the program initially did not appear controversial, debate quickly arose regarding whether implementing the system might violate various nuclear arms treaties that the U.S. had signed, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Many were concerned that implementation of SDI might raise tensions between the U.S. and USSR, and could possibly lead to conflict if the Soviets believed that the U.S. had violated the treaties and that a successful SDI would allow the U.S. to use nuclear weapons tactically without fear of counterattacks.

By the time the U.S. finally abandoned the program in the 1990s, nearly \$30 billion had been spent on “Star Wars.” No system was ever tested or implemented.

## Discussion Questions

1. How and why did the Iran Hostage Crisis end in January 1981?
2. Why did the Conservative Movement gain momentum in the 1970s and 1980s? What impact did the movement have on politics through the period?
3. What factors caused the 1980s savings and loan crisis? How did the government deal with the crisis?
4. What was the significance of Reagan's "Evil Empire" speech? How did the "Reagan Doctrine" affect U.S. foreign policy in the 1980s?

Social Studies School Service

1. By January 1981, the Iranian government realized that there was little advantage for them to continue to hold the hostages. The publicity value of continuing to keep them captive was diminishing, and with Carter soon to be out of office, the Iranians felt it was in their best interest to release them. As a final insult to Carter, Iran freed the hostages immediately after Reagan was inaugurated.
2. During this period, religion began to become more and more a part of conservative politics and ideology, leading to the development of the segment of American society that would become known as the "Religious Right." Angered by the controversial 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision on abortion, many Christians began to flock to conservative politics in hopes of getting the Court to overturn the decision. The Moral Majority and Christian Coalition both became more politically active, and spent millions of dollars in political action committee money to elect conservative politicians, such as Reagan.
3. President Reagan's deregulation of government and industry spread to the savings and loan industry. Facing a loss in higher interest-bearing accounts, S&Ls began to make highly speculative loans in real estate and commercial ventures. However, many of the borrowers defaulted on the loans, and the S&Ls lost a significant amount of their assets. Before long, 35% of the S&Ls in the country were unprofitable, and nine percent were bankrupt. Eventually, the federal government had to intervene and bail out the struggling industry, with taxpayers putting up \$124 billion of the total \$153 billion cost.
4. In the 1983 "Evil Empire" speech, Reagan made his case for escalating the Cold War and moving away from the policy of détente. He called the Soviet Union an "evil empire," signaling a more aggressive approach to dealing with the USSR. The Reagan Doctrine, with its goal of "rollback," resulted in U.S. intervention (mostly indirect but sometimes direct) in countries in the Western Hemisphere that had communist leadership, including El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

# 1984 Presidential Election

- Reagan nominated for 2nd term
- Mondale won Democratic nomination
- Ferraro first woman nominated for major office
- Reagan won in landslide
- Impact of 1984 race



President Reagan and Vice President Bush appear during the 1984 Republican Convention in Dallas

Social Studies School Service

The ticket of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush faced no opposition in their quest for the 1984 Republican nomination. A crowded field of Democratic candidates sought the nomination, including the Reverend Jesse Jackson, an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King. Jackson did well in several primaries, but lost the nomination to Walter Mondale, who had been Jimmy Carter's vice-president.

Mondale shocked many when he selected New York Representative Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate. Ferraro was the first woman to be nominated for national office by a major political party. The Democrats made excessive military spending and budget cuts their major themes in the election. In a switch from traditional campaign rhetoric, Mondale pledged that if he was elected president he would raise taxes.

In debates between the two presidential candidates, Mondale looked more fresh and capable than Reagan in their first encounter. However, when the two met in a follow-up debate, Reagan had sharpened his delivery, and any gains the Mondale-Ferraro ticket had made were wiped out.

On election day, Reagan and Bush won in a landslide, carrying 59% of the popular vote. The GOP ticket won 49 of the 50 states, with Mondale only carrying his home state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia.

Democrats, however, still held control of the House of Representatives and several state legislatures. Some Democrats, led by Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Tennessee Senator Al Gore, formed the Democrat Leadership Council in order to attempt to move the party to a more centrist position. Clinton and Gore were able to use the DLC to help them win the 1992 presidential election.

## Iran-Contra Scandal



Oliver North's mug shot

- Scandal in Reagan's 2nd term
- "Arms for Hostages" deal
- Profits from arms sales given to contras
- North convicted of obstruction of justice
- Impact of scandal on Reagan minimal

Social Studies School Service

In late 1986, a Lebanese newspaper reported that the U.S., via Israel, had shipped anti-tank missiles to Iran. Reagan confirmed the sale, and explained the reason for the sale was to encourage "moderate elements" in that country as well as to help encourage the release of American hostages in Lebanon. Donald Regan, Reagan's Chief of Staff, resigned after a panel blamed him for the "arms for hostages" deal.

In addition, in a Congressional hearing, it later became known that some of the profits of the Iranian arms sale had been diverted to the Nicaraguan contras. Congress had previously voted to forbid any aid to the contras. Oliver North, a former Marine Lt. Colonel and now a National Security Council aide, had been in charge of the secret—and illegal—diversion of funds. When the operation became public, North destroyed some incriminating documents and altered others. In Congressional testimony, North claimed CIA Director William Casey had been involved as well, but Casey died before that part of the investigation could proceed.

For his involvement in the scandal, North was convicted on charges of obstruction of justice. His conviction was later reversed on a technicality, as some of the testimony North gave was under condition of immunity from prosecution.

While the Congressional committee could not point to any knowledge of the scandal by Reagan personally, it did criticize his lax management style. However, the scandal didn't affect his public approval rating. This seemed to confirm Reagan's reputation as the "Teflon President" because nothing negative ever seemed to "stick" to him.



## INF Treaty

- Signed in 1987
- Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces treaty
- U.S. and USSR would eliminate most of their ballistic and cruise missiles
- First time the superpowers agreed to reduce their arsenals



Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan sign the INF Treaty in December 1987

Social Studies School Service

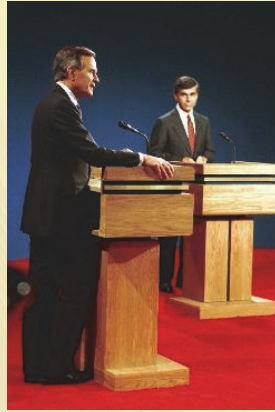
Although Reagan warned of the influence of an “evil empire” in 1983, by 1987, significant changes occurred which softened his view of the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev had come to power in 1985 and instituted policies of glasnost (Russian for “openness”; meant the USSR would try to more candidly address political issues) and perestroika (referring to a “restructuring” of the Soviet economy), which caused significant reforms in the USSR.

As a result, Reagan toned down his rhetoric regarding the Soviets. At the same time, Gorbachev proposed a plan to establish a balance between Soviet and Allied nuclear weapons in Europe. The U.S. expressed interest. The resulting Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed in December 1987 and went into effect on June 1st, 1988.

The treaty called for both the U.S. and USSR to eliminate and not redeploy nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500–5500 kilometers. As a result, the U.S. and USSR destroyed more than 2600 missiles by 1991.

This marked the first time that the superpowers had mutually reduced the number of nuclear weapons in their arsenals. The two nations also agreed to allow each other to inspect former missile sites to ensure the destruction of missiles. After 2001, on-site inspections ended but satellite inspections were still allowed.

## 1988 Presidential Election



Bush and Dukakis debate

- Bush and Dukakis emerged as nominees
- Campaign issues; use of “attack ads”
- Vice-presidential debate
- Republicans won handily

Social Studies School Service

In the 1988 election, the Republicans chose George H.W. Bush, Reagan’s vice president, and the Democrats picked Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis as their standard-bearer. Bush selected Indiana Senator Dan Quayle as his running mate, and Dukakis selected Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen as his.

During the campaign, Bush emphasized the achievements the Reagan Administration had made in the past eight years, and suggested these would continue if he were elected. Dukakis stressed his organizational skills. However, he did not come across as an effective campaigner, and as a result many voters didn’t gravitate to him. The Bush campaign also utilized a significant number of “attack ads” that attacked the abilities and personality of his opponent rather than criticizing his position on the issues. One of the most damaging of the ads featured Willie Horton, a Massachusetts convict who was released on a prison furlough program established by Dukakis. While out of jail, Horton allegedly killed a man and his girlfriend.

The biggest fireworks in the campaign, however, were in the televised vice presidential debate between Bentsen and Quayle. Because of concerns regarding Quayle’s government experience, he had made several comparisons between himself and John F. Kennedy, who also didn’t have much experience when he became president. When asked about this during the debate, Quayle reiterated the comparison between himself and JFK. In reply, Bentsen stated, “Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy, I knew Jack Kennedy, Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you’re no Jack Kennedy.” When Quayle replied, “That was uncalled for...,” Bentsen replied, “You are the one that was making the comparison, Senator—and I’m one who knew him well. And frankly I think you are so far apart in the objectives you choose for your country that I did not think the comparison was well-taken.”

However, Bush and Quayle were able to easily win the election, with the Republicans carrying 40 states and 54% of the vote.



## George H.W. Bush

- 41st President
- Long career in public service
- “Kinder, gentler America”
- Presided over end of Cold War, Gulf War
- Defeated for re-election in 1992



Social Studies School Service

Few men had entered the presidency with the impressive credentials of George H.W. Bush. Following in the footsteps of his father, Prescott Bush, he had a long resume of public service, first serving as a fighter pilot in the Pacific during World War II, then serving as a member of the House of Representatives. He also ran unsuccessfully for the Senate twice. During the 1970s, he served as UN Ambassador, Director of the CIA, Ambassador to China, and Chairman of the Republican National Committee. In 1980, after an unsuccessful run for the GOP presidential nomination, Ronald Reagan selected him as his vice-presidential running mate.

After serving two terms as Reagan’s vice-president, Bush became the Republican Party’s presidential nominee in 1988. Easily defeating Democrat Michael Dukakis in the election, Bush took office promising his administration would work to create a “kinder, gentler America.” Bush was in office as the Berlin Wall fell and the USSR dissolved. His popularity then soared during the first Gulf War in 1991, as the U.S. led an international coalition of troops that forced the Iraqis out of Kuwait. Bush was seen as a liberator.

However, his popularity declined after the end of the Gulf War, as the economy weakened and he found that he had to renege on his campaign pledge of “no new taxes.” He was defeated by Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton in his bid for reelection.

## **Bush's Domestic and Economic Policies**

Recent U.S. History



President Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Dealing with high deficits
- Tax policies
- 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act
- Clean Air Act
- Immigration Act of 1990

Social Studies School Service

Because of his diplomatic experience prior to becoming president, Bush admitted that he enjoyed dealing with foreign policy more than domestic affairs. However, several important domestic policy events occurred during his four years in office.

Faced with a mounting budget deficit, Bush supported reducing government spending. The Democrat-controlled Congress, however, believed that raising taxes was necessary to curb deficit spending. Unable to reach a consensus, Bush was forced to go back on his “no new taxes” pledge. Many conservatives personally blamed Bush for the decline in the economy, in particular a mild recession that occurred in 1992. This loss of support likely cost him his reelection bid.

Bush also signed into law the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act, which made it illegal in most instances to discriminate on the grounds of a physical or mental disability. In addition, he also signed into law the Clean Air Act, which sought to encourage the use of cleaner-burning fuels and the reduction of the amount of acid rain. It also required the Environmental Protection Agency to set up regulations to reduce ozone depletion.

The Immigration Act of 1990 was also signed during Bush’s term. This Act provided ways to increase the number of legal immigrants into the U.S. After its passage, the number of legal immigrants increased by 40%. It also strengthened the Border Patrol.

## End of the Cold War



Bush and Gorbachev give a joint presentation at a summit in Helsinki, Finland in 1990

- Soviet economy stagnated; defense spending cut
- Bush and Gorbachev announced end to Cold War in 1989
- Communist Party lost political power in USSR
- USSR dissolved in December 1990

Social Studies School Service

By late 1989, the Soviet Union was suffering from a severe lack of economic growth due to a decline in world oil prices and found itself unable to continue its dominance of eastern Europe. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and East Germany changed their government systems or loosened restrictions on both travel and criticism of the government.

The stagnating economy also forced the USSR to greatly reduce military spending, partly necessitating its withdrawal from Afghanistan, which it had occupied since 1979. By 1989, Gorbachev and President George Bush jointly announced that the Cold War had “officially” ended.

While Gorbachev tried to hold the Soviet Union together via reforms, the difficulty of keeping the various republics of the Soviet Union united had become all too obvious. By February 1990, the Communist Party had lost most of its political clout, and in December of that year the USSR officially ceased to exist. A loose confederation of 11 former Soviet republics, the Commonwealth of Independent States, assumed many of the USSR’s economic, security, and foreign policy functions.

## Discussion Questions

1. What happened that caused the Iran-Contra scandal? What impact did the scandal have on Reagan's presidency?
2. What was the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces treaty designed to do? What "first" did it signify?
3. What factors led to the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s and early 1990s?

Social Studies School Service

1. In late 1986, it was revealed that the U.S. had sold anti-tank missiles to Iran. The hope was that this would encourage moderate elements in Iran as well as encourage the release of American hostages in Lebanon. Later, it became public that some of the funds from the Iran missile deal had been "diverted" to the Nicaraguan contras, after Congress had voted to deny aid to the contras. Oliver North, a National Security Council aid, was in charge of the diversion. He was later convicted on charges of obstruction of justice as well as destroying and altering documents. He was later released on a technicality. The scandal had minimal impact on Reagan, and his public approval rating was not affected negatively.
2. In the INF treaty, the U.S. and Soviet Union agreed to eliminate most of their ballistic and cruise missiles. As a result of the treaty, the U.S. and USSR destroyed more than 2600 missiles. It was the first time in history that the two nations agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals.
3. Most historians point to Reagan's policies in dealing with the Soviets, such as the arms build-up after his "Evil Empire" speech, as the reason for the collapse of communism in Europe and the end of the Cold War. However, the end of the struggle took place in George H.W. Bush's term as president. The Soviet Union was also suffering through a several economic decline due to increasing oil prices. Because of the economic decline, the Soviet Union could no longer control their satellite nations, and many of them declared independence from the Soviets.

## The 1991 Gulf War



President Bush meets with National Security Advisors at Camp David to discuss the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

- U.S. backs Iraq during Iran-Iraq War
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- Bush gains Congressional approval
- Builds coalition of 34 nations
- More than 500,000 troops deployed

Social Studies School Service

Although the U.S. knew that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who was attempting to build a nuclear arsenal, the government still backed his regime during the Iran-Iraq War of the mid-1980s, mostly because of the hostage crisis and the rampant anti-Americanism in Iran. However, in August 1990, when Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait, the American reaction was swift and forceful.

In order to gain support for military action, Bush built a consensus in Congress and the United Nations to institute economic sanctions against Iraq. In January 1991, Congress authorized the use of military force against Iraq to make Hussein retreat from Kuwait. The United States contributed over 500,000 troops and 34 other nations contributed an additional 160,000 troops in preparation for the invasion of Iraq.

## Operation Desert Storm

- Air war begins on January 16th
- Scud missile attacks against Israel, other targets
- Ground war begins on February 23rd
- Iraqi army crushed
- Results of war



A Patriot missile is fired to intercept an Iraqi Scud missile

Social Studies School Service

Even with economic sanctions against Iraq and thousands of coalition troops massing on his border, Hussein remained defiant and refused to retreat from Kuwait. Finally, on January 15, 1991, the air war of Operation Desert Storm began. Supply and military targets all through Iraq and its capital city, Baghdad, were hit.

Hussein responded by launching Soviet-made Scud missiles at Tel Aviv, other targets in Israel, and at Saudi Arabia, where the coalition forces had gathered at the end of 1990 and start of 1991. These missiles were frequently intercepted by U.S. Patriot missiles before they could do significant damage.

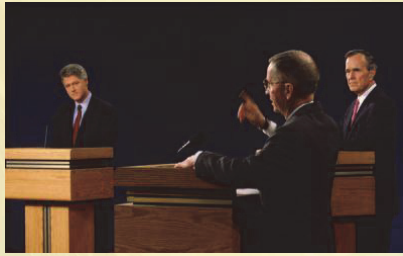
A few weeks later, on February 23rd, the ground campaign began. Troops led by General Norman Schwarzkopf advanced toward Kuwait to force Hussein's forces out. Iraqi soldiers, including the elite Republican Guard, surrendered by the thousands. However, retreating Iraqi soldiers set fire to Kuwaiti oil fields as they retreated back to Iraq, causing a huge environmental disaster.

President Bush decided not to invade Iraq and overthrow Hussein, concerned about the possible effects of an extended occupation and issues related to "nation building," especially with ongoing sectarian violence. Many criticized him for this decision because they believed Hussein would rebuild and once again become a threat.

American casualties in the Gulf War were relatively light—148 dead and 467 wounded. On the other side of the ledger, Iraqi military casualties were estimated between 25,000 and 65,000. Nearly 12,000 died during the bombing campaign.



# 1992 Presidential Election



Clinton, Bush, and Perot at a presidential debate

- Clinton/Gore vs. Bush/Quayle
- Perot mounts independent challenge
- Clinton elected president
- Election heralded as “Year of the Woman”

Social Studies School Service

After the complete U.S. victory in Operation Desert Storm, many political pundits believed President Bush would easily win another four years in the White House. However, rising unemployment and a recession in the months following the victory in Iraq eroded Bush’s popularity ratings. By early 1992, Bush appeared vulnerable.

Several Democratic candidates announced they were in the running for the 1992 nomination. However, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton became the established front-runner after sweeping the March “Super Tuesday” primaries. He cruised to the nomination and selected Tennessee Senator Al Gore as his running mate.

President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle won renomination, although they had to fend off a strong challenge by conservative columnist and former Nixon staffer Pat Buchanan. At the Republican convention, it became evident that elements in the party led by Buchanan and Christian Coalition leader Pat Robertson were moving the Republicans to a more conservative view.

Another candidate provided an alternative to the main parties. H. Ross Perot, who had founded a Texas data-processing business, ran as an independent candidate. His campaign featured 30-minute infomercials in which he used folksy wisdom to explain his views.

During the campaign, Clinton focused on economic problems. Bush attacked Clinton’s character and his lack of service during the Vietnam War. In the end, Clinton was elected with 43% of the popular vote against Bush’s 38%. Perot captured 19% of the popular vote, the best showing for a third-party candidate since Teddy Roosevelt’s “Bull Moose” candidacy in 1912. Perot didn’t capture any electoral votes but most likely drew support away from Bush.

In addition to Clinton’s victory, 53 women were elected to Congress—six in the Senate and 47 in the House, leading some to hail 1992 as the “Year of the Woman.”

## Bill Clinton

- 42nd President
- Rhodes Scholar
- Former Governor of Arkansas
- Defeated Bush and Perot in 1992
- Defeated Dole in 1996 for second term
- Impeached (but not convicted) in 1998



Social Studies School Service

In 1992, Bill Clinton became the first member of the “Baby Boom” generation to be elected president. Born William Jefferson Blythe in 1946 in Hope, Arkansas, Clinton’s biological father died three months before his son’s birth. His mother remarried, with Bill taking his stepfather’s name.

After graduation from Georgetown University, he was named a Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford University. He then graduated from Yale University with a law degree and ran for several political offices in his home state of Arkansas, including state attorney general and governor. He served two terms as Arkansas governor, then was selected to deliver the keynote address at the 1988 Democratic convention. His rousing speech made him a rising star in the Democratic Party.

In 1992, he successfully ran against incumbent President George H.W. Bush and independent candidate H. Ross Perot for the presidency. In his first term, he suffered a major defeat when Congress refused to consider his plan for health care reform. In 1994, the Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress. However, Clinton was able to win a second term in 1996, defeating Kansas Senator Robert Dole.

In 1998, Clinton was impeached due to several issues surrounding a sexual relationship with a White House intern. He was the second president to be impeached, other than Andrew Johnson in 1868. However, he was acquitted on all charges and was able to finish his term in 2001.



## **Clinton's Domestic and Economic Policies**

Recent U.S. History

- Failed attempt at healthcare reform
- Deficit reduction
- 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill
- Move to make federal agencies visible online
- State Children's Health Insurance Program
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Welfare Reform Act of 1994

Social Studies School Service

Clinton's domestic and economic record was somewhat mixed. Nine months after taking office, he announced a healthcare reform plan based on a task force that was headed by his wife, Hillary. Conservative resistance to the plan as well as a lack of coordination within the White House led to its failure.

Clinton was more successful in reducing the national deficit. His program called for helping the economy rebound by focusing on deficit reduction rather than a middle class tax cut. Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, which provided a tax cut for low-income families as well as tax increases for the wealthiest one percent of taxpayers. The Act also called for the gradual balancing of the budget.

With the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill, Clinton also became tough on crime. The bill allowed for the expansion of the death penalty to cover criminals guilty of non-fatal crimes, such as running a large-scale drug ring. During the 1990s, the Clinton Administration also took strides in expanding technology in the federal government. In 1994, the first official White House website was unveiled. By 1996, Clinton had issued Executive Order 13011, "Federal Information Technology," which required the heads of federal agencies to use information technology to make that agency's information more easily accessible.

Clinton also scored a domestic policy success with passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act as well as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Family and Medical Leave Act provided for unpaid leave with no employment penalty for people taking care of a new child or caring for a seriously ill family member. SCHIP was designed to provide insurance coverage to families who had limited income but didn't qualify for Medicaid.

Clinton also revamped the nation's welfare system by signing the Welfare Reform Act of 1994. The Act ended the old Aid to Families with Dependent Children system and instead offered states block grants in order to help them develop their own welfare programs. Some liberal Democrats warned that the Act would adversely affect inner-city mothers lacking job skills. However, the number of families on assistance dropped 57% by 2005, and the birthrate of unwed mothers declined. The percentage of unmarried mothers in the workforce increased to around 65% in 2000.

# NAFTA

- North American Free Trade Agreement
- Signed during Bush administration
- Agreement included Mexico in U.S./Canada free-trade agreement
- Concern that U.S. jobs would move to Mexico
- Ratified by Congress in 1993



Clinton signing NAFTA

Social Studies School Service

One important early victory for the early Clinton Administration was the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA was completed and signed in the last days of the Bush Administration, but it had not been ratified by Congress by the time Clinton took office in January 1993.

The main goal of NAFTA was to include Mexico in the U.S./Canada free trade agreement. The U.S./Canada agreement was already highly controversial, and it eventually cost Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney his leadership position.

When he became president, Clinton added clauses to the agreement that would protect the rights of American workers and allay the fears of members of Congress who worried that ratification of the agreement would cost America jobs that would go to Mexico. NAFTA was approved by the House in November 1993 by a close vote of 234–200. It later passed the Senate, 61–38.

## 1994 Congressional Elections



House Speaker Newt Gingrich stands to the back and right of President Clinton during the 1997 State of the Union Address

- Conservative groups allied against Clinton
- “Contract for America”
- Prosperity didn’t help Democrats in election
- Republicans made huge gains in Congress, state government
- Conservative legislation enacted

Social Studies School Service

Normally, prosperity helps the political party in power gain seats in an off-year Congressional election. However, by 1994, Clinton’s popularity and the popularity of the Democratic Party had sagged. His inability to pass healthcare reform, as well as a perception that he was a typical “big government” Democrat, caused his popularity to steadily decline; by the fall of 1994, his approval rating was mired at 42%.

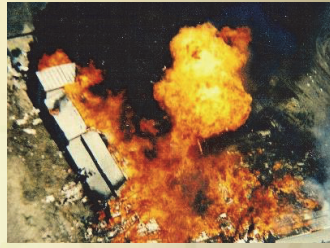
Several conservative groups, still powerful from the Reagan years, began to lead Republicans to a philosophical swing to the right. Conservative commentators such as Rush Limbaugh continually railed against liberals and Democrats.

Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich led the Republican push toward more conservative values. In September 1994, nearly 300 GOP congressional candidates signed what became known as the “Contract for America,” a document created by Gingrich in which Republicans pledged to support tax cuts, term limits, tougher crime laws, and a balanced budget amendment.

Many Americans felt that while the nation could boast a high level of prosperity, they personally didn’t have a feeling that they were sharing in it. As a result, they voted GOP candidates into both houses, giving Republicans control of both the House and Senate for the first time since the mid-1950s. More Republican governors were elected, and established Democrats, such as New York’s Mario Cuomo and Texas’s Ann Richards, were defeated in their bids for reelection. Gingrich was elected Speaker of the House, and ultra-conservative senators such as Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond gained powerful committee chair positions.

## Siege at Waco

- Began February 28, 1993 at Branch Davidian compound
- ATF agents attempted to serve search warrants
- 4 agents, 6 Davidians died
- 76 more Davidians died in a fire at the compound on April 19, 1993



A propane tank explodes during the FBI assault on the Branch Davidian compound

Social Studies School Service

The 50-day Waco siege began on February 28, 1993, when agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) attempted to serve search and arrest warrants on members of the Branch Davidian religious sect at their compound in Waco, Texas. The Branch Davidians, led by David Koresh, were suspected of stockpiling weapons in their compound, as well as abusing young children staying there.

The Branch Davidians had been tipped off that the raid was coming, and a gunfight ensued between the cult members and the agents. During the fight, four ATF agents and six members of the cult were killed. For the next 50 days, the FBI laid siege to the compound in an effort to flush the cult out.

On April 19, 1993, the FBI took steps to end the siege by lobbing tear gas into the compound and using assault vehicles to break down the walls. At some point during the assault, three fires broke out in various parts of the building. The FBI claimed that the fires were deliberately set by the Branch Davidians; the surviving Davidians claimed that the tear gas canisters and the FBI assault set off the fires. The building holding the Davidians was destroyed. The assault and fire killed 76 members of the cult. Only nine cult members survived the assault and fire.

A later federal investigation held that the compound fire was started by the Davidians. The FBI and ATF were cleared of any wrongdoing. Two years later, Timothy McVeigh picked April 19, 1995—the anniversary of the fire—to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Both McVeigh and co-conspirator Terry Nichols purposely chose the date to protest the government's handling of the Waco siege.

## Oklahoma City Bombing



The Murrah Federal Building a few days after the attack

- April 19, 1995
- Truck bomb destroys Murrah Federal Building
- 168 people killed
- McVeigh and Nichols
- McVeigh executed in 2001
- Nichols serving life sentence

Social Studies School Service

On April 19, 1995, in the worst incident of domestic terrorism in U.S. history, a truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people—19 of them children—and injured hundreds more. Damage to the building was so extensive that it eventually had to be demolished.

Only 90 minutes after the explosion, an Oklahoma state policeman stopped a car for speeding. The officer noticed a handgun on the seat of the car, and arrested the driver, Timothy McVeigh, on a weapons charge. On April 21st, shortly before he was to be released, McVeigh was charged with the bombing the Murrah Building after investigators found evidence implicating him. McVeigh's friend, Terry Nichols, was also arrested on conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter charges.

In 1996, McVeigh was found guilty in federal court on 11 different counts of conspiracy and murder, and was sentenced to death. Nichols was tried separately and found guilty as well. The presiding judge in Nichols's trial offered leniency if Nichols cooperated in testimony regarding the conspiracy. Nichols refused to do so and was sentenced to life in prison.

After his conviction, McVeigh was moved to the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, to await execution. In late 2000, he asked to drop all appeals of his conviction in order to get a prompt execution date. The judge gave him until January 2001 to change his mind, but McVeigh once again insisted that he did not want to pursue an appeal. An execution date of May 16th was set, but was postponed by 30 days when Attorney General John Ashcroft learned that over 3000 pages of evidence were found that should have been given to McVeigh's lawyers before the trial.

In early June, McVeigh changed his mind regarding an appeal, but on June 7th, he again dropped all legal appeals and announced he was "ready to die." McVeigh was executed by lethal injection at the federal prison on June 11th. Nichols was later tried on state murder charges and found guilty, then sentenced to life in prison on those charges.



## Discussion Questions

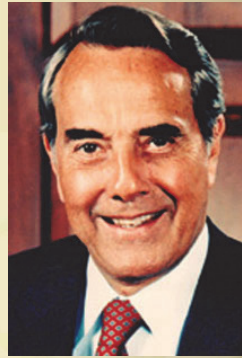
1. What caused the 1991 Gulf War? Can the outcome of the war be considered a complete victory for the U.S.? Explain.
2. What was NAFTA? Why was this treaty controversial? How did Clinton modify it?
3. What was the significance of the 1994 Congressional elections? What was the “Contract for America”?
4. What was the significance of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing? What was the motive of the men behind it?

Social Studies School Service

1. In the summer of 1990, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait. Led by the United States, an international coalition of forces invaded Iraq and forced him to withdraw his troops from Kuwait. This was the coalition’s only goal, but many criticized President Bush for not going further and removing Hussein from power. Some students, with the advantage of hindsight, might say that Bush should have finished what he started and captured Hussein. Other students may note that the coalition’s objectives were simply to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and when that objective was reached, troops should have been taken out of the war zone.
2. NAFTA stands for “North American Free Trade Agreement.” The treaty was completed and signed before the end of Bush’s term, but it still needed to be ratified when Bill Clinton was inaugurated president. It called for Mexico to be included in the free-trade agreement between the U.S. and Canada. Many Americans had concerns that NAFTA would siphon American jobs to Mexico. When Clinton became president, he added clauses to the treaty that would protect the rights of American workers and restrict the number of American jobs lost. NAFTA was approved by the House of Representatives in a close vote, and in November 1993 it passed the Senate.
3. The 1994 Congressional elections signified a sharp turn to the right in the House and Senate. Clinton’s popularity rating declined, and a large number of GOP candidates were elected to House and Senate seats, giving the Republicans majorities in both chambers. Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich became Speaker and began to push for more conservative values in government. His “Contract for America” became the focal point of the 1994 campaign. In the Contract, Republican candidates promised to support tax cuts, term limits on the legislative branch, more strict crime laws, and a balanced budget amendment.
4. The bombing of the Murrah building was the largest act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the men responsible for the bombing, meant for it to be retribution against the government for the 1993 raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.

## 1996 Presidential Election

- Clinton easily re-nominated
- Dole won GOP nomination
- Economy, deficits, preparing for 21st century were main issues
- Clinton won easily
- Republicans maintained control of Congress



Bob Dole

Social Studies School Service

Although he suffered major setbacks with the rejection of his healthcare initiative and the Democrats loss of a significant number of Congressional seats in 1994, economic conditions in the country gave Clinton a popularity boost heading into the 1996 campaign. Also helping Clinton's popularity was a forced government shutdown in late 1995 when Congress and the White House could not agree on a federal budget. Most Americans blamed Congress and its Republican majority for the deadlock. Clinton was unopposed for re-nomination.

At one point, the Republican field for the nomination was crowded with more than 11 announced candidates, but Bob Dole, Kansas Senator and Senate Majority Leader, soon emerged as the front-runner. He eventually garnered enough delegates to win the GOP nomination, and selected New York Congressman Jack Kemp as his vice-presidential running mate.

The election campaign focused on the economy and deficit reduction, as well as preparing America for the 21st century. Dole proposed a large deficit reduction package as well as a steep income tax reduction. However, he was vague in regard to how he would decrease deficits and taxes at the same time. Clinton could point to a lower unemployment rate as well as a large increase in the stock market. He proposed a smaller deficit reduction in order to provide funding for education, environmental issues, and welfare. Clinton also proved to be a more adept campaigner when compared to Dole, who often spoke in an unemotional monotone.

On election day, Clinton won the electoral vote 379—159. The Republicans, however, kept control of both houses of Congress and vowed to block Clinton's agenda for his second term.

## Balkan Military Involvement



Marines escort Serbian detainees to the Kosovo-Serbia border so they can be handed off to Serbian authorities

- “Ethnic cleansing”
- Muslims slaughtered
- Dayton Accords
- Serbia invaded Kosovo
- Air strikes
- NATO coalition in Kosovo
- Milosevic overthrown, tried for war crimes

Social Studies School Service

The collapse of the Soviet Union led to political instability in the Balkan Peninsula, the same “powder keg” which had led to the start of World War I nearly 80 years before. The nation of Yugoslavia broke apart, with Serbia invading neighboring Bosnia and proceeding with what they called “ethnic cleansing”—killing Croats and Muslims.

The world was horrified, and a United Nations peacekeeping force was sent, but couldn’t stop the violence. In the summer of 1995, joint U.S.-NATO airstrikes were launched. The Clinton Administration also conducted a peace conference between Serbia and Bosnia in Dayton, Ohio later that year. The “Dayton Accords” brokered a cease-fire and settled boundaries for the new nations that arose from the former Yugoslavia. Clinton committed 20,000 U.S. troops to the region as part of a NATO peacekeeping force.

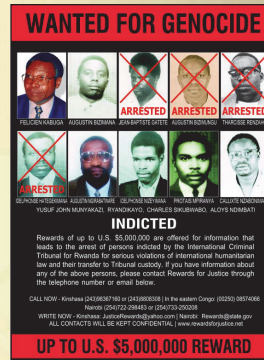
Three years later, Serbia attacked Muslim strongholds in its southern province of Kosovo. Clinton, preferring to use air power rather than ground forces, bombed targets in Kosovo and in Serbia. In June 1999, U.S. ground troops participated in NATO operations in Kosovo.

Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic was overthrown in 2001, and the new Serbian government, hoping to reconcile with the West, handed him over to an international tribunal to stand trial for war crimes. However, Milosevic died before a verdict could be reached.



## Crisis in Rwanda

- Genocide occurs in small east African nation in 1994
- Ruling Hutu tribe massacres members of Tutsi tribe
- 800,000 to 1 million reported killed
- Clinton fails to take action



This American "Rewards for Justice" poster offered up to \$5 million for leaders of the Rwandan genocide

Social Studies School Service

Clinton did not receive high marks for his handling of a crisis that broke out in the small east African nation of Rwanda. Hostilities between the country's two main tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsi, had been simmering for years. The Tutsis, though far less numerous than the Hutus, had dominated the government while Rwanda was a Belgian colony, controlling most of the land; the Tutsis were also far wealthier and better educated than the majority of Hutus. In 1962, after Rwanda had become independent, the Hutus overthrew the Tutsi government. Many Tutsis fled the country; those who remained were often subject to persecution from the new regime headed by Hutu general Juvenal Habyarimana.

By the late 1980s, some of the exiled Tutsis had formed a resistance force and invaded Rwanda from Uganda in 1990, sparking a civil war and further inflaming tensions between Hutus and Tutsis. The Hutu news media began publishing articles designed to spark public anger against the Tutsis, claiming that if the Tutsis regained power, they planned to enslave the Hutu. In 1994, the situation came to a head when a plane carrying President Habyarimana and the president of Burundi was shot down, and both leaders were killed. To avenge this, Hutus in Rwanda began to massacre tens of thousands Tutsis, as well as Hutus who favored peace with the Tutsis. Though killings did take place in the heat of the moment, most of the massacres resulted from coordinated action between the government, Rwandan troops, and Hutu community leaders.

United Nations representatives estimated that 800,000 to one million Tutsis were killed. Thousands more fled Rwanda as refugees. President Clinton neglected to take action, primarily on the grounds that he wasn't aware of the crisis or the severity of the situation. Also, many newspapers and media were reporting the fighting in Rwanda as a civil war rather than a genocide situation. In the aftermath of the slaughter, many blamed Clinton for not trying to stop it.

## Impeachment of President Clinton

- Paula Jones lawsuit
- “Whitewater” probe widened
- Clinton, Lewinsky denied affair
- Conversations between Lewinsky and Tripp surfaced
- Clinton admitted “inappropriate contact” with Lewinsky
- Clinton charged with perjury, obstruction of justice
- Became 2nd president to be impeached (Andrew Johnson)

Social Studies School Service

The scandal that nearly brought down the Clinton presidency began when the president was ordered to testify in a harassment lawsuit brought against him by Paula Corbin Jones. Jones, seeking to prove that Clinton had made improper advances towards her while he was Governor of Arkansas, also subpoenaed a former White House intern named Monica Lewinsky. (The Supreme Court had ruled that a lawsuit against a sitting president regarding an event which occurred prior to the president taking office was legal.)

W Jones’s lawyers questioned Clinton and Lewinsky as to whether they’d had an affair while Lewinsky served as a White House intern. Both denied it. First Lady Hillary Clinton announced that the investigation was a “vast, right-wing conspiracy.” However, President Clinton paid nearly a million dollars to settle the Jones lawsuit.

A larger problem lurked for Clinton. A friend of Lewinsky’s, Linda Tripp, had recorded various conversations she had with her in which Lewinsky described in detail an improper relationship she had with the president. Tripp gave the tapes to Kenneth Starr, an independent prosecutor who was investigating various controversial real estate deals the Clintons had made in Arkansas, dubbed “Whitewater” after the financial institution involved in the transactions.

Threatened with a charge of perjury and a promise of immunity from prosecution, Lewinsky testified before a special grand jury that she had had an affair with Clinton. Clinton made a nationally televised address in which he admitted “inappropriate” behavior, but he also suggested that his grand jury testimony in the Jones case was accurate.

Angered at Clinton’s evasive answers in his speech, Starr reported his findings to the House Judiciary Committee, including details of the affair between Clinton and Lewinsky. Starr believed that Clinton had committed impeachable acts by lying under oath and encouraging others to do so. Starr also asserted that the president had obstructed justice by coaching witnesses as to his version of the events of the affair.

Voting along party lines, the Republican-controlled Judiciary Committee forwarded four articles of impeachment. The full House followed suit, approving two articles of impeachment along party lines. Although the House felt compelled to impeach Clinton, most Americans did not agree. In the 1998 Congressional elections, the Democrats made modest gains in the House.

However, Clinton became only the second U.S. president to face impeachment charges. (Andrew Johnson was the first.) Richard Nixon resigned before the whole House could vote on articles of impeachment.

## Senate Trial

- Senate heard case starting in January 1999
- House “managers” presented case
- GOP lacked votes needed to convict in Senate
- Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both counts
- Clinton’s legacy damaged



The Senate during the impeachment trial

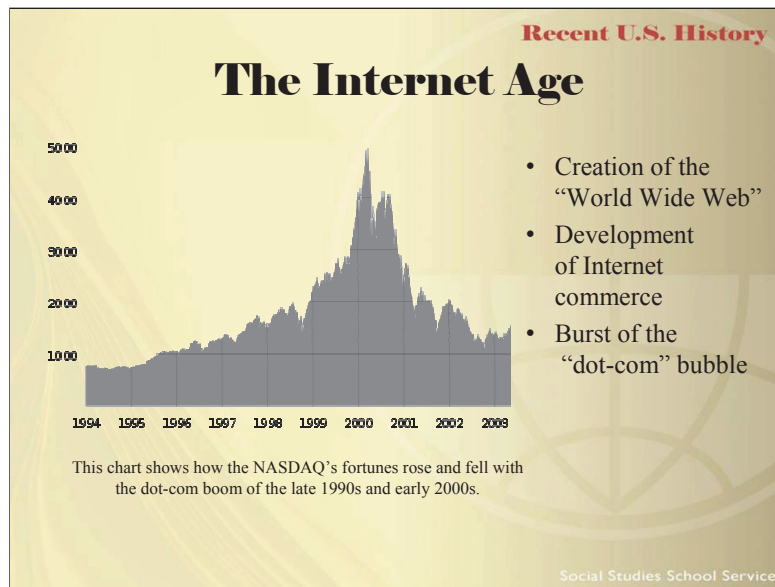
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Once the House had voted to impeach Clinton, House “managers” presented their case to the Senate as Chief Justice William Rehnquist presided over the body. It was obvious from the start that the Senate lacked enough Republican votes to meet the two-thirds majority needed to remove the president from office.

On February 12, 1999, the Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both impeachment counts. Rather than feeling that justice had been done, most Americans simply felt relieved that the trial was over.

The impeachment fight left no one unscathed. Although Clinton remained in office, the fight left his legacy in question and ability to lead shaken. Shortly before leaving office in 2001, he admitted to perjury and paid a \$25,000 fine. He also lost his license to practice law for five years.

The Republicans also lost credibility. Many Americans criticized them, feeling that the impeachment proceedings had been wasteful and unnecessary. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, dogged by ethical questions as well as concerns about marital infidelity, resigned and also gave up his seat in the House.



Developed as a way for the academic community and military establishment to interact and share information, the Internet was a vague entity for several years after its development in the 1970s. However, by the 1990s, use of the Internet exploded when British scientist Tim Berners-Lee developed what became known as the “World Wide Web.” The Web, as it became known, allowed users to share information, view webpages, and interact in ways never before possible.

While many saw the Web as a way to interact, entrepreneurs found a goldmine in Internet commerce. These “dot-coms” specialized in online shopping. Jeff Bezos founded Amazon.com in 1995. By the beginning of the new century, the company was worth over \$3 billion and Bezos’s wealth jumped. Other businesses also thrived in the dot-com boom. By 1999, over 200 Internet companies went public on the stock market, and the NASDAQ and other markets exploded in value.

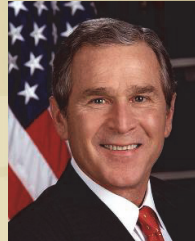
Just as quickly as the dot-com boom had come, it went. The rise in the stock of many dot-coms had been based on potential rather than profits. When these companies failed to capitalize on their potential and provide returns for their investors, stockholders began to sell shares and cut their losses. The height of the boom came in early 2000, but by the middle of that year, the NASDAQ had lost over half of its value. In total, more than \$2 trillion in stock value was lost.

## 2000 Presidential Election



Al Gore

- Gore/Lieberman vs. Bush/Cheney as VP candidate
- Nader nominated by Green Party
- Social Security and spending the budget surplus were major issues



George W. Bush

Social Studies School Service

The Clinton impeachment debate did not affect the Democratic Party significantly, and Democrats believed they had a good chance of retaining the White House in the election of 2000. They nominated Vice President Al Gore at the convention. Gore picked Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman as his running mate. Lieberman was a strong critic of Clinton and his conduct, and as a result, many believed he could help unite the Democratic Party behind the ticket. Lieberman was also the first member of the Jewish faith to be nominated on a national party ticket.

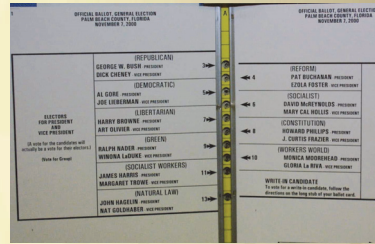
Republicans selected Texas Governor George W. Bush, son of former-President George H.W. Bush, as their nominee. Bush, who lacked significant foreign policy and national experience, selected Richard Cheney, who was Ford's Chief of Staff as well as Secretary of Defense during the senior Bush's administration. Still another candidate was Ralph Nader, a longtime consumer and environmental advocate, who had been selected by the Green Party. The Democrats were concerned that Nader might siphon votes from Gore, who had also been a longtime environmental proponent.

Both candidates used economics as a major campaign issue. Gore suggested that government surpluses should be used to shore up Social Security and to help fund educational programs. Bush, on the other hand, believed that tax cuts were the best way to help stimulate the economy.

Both candidates suffered from style weaknesses. Gore, while perhaps more of an intellectual heavyweight than his opponent, came across as pompous when the two candidates squared off in debates. Bush, who called himself a "compassionate conservative," frequently mangled words and sentences and came across as not understanding the issues. As Election Day drew nearer, the outcome appeared to be a toss-up.

## A Disputed Election

- Gore won popular vote
- Vote in Florida too close to call
- Florida vote certified in favor of Bush
- State Supreme Court ordered hand recount
- Bush appealed to U.S. Supreme Court



Palm Beach County's "butterfly ballot," which confused some voters

Social Studies School Service

Voters expecting a winner of the election to be determined on Election Day were surprised when it became apparent that neither candidate could claim victory. Gore won the popular vote by nearly 500,000 votes. However, neither candidate had a majority in the Electoral College. With 270 needed to win, Bush had 246, Gore, 267.

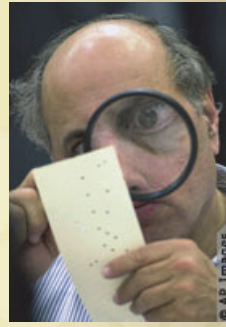
The contest in Florida, along with its 25 electoral votes, was too close to call, although Bush held a narrow lead. Both sides claimed victory in the state. Katherine Harris, the Florida Secretary of State and a Republican, certified the election results in favor of Bush. Gore asked for a recount. Controversy over the voting in certain parts of Florida made the situation there even more muddled. Some counties had antiquated voting machines which may have caused inaccuracies. Palm Beach County, which had used a "butterfly" ballot with names alternating on either side, reportedly confused some senior citizens there, who ended up mistakenly voting for Pat Buchanan rather than Gore. Also, a study completed a year later found out that votes from predominantly black counties, which tended to be heavily Democratic, had been three times as likely to be disqualified when examined during the process of certifying the Florida vote than those from white counties.

On November 21st, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that a hand recount of all disputed votes should take place. Bush appealed this ruling, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.



## Bush Elected President

- Florida voting
- “Chads”
- Supreme Court voted 5–4 to halt recount
- Bush awarded Florida electoral vote
- Gore conceded next day
- Impact of Nader on election



A Florida recount official examines a punchcard ballot for not fully punched “chads”

Social Studies School Service

One major factor in the Florida debacle was their voting system, which allowed each county to create the design of the ballots used there. In Palm Beach County, a poorly designed “butterfly ballot” made it difficult to determine if voters were voting for Gore or Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan. In other counties, punch card machines were often used—and often inaccurate.

The problem with punch card voting was that frequently the small paper discs, known as “chads,” only partly separated from the ballot, or not at all. Recount officials had to deal with “hanging chads,” which were attached to the ballot by one paper fiber, “swinging chads,” which were attached by two fibers and would “swing,” or “pregnant chads,” which the stylus used to complete the ballot had made an indentation, but did not completely remove the chad.

However, the Supreme Court put a stop to the recount. Ruling on December 12 in a 5–4 decision, the Court determined that there was not enough time to adequately perform a recount in order to meet the Constitutionally-prescribed date when electors were to cast their ballots in their respective state capitals. All five justices who voted to stop the recount were Republican appointees. All four justices who dissented were Democrat appointees. Gore conceded the election the next day.

Because of the Court’s decision, Bush was awarded all 25 of Florida’s electoral votes, winning the Electoral College 271–267, the closest electoral decision in American history. In regard to the certified popular vote, Bush carried Florida by 537 votes out of nearly six million cast, or a victory margin of less than 1/100th of a percent.

While he did not win any electoral votes, Nader’s impact on the election results could be considered significant. While he only carried around 94,000 votes in Florida, many of those votes would have possibly gone to Gore had Nader not been in the race. It would have been likely that Gore would have won Florida in that instance, and with it, the presidency.



## Discussion Questions

1. What issues led to U.S. military involvement in the Balkans? What were the Dayton Accords?
2. What events led to Clinton's impeachment in 1998? What was the final verdict? Do you think his impeachment was politically motivated? Explain.

Social Studies School Service

1. The collapse of the USSR led to the division of the nation of Yugoslavia. Serbia, a new nation that was formed from Yugoslavia, invaded neighboring Bosnia and instituted "ethnic cleansing" in that nation, killing Croats and Muslims. In order to stop the violence, Clinton authorized airstrikes in the area. He also initiated a peace conference in Dayton, Ohio, which brokered a cease-fire. In an ensuing peacekeeping mission, the U.S. sent 20,000 troops as part of a NATO force, and in 1999, U.S. troops participated in NATO operations to try and stop fighting in the region of Kosovo.
2. As part of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by Paula Jones, Clinton was forced to testify as to whether he'd had an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. He stated he had not. However, a friend of Lewinsky's had recorded telephone conversations with her that suggested otherwise. Clinton and Lewinsky both admitted "inappropriate behavior." Kenneth Starr, a special prosecutor and a Republican, believed Clinton had lied under oath and had encouraged others to do the same. The House voted to hand down articles of impeachment, and the Senate tried Clinton. He was acquitted of all charges and remained in office. Because of the animosity between Clinton and Republicans in Congress, some students may feel the impeachment was politically motivated. Others may think that Clinton deserved to stand trial because the offenses were severe enough that he should have been removed from office.

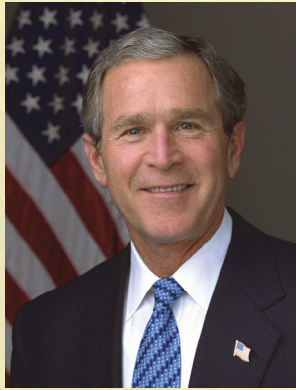
## Discussion Questions (con't.)

3. What sparked the Internet Age? What caused the “dot-com” bubble to burst?
4. What was the controversy that led to the prolonged debate over who won the 2000 presidential election? How was the election decided?

Social Studies School Service

3. The development of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners-Lee, which caused the Internet to become widespread, allowed for pictures and text to more easily be viewed on a computer, regardless of platform. The development of Internet “browsers,” which had a graphical interface rather than one based solely on text, made the Web user-friendly. In the mid-1990s, Jeff Bezos founded Amazon.com, which sparked the age of Internet commerce. Soon, hundreds of companies were competing for business, and investors rushed to buy stock in many of them. However, when these companies failed to capitalize on their potential and provide returns for their investors, stockholders began to sell shares and cut their losses.
4. The election of 2000 ended with Gore winning the popular vote, but the vote count in Florida was too close to call. Gore asked for a recount. Meanwhile, the Florida Secretary of State, a Republican, certified the results in Florida as in favor of Bush. Antiquated voting machines in several areas of Florida made recounting a tedious process. Also, Gore contended that a confusing ballot in some Florida counties allowed voters to vote for Pat Buchanan when the voters’ intent was to vote for Gore. Finally, in mid-December of 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the recount halted. The result was the closest electoral vote in American history, 271–267 in favor of Bush. According to the final tally, Bush carried Florida by 537 votes out of nearly 6 million cast—a victory margin of less than 1/100th of a percent.

## George W. Bush



- 43rd President
- Son of George H.W. Bush
- General manager of Texas Rangers franchise
- Two-term Texas Governor
- “Compassionate conservative”
- Won re-election in 2004

Social Studies School Service

George W. Bush was born in 1946. His father, George H.W. Bush, was the 41st president of the United States. Bush graduated with a degree in history from Yale University, and later received an MBA from Harvard Business School.

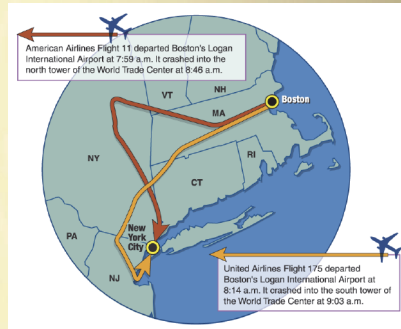
After helping his father win the 1988 presidential election, Bush joined other partners and purchased the Texas Rangers professional baseball franchise. In 1994, he was elected Texas governor, and four years later, he became the first person in Texas state history to win a consecutive second term as governor. He soon identified himself as a “compassionate conservative” who could work with both political parties and liberals and conservatives.

In 2000, he won a controversial victory in the Electoral College over Vice President Al Gore to become the 43rd President of the United States. Bush managed to win the extremely close election in Florida by 537 votes, taking its 25 electoral votes, and defeating Gore 271–267 in the Electoral College.

In 2004, Bush won a second term by defeating Massachusetts Senator John Kerry. Carrying nearly 51% of the popular vote, Bush was not certain of reelection until the day after balloting, when Kerry decided not to contest an extremely close vote in Ohio. Once again, Bush won a narrow victory in the Electoral College, 286–251.

## September 11th, 2001

- Worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil
- Planes hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon
- Another flight crashed in Pennsylvania
- Over 3000 died in the attacks



The flight paths of the two planes that hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001

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Although Americans had been targeted in prior terrorist attacks, there had never been as major an attack as that which occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001.

The World Trade Center in New York City had been the target of an earlier attack in 1993, when terrorists planted a bomb in the garage of the North Tower, hoping it would crash into the South Tower, thereby destroying both buildings. That attempt failed.

At 8:46 a.m. on September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11, en route to Los Angeles from Boston's Logan Airport, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. At 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175, also en route to Los Angeles from Boston, crashed into the South Tower.

At 9:37 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77, en route to Los Angeles from Washington, D.C., flew into the Pentagon. At 10:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed from Newark en route to San Francisco, crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania after the passengers attempted to get control of the plane back from the terrorists that had hijacked it.

More than 3000 people onboard the planes and on the ground, as well as police and firemen who were first on the scene at the Twin Towers, were killed during the attack and in the aftermath of the attacks.

## The Terrorists

- Nineteen hijackers identified
- All linked to al-Qaeda
- Osama bin Laden linked to attacks
- Atta considered the ringleader
- First time terrorists had used planes as weapons



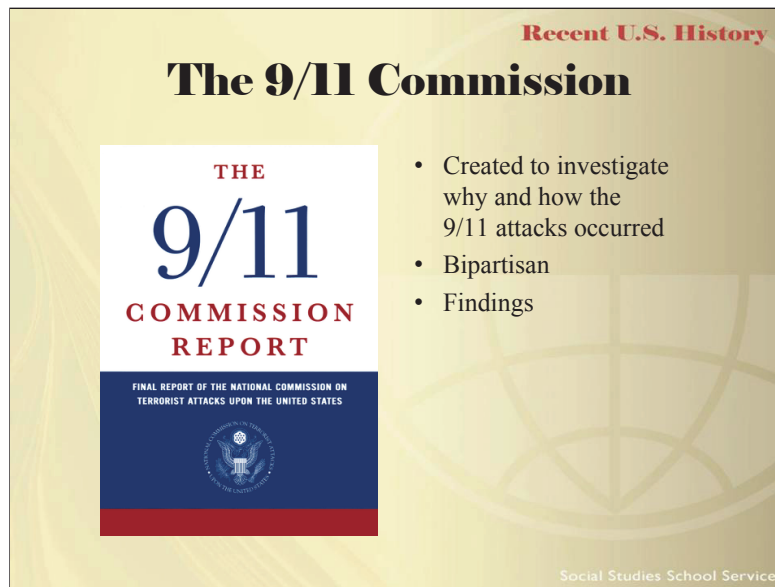
Mohammed Atta,  
considered to be the  
ringleader of the terrorists

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Within hours of the terrorist attacks, federal authorities had determined the identities of the hijackers. All were Middle Eastern, and several had been taking flying lessons at flight schools in Florida, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. The Federal Bureau of Investigation soon linked the hijackers to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, headed by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian who came from a wealthy family.

Bin Laden, already under indictment for attacks against U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998, originally denied involvement in the attacks, but intelligence strongly suggested that he had orchestrated them. In 2004, in a videotaped statement, bin Laden admitted being the mastermind behind the attacks.

The 9/11 attacks were the first time terrorists had used a shocking new tactic: hijacking planes to use as weapons against buildings. Previous plane hijackers had usually demanded either to be flown to a particular country or to take hostages to be exchanged for the freedom of prisoners from the same political organization, ethnic group, or country as the attackers. Protocol for hijackings of civilian flights was to refrain from fighting the terrorists and give them what they wanted so that nobody would get killed. However, 9/11 made this protocol obsolete, and both passengers and crew became more vigilant and active against suspected hijackers.



The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, popularly known as the 9/11 Commission, was created in November 2002 in order to investigate why and how the September 11th attacks occurred. The bipartisan commission consisted of five Republicans and five Democrats, including chairman Thomas Kean, former governor of New Jersey; Bob Kerrey, former senator from Nebraska; John F. Lehman, former secretary of the Navy; and vice-chairman Lee H. Hamilton, former House representative from Indiana.

The commission took testimony from several high-level government officials, including President Bush, Vice President Cheney, CIA director George Tenet, President Clinton, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Members of the Clinton administration also testified, including President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

After three years, the commission presented its final report on July 22, 2004. It determined that the attacks could potentially have been prevented if the CIA and FBI had shared more information with each other and paid more attention to evidence regarding the activities of the 9/11 terrorists in the years before the attack. The commission also criticized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for ignoring breaches in security in tests conducted in the years before 2001, and for not implementing stricter airport security measures.

## Invasion of Afghanistan



U.S. troops in northern  
Afghanistan in 2001

- “War on terror”
- Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan
- Invasion began October 7th
- Fall of Kabul
- Guantanamo prisoners
- Karzai named prime minister
- Search for bin Laden

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On September 20, 2001, President Bush, speaking before a joint session of Congress, announced that al-Qaeda was to blame for the 9/11 attacks. Announcing his goal of eliminating al-Qaeda, he planned to target Afghanistan, where the Taliban, an extremist Islam group that controlled Afghanistan, had provided Osama Bin Laden and his followers safe haven.

On October 7th, NATO forces invaded Afghanistan. Within a short time, the Taliban surrendered the Afghan capital of Kabul to the Allied forces. By the middle of December, the Allies claimed victory. Hundreds of captured al-Qaeda fighters were sent to the U.S. military installation at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Harmid Karzai was named the new prime minister.

However, the main target of U.S. forces, Osama bin Laden, remained at large. U.S. officials suspected the al-Qaeda leader was in hiding in the mountain caves of eastern Afghanistan.



# Homeland Security

- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Creation of Department of Homeland Security
- Patriot Act
- 9/11 Commission
- Treatment of detainees at Guantanamo



This system was designed to warn the public of the possibility of terrorist attacks

Social Studies School Service

While America switched to a war footing with its invasion of Afghanistan and attempts to prevent future terrorist attacks, everyday life for many Americans changed dramatically as well. As the nation watched the collapse of the World Trade towers on television, the government took the unprecedented step of grounding all civilian air traffic for two days. No commercial nor private aircraft was allowed to fly in U.S. airspace. Once commercial air traffic resumed, passengers found an entirely new set of security rules instituted by a new federal agency, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). A whole list of items that had previously been allowed in carry-on bags were now prohibited, including most sharp objects, tools, and even bottles of shampoo that were larger than 3.4 ounces. In addition, after another terrorist, Richard Reid, attempted to blow up a plane by igniting explosives contained in his shoes, the TSA then required passengers to take off their shoes and have them scanned as part of the pre-boarding security check. The TSA also could pull aside any passengers they deemed suspicious and subject them to questioning and more thorough searches. Since the 9/11 terrorists were Muslims from the Middle East, the TSA often pulled aside many Muslims or Arabs, leading to criticism of the agency for persecution and racial profiling.

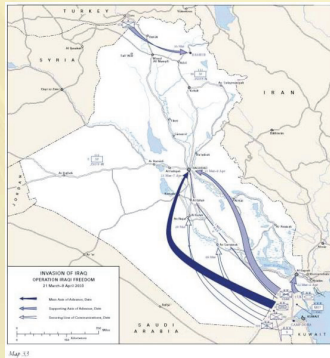
The Bush Administration also created a new Cabinet post, the Department of Homeland Security. The position, first headed by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, took control of several federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The department developed a color-coded “threat level” system by which citizens could supposedly learn how likely another terrorist attack would be at a given time.

Bush also sought to strengthen his ability to monitor and prevent terrorist activities via what became known as the USA PATRIOT Act. The name came from the acronym created from the official title of the bill, Uniting (and) Strengthening America (by) Providing Appropriate Tools Required (to) Intercept (and) Obstruct Terrorism. The act allowed the government to further conduct surveillance of telephone and e-mail communication, as well as track library patrons’ Internet searches. Civil liberties groups protested that the Patriot Act was too intrusive in people’s lives. However, the act was reauthorized with some modifications in 2005.

In 2003, the government also established a special commission to investigate failures in the U.S. intelligence system that had allowed the 9/11 attacks to occur. While the 9/11 Commission made several significant recommendations to revamp the intelligence community, many recommendations were not adopted.

Still another concern for the Bush Administration dealt with the condition of al-Qaeda suspects being held as prisoners at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The Bush Administration asserted that the detainees were not subject to the same rights as prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. However, the Supreme Court overturned that policy. Prisoners at Guantanamo also claimed that they had been subjected to various forms of torture as part of interrogations, most notably, the practice of “waterboarding,” in which water was poured over the cloth-covered face of a suspect in order to simulate drowning. Civil rights activists criticized these measures, but the Bush Administration maintained that such forms of “enhanced interrogation” were legal.

# Invasion of Iraq



Progress of U.S. forces headed toward Baghdad during the first weeks of Operation Enduring Freedom

- “Axis of Evil”
- “Neo-cons” and the Bush Doctrine
- Concerns about “weapons of mass destruction” (WMDs)
- Powell’s case before the UN

Social Studies School Service

In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President Bush identified what he called an “Axis of Evil” consisting of North Korea, Iran, and Iraq, which he claimed persecuted their citizens and denied them democracy, while also “arming to threaten the peace of the world.” Bush criticized Iraq in particular, stating, “Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America and to support terror.” While evidence to support his claim was sketchy, various high-level members of the Bush Administration had hinted that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had indeed provided support for terrorist activities against the United States. Intelligence had also led Bush to believe that Hussein was stockpiling what became known as “weapons of mass destruction,” including nuclear, chemical, and biological agents.

Helping support this move toward a more aggressive policy with Iraq were a group of advisors known as the “neo-conservatives,” whose idea of aggressively spreading democracy throughout the Middle East led to what became known as the “Bush Doctrine.” The doctrine proposed that any nation who harbored or supported terrorists were as guilty as the terrorists themselves and were subject to reprisals from the U.S. The Bush Doctrine signaled a major shift in U.S. foreign policy—especially the idea of “preemption,” under which military power would no longer be used simply in self-defense; instead, it would be available as a tool for actively assuring the security of the nation.

After a convincing victory in the 2002 Congressional elections, Bush began to make his case in regard to stopping Iraq and Hussein. In February 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell made a speech to the United Nations in which he displayed information collected by the CIA which supposedly showed Iraq stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, then made the case that the international community had to take action against Hussein. The United States began military operations soon after.

## Operation Enduring Freedom

- Invasion began on March 19, 2003
- American forces entered Baghdad in early April
- “Mission Accomplished” speech
- Hussein captured
- Sectarian violence ensued
- U.S. finally left Iraq in 2011



Iraqi civilians watch U.S. forces topple a huge statue of Saddam Hussein

Social Studies School Service

U.S. and coalition forces began what became known as “Operation Enduring Freedom” on March 19, 2003 with a cruise missile barrage, followed by a ground invasion. Within a few weeks, American troops had entered Baghdad, taking control of the city and toppling a huge statue of Saddam Hussein as a symbolic gesture. Hussein and his sons went into hiding.

On May 1st, President Bush made a dramatic entrance from a fighter plane onto the deck of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln off the coast of San Diego. Speaking below a huge banner with the words “Mission Accomplished,” Bush declared major combat operations over. However, sectarian violence and guerrilla warfare continued, and American forces often found themselves caught in the middle. Iraqis also began to look upon U.S. troops as occupiers rather than liberators, and American soldiers increasingly had to deal not only with armed attacks, but also with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted along the side of roadways.

In July, two of Hussein’s sons were killed in a firefight with U.S. troops. Hussein himself was captured in December while in an underground hideout. He was later put on trial by Iraqi officials and executed.

Although Bush had declared “Mission Accomplished” in 2003, American troops still stayed in Iraq for a significant period of time in order to keep the peace and to fight terrorists who came to Iraq to attack U.S. soldiers and Iraqis who worked with the Americans. It wasn’t until the end of 2011 that the last U.S. forces left Iraq and “Operation Enduring Freedom” finally ended.

## Discussion Questions

1. What events made the 9/11 attacks the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil? What did the 9/11 Commission determine about how and why the attacks occurred?
2. Why was Afghanistan targeted for invasion by U.S. forces? In your view, did the invasion succeed in meeting its goal? Explain your view.

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1. The 9/11 attacks were the worst on U.S. soil due to the number of people killed, as well as the nature of the attacks themselves. The tactic of hijacking airplanes and crashing them into buildings was new in the world of terrorism. More than 3000 people died at the World Trade Center as well as at the Pentagon, including people on the ground and passengers and crew onboard the planes. The 9/11 Commission report stated that the attacks could possibly have been prevented if the CIA and FBI had coordinated and shared information about the terrorists, and if the FAA had implemented stricter security measures at airports.
2. The Bush Administration targeted Afghanistan because the Taliban, who controlled the Afghani government, allowed al-Qaeda terrorists to use areas of the country as a refuge. It was also suspected that Osama bin Laden, considered by many to be the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, was also hiding there. Student answers regarding whether the U.S. met its goal will vary. Some will note that the U.S. invasion allowed a more moderate, reform-minded government to replace the harsh Taliban regime. Others may note that some al-Qaeda terrorists were captured and removed from the country. However, some students may point to the mission in Afghanistan as a failure because of the number of Americans killed there, the fact that the military didn't find bin Laden until 2011, continued Taliban-led attacks on U.S. troops, and the fact that as of the end of 2011, U.S. troops were still stationed and fighting in Afghanistan.

## Discussion Questions (con't.)

3. Did the government overextend its reach and power by passing laws such as the Patriot Act, allowing TSA screenings, and detaining al-Qaeda suspects at Guantanamo? Explain your view.
4. Why did the United States decide to invade Iraq? In your view, was “Mission Accomplished” a valid statement for President Bush to make in May 2003? Why or why not?

Social Studies School Service

3. Student answers will vary. Some may suggest that the war on terrorism required a new set of rules of engagement, requiring more intrusiveness into the lives and rights of citizens. They may point to the more thorough screenings at airports and government surveillance as a necessary evil. They may also highlight the fact that there has not been a similar attack on U.S. targets since 9/11. Other students may feel that the ability of the government to investigate persons via their e-mail, phone conversations, or library records is an unfair use of governmental power and violates both freedom of expression and due-process rights. In addition, they may note that treatment of detainees at Guantanamo violated both due process and international agreements protecting the basic civil liberties of prisoners of war.
4. It was apparent that the Bush Administration sought a more aggressive policy dealing with Iraq when the president identified it and its leader, Saddam Hussein, as part of what he called the “Axis of Evil,” which also included Iran, and North Korea. The “neo-conservatives,” who favored aggressively spreading democracy through the Middle East, also lobbied hard for a change in American foreign policy to actively help topple dictatorships. Bush also believed that it was likely that Hussein was stockpiling “weapons of mass destruction” (WMDs) in Iraq to use against his own people and neighboring countries. Using information collected by the CIA, Secretary of State Colin Powell made a case to the United Nations that Iraq was stockpiling weapons and was a threat to world stability. The U.S. military operation in Iraq began shortly afterward. Some students may feel that Bush’s “Mission Accomplished” was valid because it removed Hussein from power. Other students may look at the sectarian violence which developed in the country after the overthrow of Saddam’s regime, and the continued presence of U.S. troops until December 2011, as well as the cost in lives and money, as a sign of the failure of the mission—at least to meet the objectives originally set.



## Bush's Domestic Agenda

- Tax cuts
- 2001 Energy Bill
- “No Child Left Behind”
- Debate over stem-cell research
- McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill



President Bush signs the No Child Left Behind Act

Social Studies School Service

During the 2000 campaign, Bush promised that if he was elected he would approve a tax-cut bill. Soon after taking office, he proposed such a bill, which would cut \$1.6 trillion in taxes over a ten-year period. However, his tax cuts focused more on wealthy Americans than the middle class or the poor. Democrats also voiced concerns that this large tax cut would cause significant budget deficits. Congress revised the proposal, allowing for a \$1.35 trillion cut. The budget surpluses created over the Clinton years soon evaporated, and the national debt increased. Undaunted, Congress passed another \$320 billion tax cut in 2003. Two years later, taxes were cut again by \$95 billion.

Bush's energy policies reversed the trend from the Clinton years of providing more environmental protections, removing restrictions on development of natural resources on federal lands. In 2001, Bush proposed building more nuclear power plants as well as more lenient environmental rules for oil companies wanting to drill in various areas, including Alaskan wildlife refuges. However, Bush also pushed for tax cuts for purchasers of hybrid vehicles, which run on both gas and electricity and result in less pollution.

First Lady Laura Bush was a former school librarian, and Bush also was interested in pursuing an education agenda. The “No Child Left Behind” law was the result. “NCLB,” as it soon became known, called for measuring student achievement by national standardized testing. Schools that were unable to meet federal standards would be penalized. In order to meet national standards, some schools cut art, music, and other subjects in an effort to focus on raising test scores.

With the support of Christian conservatives, Bush also set a conservative agenda in regard to abortion and stem-cell research. Christian conservatives considered abortion murder and stem-cell research unethical because it used material from human embryos. In a controversial move, Bush banned future stem-cell research, a move which greatly dismayed medical researchers, who now faced a much more difficult task in creating cures for diseases and genetic conditions.

As the 2004 presidential election loomed, Bush signed the McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill into law. McCain-Feingold banned “soft money” contributions (ones given to a political party and not a particular candidate, which meant that they were not regulated by federal law) and further attempted to limit the effect of money on the electoral process.

## Corporate Scandals



Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, Enron executives  
convicted of fraud and conspiracy

- Worldwide recession
- Government deficits
- Collapse of Enron
- “Cooking the books”
- Tyco scandal

Social Studies School Service

While Bush was involved in a global war on terror overseas, the U.S. economy was beginning to decline significantly, eventually resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars. Economies in other parts of the world began to decline as well, which further adversely affected U.S. markets. Tax cuts and increased military spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with the overall decline in the economy, caused the government surpluses Bush had inherited from Clinton to turn into budget deficits.

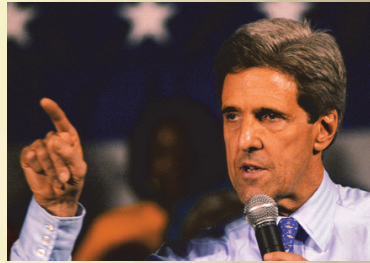
In addition, government deregulation, corporate greed, and a complex economy encouraged shady business practices. One of the worst instances of illegal activities occurred with the fall of the Enron Corporation, a Houston energy company with ties to the Bush administration. In 2000, Enron was considered one of the top American corporations, but by the end of 2001 it had filed for bankruptcy protection. Enron executives admitted to falsifying profit reports, in a practice called “cooking the books.” In addition, more than 5000 workers lost their jobs. Other workers, who had invested heavily in the company stock, lost their retirement income as Enron stock plummeted. Enron executives Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, who had sold their stock shortly before the collapse and made millions, were indicted and convicted on charges of fraud and conspiracy, although Lay died before he could serve prison time.

A similar scandal was uncovered with Tyco, Inc. CEO Dennis Kozlowski was convicted of stealing from the corporation, using the money to fund an unbelievably lavish lifestyle. Kozlowski was sentenced to prison, and forced to repay millions to the company.



## Election of 2004

- Bush seeks second term
- Dean early Democratic front-runner
- Kerry wins Democratic nomination
- “Swift Boat” campaign
- Bush wins close election



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry

Social Studies School Service

As the election of 2004 loomed near, Bush decided to seek a second term. The early front-runner for the Democratic nomination was former Vermont Governor Howard Dean. Skillfully using the Internet to court voters, he seemed destined to be the party’s nominee. However, his blunt criticism of the Democratic Party’s leadership seemed to alienate many mainstream Democrats, and a bizarre, weirdly optimistic speech given to his supporters in which he appeared to be screaming after he finished a disappointing third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses led him to soon abandon the race. Massachusetts Senator John Kerry won the nomination, and selected North Carolina Senator John Edwards as his running mate.

Although Kerry had voted in favor of the Patriot Act and U.S. action in Iraq, while campaigning he criticized Bush for misleading the nation regarding Saddam Hussein. He also charged that the Patriot Act violated civil liberties. Republicans countered that Kerry had “flip-flopped” on various issues, including the war in Iraq.

Kerry also pointed to his Vietnam War experience and record as a decorated soldier as a key reason voters should select him. Republicans tried to undermine this with what became known as the “Swift Boat” campaign, in which conservatives questioned his credentials as a war hero and also condemned his participation in the group “Vietnam Veterans Against the War” after he had returned from Vietnam.

Bush managed to eke out a close victory in the popular vote, carrying 51% compared to Kerry’s 48%. As in 2000, the outcome of the electoral race boiled down to a single state, this time Ohio. It wasn’t clear until the day after the election who had actually won, but Kerry decided not to contest the results in Ohio, thereby giving Bush the victory and a second term.

## Hurricane Katrina



In this NASA satellite photo, Hurricane Katrina bears down on the Louisiana coast

- August 2005
- Category 5 hurricane
- Over 1800 killed in storm
- Damages in excess of \$100 billion
- Costliest storm in American history

Social Studies School Service

One of the most devastating natural disasters in American history occurred in August 2005, when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast. It also affected the Bahamas, Cuba, and much of eastern North America before the storm finally dissipated at the end of the month. Starting as a smaller, Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall on the Florida coast, it intensified when it traveled over the warm water of the Gulf of Mexico. By the time the storm again hit landfall in eastern Texas and Louisiana, it was upgraded to Category 3, and by the time it arrived in New Orleans, it was classified as a Category 5 hurricane, the most devastating type of storm.

At its peak, Katrina had winds in excess of 175 miles per hour. Over 1800 people were confirmed dead from the hurricane and the subsequent “storm surge” in Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Widespread flooding took place in New Orleans in the aftermath of the storm, when the city’s levees proved insufficient to hold back the high water.

As Katrina approached the city of New Orleans, a citywide evacuation order was announced. However, thousands of residents did not evacuate, some because they felt secure staying in their own homes in the city and others because they were either too old, poor, or sick to arrange transportation to safer areas.

Katrina hit the city at 9:45 a.m. CST on August 29, 2005. By the time the eye of the storm had passed over the city, more than 50 breaches in drainage canals and levees had occurred, and more than 80% of the city was flooded—some areas with more than 15 feet of water. The storm surge from the hurricane extended six miles inland.

In the aftermath of the storm, many bodies were floating in the flooded water in the streets of the city. The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy also conducted hundreds of helicopter rescues of people stranded in their attics or on the roofs of their homes.

By the time the storm ended, damage estimates were in excess of \$108 billion, nearly three times the amount of damage of Hurricane Andrew in Florida in 1992, which had previously been the costliest storm in American history. The storm was also the most deadly hurricane in American history, overtaking the 1928 Okeechobee hurricane that had left over 1200 dead in Florida.

## Controversial Government Responses

- Critics claimed that response was slow because victims were poor
- FEMA highly criticized
- Bush criticized for vacation during crisis
- Corps of Engineers criticized for levee construction and maintenance



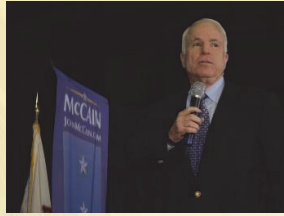
Flooding in New Orleans

Social Studies School Service

Almost immediately after the actual storm subsided, a storm of criticism regarding how local and federal authorities had handled the evacuation and rescue ensued. Local officials had ordered the city's evacuation in advance of Katrina, but did not make adequate provisions to evacuate many of the city's poorest and sickest residents. As a result, many of these people were forced to find shelter in "refuges of last resort" such as the Superdome or Convention Center, which were quickly overwhelmed by the number of people who came there. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials, led by director Michael D. Brown, had provided supplies for approximately 15,000 people for three days, but those materials were quickly exhausted. In addition, city school buses that could have been used to transport people out of town were not used.

Although President Bush monitored events in Louisiana closely, he was roundly criticized for remaining on vacation at his Crawford, Texas ranch rather than flying back to Washington to take command of the situation. A few days later, however, he visited the Gulf Coast region, met with FEMA director Brown, and publicly stated he was pleased and satisfied with Brown's job during the crisis. However, Brown was later fired due to his poor handling of the crisis. The Army Corps of Engineers was also roundly criticized for its inability to maintain the levees and to reduce or eliminate flooding in the city.

## Election of 2008



- Obama/Biden vs. McCain/Palin
- Issues in the campaign
- Obama became first African American president
- Democrats controlled Congress

Social Studies School Service

Bush had served the maximum two terms as president, so both the Republicans and Democrats looked for candidates who might be able to win the White House. New York Senator Hillary Clinton, wife of former president Bill Clinton, was one of the first candidates and was considered the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. However, Illinois Senator Barack Obama soon mounted a serious challenge. Although Clinton stayed in the race until early summer, Obama pulled ahead and won the nomination. He selected Delaware Senator Joe Biden as his running mate.

The Republican field was equally difficult to gauge. Several candidates emerged as contenders, including former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. However, Senator John McCain, who had mounted a strong challenge to Bush in 2000, became the nominee. McCain shocked political circles, however, when he picked Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. Palin had little experience and was also given to making polarizing statements which appealed to the Republican base but tended to alienate more moderate voters.

Several issues dominated the campaign. Over his second term, Bush had become increasingly unpopular, and that unpopularity carried over to the Republican ticket. Obama continued to stress themes such as hope and change, while McCain stressed his experience as a politician. The Republicans also pressed issues such as Obama's connection with the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, who had made controversial remarks against the United States, and Obama's work with William Ayers, a professor at the University of Chicago who had been associated in the 1960s with the Weather Underground radical group.

On Election Day, Obama won a decisive victory, carrying almost 53% of the vote. He also captured 365 electoral votes. McCain only won slightly less than 46% of the popular vote and 173 electoral votes. In January 2001, Barack Obama became the first African American U.S. president. Democrats as a whole also made huge gains, taking control of both the House and the Senate for the first time since 1992.

## Barack Obama

- 44th President
- Born in Hawaii in 1961
- Community activist in Chicago
- Illinois state senator
- Elected to U.S. Senate in 2004
- Won 2008 presidential election



Social Studies School Service

Barack Obama had a quick rise to political prominence. Born in Hawaii in 1961, he was the son of a white American-born mother and a black Kenyan father. His parents divorced in 1964, and father and son had limited contact with each other before the elder Obama died in an automobile accident in 1982.

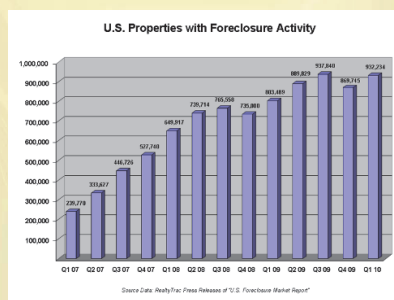
After Obama graduated from Columbia University, he became a community organizer for the Chicago Developing Communities Project. In 1988, he enrolled in Harvard Law School and was later selected as the editor of the school's law review.

In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate, and in 2004, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. An early opponent of the invasion of Iraq, Obama soon emerged as a leader in the Democratic Party and was selected to give the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic convention.

In early 2007, he announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination and in November 2008, he defeated Republican nominee John McCain and was elected the 44th president of the United States.



## 2008 Recession



Housing foreclosures rose sharply starting in 2007 as the real estate market collapsed

- Housing crisis
- Risky loans cause banking crisis
- Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)
- Federal bailouts (banks, General Motors)

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Toward the end of President George W. Bush's second term, the worldwide economic house of cards began to collapse. Several factors led to a major recession eclipsed only by the Great Depression of the 1930s.

First, the housing industry began to decline, primarily due to lax practices by the banking industry regarding subprime adjustable rate mortgages. As the housing market continued to boom in the middle part of the first decade of the 21st century, banks and savings and loans lent large amounts of money to high-risk borrowers. When mortgage interest rates began to rise, many of these homeowners could not afford the new payments, they defaulted on their loans, and the banks foreclosed on their properties. Since recent years had also witnessed a boom in housing construction, the flood of foreclosed properties hugely decreased market demand. Housing prices subsequently fell sharply, making the crisis even worse.

The number of defaulting mortgage holders also adversely affected the credit market, and a significant number of major financial institutions either declared bankruptcy or went into a downward spiral towards it. In order to forestall the number of banks closing their doors, in October 2008 President Bush signed into law the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP). TARP was authorized to buy up to \$700 billion in "troubled assets" from financial institutions and businesses in order to keep them afloat.

The automobile industry also went into a significant financial decline. By June 2009, General Motors, one of the largest companies in the United States, declared bankruptcy. The government responded by pledging to provide nearly \$630 billion in loans to automotive companies. However, thousands of workers in the automobile industry found themselves unemployed as GM had to shed nearly one-third of its dealerships and stop production of several models.

## Obama's Domestic and Economic Policies

- Reversal of stem-cell research policy
- Supreme Court appointments
- Economic stimulus package
- Automobile industry bailout
- Healthcare reform



As Vice-President Joe Biden looks on, President Barack Obama signs the 2009 Economic Stimulus Bill into law

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Obama signed several significant economic and domestic policy initiatives early into his term. He reversed the Bush Administration ban on new stem-cell research. He also made two appointments to the Supreme Court in the first half of his term: Sonya Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, and Elena Kagan to the court, increasing the number of female members of the high court to three.

In February 2009, Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a \$787 billion “stimulus package” designed to help the American economy recover from the Bush-era recession by injecting cash into the economy in the hope of increasing consumer spending. The act also increased funding for health care, infrastructure, and education, and provided various tax breaks.

Obama also approved new loans to assist General Motors and Chrysler to continue operations while they underwent bankruptcy reorganization. He also established what became known as the “Cash for Clunkers” program, under which auto owners could trade in older cars for more modern and fuel-efficient models.

However, the key domestic policy achievement of Obama’s term was healthcare reform. His plan called for an expansion of healthcare coverage to the uninsured, capped increases in premiums, and allowed workers to retain coverage when shifting jobs. One controversial provision of the Obama healthcare plan was that it required everyone to carry health insurance, whether they wanted to or not. This “individual mandate” requirement was highly controversial, and by the end of 2011, the Supreme Court had agreed to hear cases that would determine whether the individual mandate was constitutional.



## **The Tea Party and Republicans' Right Turn**

Recent U.S. History



A Tea Party protester during a march in Washington, D.C.

- Populist political movement
- Wanted to reduce national debt, strictly interpret the Constitution, cut taxes
- Major influence on Republican Party
- Influenced 2010 elections
- Opposition to Obama's measures

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After Democratic victories in the 2008 election, some conservative groups rallied together to protect their interests and block what they considered to be liberal measures taken by the new president and Congress. Calling themselves the “Tea Party Movement,” these groups became highly vocal in 2009 and 2010, and had a major impact on the 2010 Congressional elections.

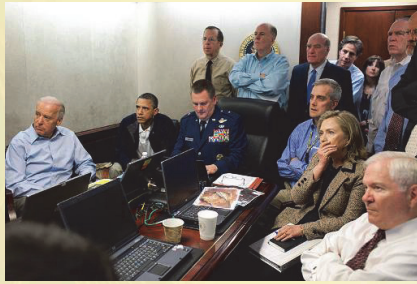
In general, the Tea Party supported dramatically decreasing the national debt, reducing taxation, decreasing the influence of the federal government in everyday life, and favoring a literal interpretation of the Constitution. Led by conservative Republicans such as Representatives Dick Armey, Ron Paul, and Michelle Bachmann, the Tea Partiers began to focus their anger against President Obama.

By 2010, with frustration mounting about the continuing recession, Tea Partiers began to actively protest at public events such as town hall meetings, as well as organized marches in Washington, D.C. and other cities. In 2010, several Tea Party candidates won state races or Republican nominations for Congressional seats, including Scott Brown, who won election to the Massachusetts Senate seat open after the death of Senator Edward Kennedy. Sharron Angle mounted a strong campaign for the Nevada Senate seat held by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Christine O'Donnell was supported by the Tea Party for a Delaware Senate seat but lost the November election.

The Tea Party movement also united against President Obama's reelection campaign even though it was years away. Several Tea Party groups tried to undermine the president by raising questions about whether he was actually born in the U.S. They claimed that he was actually born in Kenya, not Hawaii, thus making him ineligible to be president. The state of Hawaii later produced a copy of Obama's birth certificate, but some still claimed that president was not actually a U.S. citizen.

(Photo by dbking, “Tea Party sign - Taxpayer March on Washington”  
September 16, 2009 via Flickr, Creative Commons attribution.  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tea\\_Party\\_sign\\_-\\_Taxpayer\\_March\\_on\\_Washington.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tea_Party_sign_-_Taxpayer_March_on_Washington.jpg))

## Raid on bin Laden



President Obama, Vice-President Biden, Secretary of State Clinton, and others wait in the White House Situation Room for news of the raid on bin Laden

- Killed by Navy SEALs in May 2011 in Pakistan
- Body buried at sea after DNA testing confirmed identity
- Major political and military victory for Obama
- Pakistan upset

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Obama won a major political and military victory on May 2, 2011, when U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda and mastermind of the 9/11 attacks as well as the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa. Bin Laden's hideout was discovered in Abbottabad, Pakistan after comprehensive surveillance by the CIA and intelligence forces.

In a risky operation, Obama sent a Navy SEAL team to either capture or kill bin Laden. During the raid on the compound, bin Laden was killed, along with several others. The SEAL team took his body from the compound to an aircraft carrier, where an autopsy and DNA testing confirmed that it was indeed him. After the autopsy, bin Laden was given a Muslim burial at sea. Al-Qaeda confirmed the death of the terrorist leader on May 6th, and vowed revenge for the killing.

The announcement of bin Laden's death led to celebrations in the U.S., including cheering and singing of the National Anthem and "God Bless America" at various sporting events.

However, the Pakistani government was not happy that the U.S. had conducted the raid on their soil, and that they had not been informed of the raid. The U.S. had decided not to tell the Pakistanis because of fears that some in their government sympathized with al-Qaeda and would have warned bin Laden. The raid further strained the already tense relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan.

## War in Afghanistan-2011

- 10th anniversary of Afghan invasion in 2011
- Nearly 2000 Americans killed in battle
- Costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Obama plans shift in U.S. role from military to advisory



President Obama makes a speech in July 2011 announcing that U.S. troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of that year

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While the last American troops were removed from Iraq in December 2011, the fighting in Afghanistan continued. Nearly 2000 American troops in all had died there, and the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan totaled \$1.2 trillion in 10 years of fighting.

By the end of 2011, there were still approximately 98,000 U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan, although 10,000 were scheduled to be removed from the region by the end of 2011. The Obama Administration planned to shift the focus of American troops from military in nature to more of an advisory role.

## Legacy of the Era

- Nation divided by partisan politics
- Republicans controlled the White House through most of end of 20th century and the start of 21st
- Economic issues
- Daily life changed by terrorist threats and 9/11 attacks

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By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, America was a divided nation. Conservatives and liberals found it difficult to work together in Congress, and a large majority of those polled were fed up with the constant gridlock between the two political parties in Congress.

While Republicans controlled the White House for a significant period of the era between 1970 and 2011, their legacy was somewhat mixed. Republican policies had caused major economic problems which led to the “Great Recession” of 2008. American confidence, already shaken as a result of the U.S. experience in Vietnam, the Iran Hostage Crisis, and Watergate, was further damaged by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, as well as an inability to quickly end subsequent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lives of many Americans were forever changed by higher energy prices as well as inconvenience in travel due to passenger screenings at airports.

With the rise of the Tea Party movement, the Republican Party began to shift further to the right. Political groups emerged with their main goal being the defeat of President Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, as well as decreasing federal interference in daily life and significant tax reductions. It was unclear in the months prior to the 2012 presidential election what impact these groups would have on the campaign.

## Discussion Questions

1. What factors led to the 2008 recession? How did the government attempt to counter it?
2. What was the Tea Party movement? What did its members support? How did it affect the 2010 Congressional elections?
3. How and where was Osama bin Laden killed? How did the killing affect U.S. politics and foreign policy?

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1. The 2008 recession had several causes. The banking industry issued risky loans to prospective homebuyers, using subprime mortgage rates. When interest rates began to rise, many of these homeowners could not pay the higher mortgage amounts, and banks foreclosed. The housing industry declined, and many banks also suffered, losing substantial amounts of money that led a significant number of them to either bankruptcy or the verge of it. In October 2008, President Bush signed the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) into law, which was designed to buy up to \$700 billion in “troubled assets” from financial institutions and businesses in order to keep them afloat. President Obama approved new loans to assist General Motors and Chrysler to continue operations while they underwent bankruptcy reorganization.
2. The Tea Party was a populist, political movement against liberal policies and “big government.” The movement had a major impact on the 2010 Congressional election. Several Tea Party-backed candidates won election to Congress, particularly the House of Representatives. The Tea Party also staged vocal rallies at town hall meetings by politicians and staged rallies in several cities, including Washington, D.C.
3. The CIA and U.S. intelligence forces tracked bin Laden’s movements for several months, and determined that he was hiding out in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. President Obama elected to approve a risky operation to send in U.S. Navy SEALs to capture or kill the terrorist. Early in the morning of May 2, 2011, the SEAL team invaded the compound, and during a gun battle, shot and killed bin Laden. The Pakistani government was not pleased that the U.S. had conducted the raid on their soil, and that they had not been informed of the raid. The raid was a victory for President Obama politically and militarily, but the fact that the U.S. had conducted the raid on Pakistani soil without informing the Pakistani government beforehand further strained the already tense relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan.









# Student Handouts

## Recent U.S. History



An American flag is framed by the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York City shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

The 9/11 attacks were one of the most traumatic events to strike the nation in the last 40 years; their long-term effects are felt to this day.

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## Recent U.S. History

### Essential Questions

- What issues and factors have dominated U.S. foreign policy since the 1970s?
- What impact did political and economic scandals have on U.S. policy and the American people?
- How did terrorism and events in the Middle East affect the nation psychologically?
- What U.S. policies contributed to the eventual end of the Cold War?
- How did the rise of the Internet change the U.S. economy and people's everyday lives?
- What factors contributed to the emergence and rising influence of various social and political groups during the period?
- Why did the U.S. government restrict civil liberties in the period following the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

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## Recent U.S. History

### Nixon Becomes President



Richard Nixon prepares to take the Presidential Oath from Chief Justice Earl Warren on January 20, 1969

- Won close victory against Humphrey in 1968 election
- Considered himself a “law and order” candidate
- Views resonated with many tired of social unrest and war

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## Richard M. Nixon

- Served in House, Senate
- Eisenhower's VP
- Lost narrowly to JFK in 1960
- Defeated for California Governor in 1962
- Elected president in 1968, 1972
- Resigned in 1974



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## Nixon's Domestic Policies



- "New Federalism"
- Environmental policies (Clean Air Act, EPA)
- OSHA and workplace safety
- Women's rights
- "Revenue sharing"
- Revamping welfare

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## Nixon's Foreign Policy

- Development of realpolitik and détente
- Role of Henry Kissinger
- Visits to China, USSR
- Arms limitation treaties
- CIA involvement in 1973 Chilean coup



President Nixon views the Great Wall of China in February 1972

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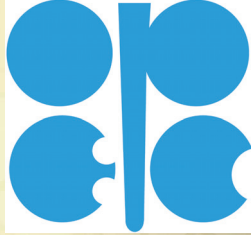
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## Arab Oil Embargo

- OPEC cut production by 25% due to U.S. dollar devaluation and Yom Kippur War
- Gasoline prices increased, oil consumption decreased
- American auto market declined
- Move towards energy conservation



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## Discussion Questions

1. What was President Nixon's "New Federalism" program? In your estimation, how effective was it?
2. What did Nixon do regarding environmental issues?
3. How did Nixon change his views regarding the USSR and communist China? Describe the effect this had on arms limitation agreements.
4. What factors caused the Arab Oil Embargo, and what short- and long-term impact did it have on the U.S. economy and society?

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## Nixon's "Law and Order" Strategy

- Nixon sought to realign political allegiances into a new Republican coalition
- Southern Strategy
- Harassment of "militant groups"
- "Enemies List"

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## The Huston Plan

- Named after White House aide Tom Charles Huston
- Sought to provide coordination of domestic intelligence assets
- Plan called for domestic burglary, electronic surveillance, and mail fraud
- Use of IRS to harass subjects
- “White House Plumbers”

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## The Pentagon Papers

- Compiled history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam War
- Top-secret documents leaked by Daniel Ellsberg, a RAND Corporation employee and Pentagon consultant
- Documents published by *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, other newspapers
- Nixon Administration sought injunction to stop publication, led to *New York Times v. U.S.*

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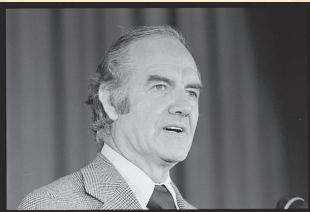
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## 1972 Presidential Election



Democratic nominee Senator George McGovern of South Dakota

- Nixon sought second term
- Wallace shot
- Democrats nominated McGovern
- Eagleton Affair
- Nixon won in a landslide

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## Discussion Questions

1. How did Nixon develop a “Southern Strategy” during his term of office?
2. What was the strategy behind the Huston Plan and the “White House Plumbers”?
3. Why was Nixon opposed to publication of the Pentagon Papers? Explain the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *New York Times v. U.S.*

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## The Watergate Break-In

- June 17, 1972
- Security guard discovered evidence of a break-in
- Five men found and arrested
- Attempted to place wiretaps on phones at Democratic headquarters



The Watergate Building in Washington, D.C., where the Democratic National Committee had its headquarters

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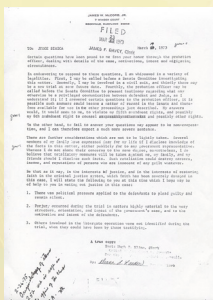
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## The Cover-Up Unravels



In this March 1973 letter, Watergate burglar James W. McCord admitted a cover-up to Judge Sirica

- Slush fund uncovered
- Money given to burglar traced back to CREEP
- *Washington Post* covered story
- McCord admitted defendants were pressured into confessing and committing perjury
- Haldeman and Ehrlichman resigned

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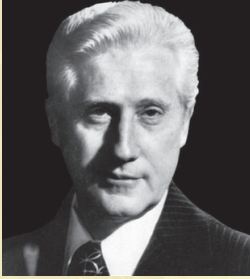
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## “Deep Throat”



FBI assistant director Mark Felt

- Secret source who provided “deep background” information
- Communicated with *Post* reporter Woodward
- Identity kept secret for nearly 30 years
- In 2005, Felt acknowledged he was the source cited in Woodward and Bernstein’s stories

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## The Senate Watergate Hearings



Senator Sam Ervin, Special Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities Chair

- Summer 1973
- Senate established Special Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities
- Dean’s testimony
- “What did the president know, and when did he know it?”
- Revelations about taping system

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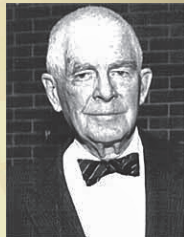
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## “Saturday Night Massacre”

- Cox appointed special prosecutor by Richardson
- Cox subpoenaed Watergate tapes
- Nixon offered compromise on tapes; Cox refused
- Nixon ordered Richardson to fire Cox; Richardson resigned in protest
- Ruckelshaus also refused, resigned
- Bork carried out order to fire Cox
- Jaworski replaced Cox



Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox

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***U.S. v. Nixon***

Nixon released transcripts of some tapes in April 1974

- Cox, then Jaworski, subpoenaed tapes
- Nixon released transcripts
- Sirica denied motion to stop subpoena
- Both sides appealed to Supreme Court
- Supreme Court ruled that tapes must be released
- Decision led to Nixon's resignation

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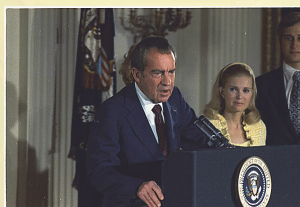
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**Nixon's Resignation**

Nixon addresses the White House staff shortly before leaving Washington for California on August 9th, 1974

- House Judiciary Committee recommended impeachment articles
- Nixon decided to resign
- Announced resignation on August 8, 1974
- Ford became president the next day

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**Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Watergate break-in spark the scandal that eventually brought down Nixon's presidency?
2. Who was John Dean and what facts came to light during his testimony during the 1973 Senate Watergate Hearings? What was the significance of Alexander Butterfield's testimony?
3. What was the significance of the "Saturday Night Massacre"?
4. What did the case *U.S. v. Nixon* involve, and how did the Supreme Court rule on it?

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## Gerald R. Ford



- 38th President
- Michigan congressman
- House Minority Leader
- Became Nixon's VP after Agnew resigned, the president after Nixon resigned
- Criticized for pardoning Nixon
- Died in 2006

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## Ford's Domestic Programs

- "Whip Inflation Now" (WIN)
- 1975 recession
- Tax cuts
- Aid to struggling cities
- Support for the ERA



Ford meets in the Oval Office with his chief of staff, Richard Cheney, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

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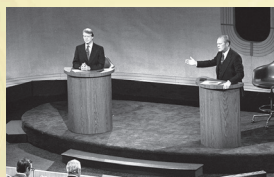
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## 1976 Presidential Election



President Gerald Ford makes a point during a televised debate with Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter during the 1976 campaign

- Ford held off challenge from Reagan to win GOP nomination
- Carter won nomination over large field
- Ford's debate blunder
- Nixon pardon
- Carter's evangelical support
- Carter won narrow victory

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## President Jimmy Carter

- 39th President
- Elected in 1976
- Governor of Georgia
- Peanut farmer
- Naval Academy graduate
- Awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2002



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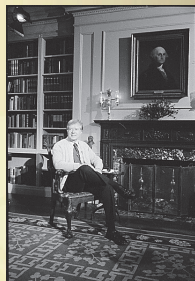
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## Carter as President

- Ongoing energy crisis
- High inflation
- Love Canal
- Protection of Alaskan wetlands
- Three Mile Island
- Creation of Departments of Education and Energy



A few days after taking office, President Carter delivered a "fireside chat" on energy conservation

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## Equal Rights Amendment



First Lady Betty Ford shows her support for the ERA by displaying a banner for the amendment in front of her desk

- Proposed by Congress (1972)
- Banned discrimination on the basis of gender
- Controversy over ratification process
- Failure to ratify amendment
- Recent attempts to reintroduce

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## Camp David Accords

- Sadat's "peace initiatives"
- Camp David talks
- Terms of the agreements
- Aftermath of the Accords



From left, Sadat, Carter, and Begin signing the Camp David Accords

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why did President Ford pardon Richard Nixon for crimes he may have committed while in office? How did the public respond to the Nixon pardon?
2. What were the Camp David Accords? What were their significance?
3. Evaluate the Carter presidency in regard to both his domestic and foreign policies. What grade would you give him? Why?

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## Iran Hostage Crisis: Origins



President Carter and staff meet with the Shah of Iran in 1977

- Shah came to power in 1953 with CIA assistance
- Regime harsh, but pro-Western
- Shiites supported Khomeini
- Shah fled Iran; Khomeini became leader

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## Hostages Taken

- Shah sought medical treatment in the U.S.
- American embassy in Tehran seized
- Students took hostages, demanded the Shah be returned for trial
- Embargo on Iranian oil, economic sanctions
- Secret diplomacy



Anti-Iranian sentiment in the U.S. increased as the hostage crisis dragged on

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## Rescue Attempt Disaster



The wreckage of the crashed helicopter

- “Desert 1”
- April 1980
- Attempt failed because of weather, aircraft malfunction
- Helicopter crashed into transport plane
- 8 crewmen died
- Failure a psychological disaster

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## The “Malaise” Speech

- Called on American people to “redeem” themselves
- “Crisis of confidence”
- Pollster Caddell called it the “malaise” speech
- Carter shook up Cabinet
- Speech had “boomerang” effect; Carter blamed for America’s problems



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## 1980 Election



Reagan campaigns in front of the Statue of Liberty

- Reagan won nomination over Bush
- Carter holds off challenge from Kennedy
- Hostages, economy main issues
- Christian conservatives
- Debate between Carter and Reagan
- Republicans won handily

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## Ronald Reagan

- Early career included radio announcing and acting
- Shifted political views from liberal to conservative
- Elected governor of California
- Elected president in 1980



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## End of the Hostage Crisis



The freed hostages deplane at Andrews Air Force Base

- Iranians saw little advantage in holding the hostages any longer
- Carter continued negotiations
- Hostages freed after Reagan inaugurated
- Carter part of delegation that welcomed the hostages home

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why did the U.S. support the Shah's regime in Iran? What led Iranians to seize the U.S. Embassy there?
2. What early responses did the Carter Administration take to the hostage crisis? Evaluate the effectiveness of these steps.
3. Why did the "Desert 1" operation fail? What effect did this have on morale? Why?
4. What characteristics made Ronald Reagan an effective campaigner in the 1980 election? What groups tended to support him?

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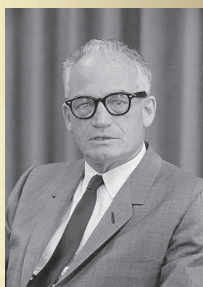
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## Rise of the Conservative Movement

- Goldwater's 1964 candidacy
- The "Religious Right"
- Moral Majority and Christian Coalition
- 1980 election of Reagan
- Impact on 21st-century politics



Barry Goldwater

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## Reagan's Domestic and Economic Policies



Nancy Reagan at a "Just Say No" anti-drug rally

- Air traffic controllers strike
- "Reaganomics"
- Immigration reform
- War on Drugs ("Just Say No" program)
- Supreme Court selections

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## Savings and Loan Crisis

- Deregulation of savings and loan institutions
- S&L speculation in real estate and commercial loans
- 1983: 35% of S&Ls “unprofitable”; 9% bankrupt
- State and federal regulators ran out of money to refund depositors
- Federal government bailed out S&Ls
- Total cost: \$153 billion; taxpayers’ share: \$124 billion

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## The “Evil Empire” Speech

- Reagan’s increasingly aggressive stance toward the USSR
- Delivered to the National Association of Evangelicals
- Referred to the USSR as an “evil empire”
- The “Reagan Doctrine”



President Reagan prepares to deliver what became known as the “Evil Empire” speech

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## El Salvador and Nicaragua



Contra fighters in 1987

- Reagan backed El Salvador junta fighting the Castro-backed insurgency
- U.S. opposed Sandinistas in Nicaragua
- Contras supported by CIA
- Congress cut funding for contras
- 1988 truce ended fighting

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## 1983 Grenada Invasion

- “Operation Urgent Fury”
- Aimed to oust Castro-backed communist government
- American medical students
- U.S. invaded; within days, ended Cuban involvement
- Invasion successful



“Black Hawk” helicopters on patrol during the Grenada invasion

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## U.S. in Lebanon



Smoke billows from the Marine barracks at the Beirut Airport on October 23, 1983, after it was heavily damaged by a suicide bomber

- Lebanese government collapsed
- Civil war broke out
- Reagan sent peacekeeping forces
- 241 Marines killed in suicide bombing
- Reagan removed troops the next year

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## SDI (“Star Wars”)

- Strategic Defense Initiative
- Reagan proposed SDI in March 1983
- Nicknamed “Star Wars” after the film
- Concerns about program
- Abandoned in 1990s



In this Department of Energy artist's conception, an American SDI unit uses lasers to destroy incoming Soviet missiles

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## Discussion Questions

1. How and why did the Iran Hostage Crisis end in January 1981?
2. Why did the Conservative Movement gain momentum in the 1970s and 1980s? What impact did the movement have on politics through the period?
3. What factors caused the 1980s savings and loan crisis? How did the government deal with the crisis?
4. What was the significance of Reagan's "Evil Empire" speech? How did the "Reagan Doctrine" affect U.S. foreign policy in the 1980s?

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## 1984 Presidential Election

- Reagan nominated for 2nd term
- Mondale won Democratic nomination
- Ferraro first woman nominated for major office
- Reagan won in landslide
- Impact of 1984 race



President Reagan and Vice President Bush appear during the 1984 Republican Convention in Dallas

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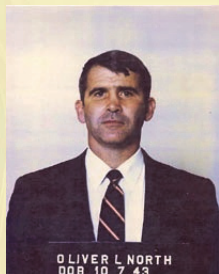
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## Iran-Contra Scandal



Oliver North's mug shot

- Scandal in Reagan's 2nd term
- "Arms for Hostages" deal
- Profits from arms sales given to contras
- North convicted of obstruction of justice
- Impact of scandal on Reagan minimal

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## INF Treaty

- Signed in 1987
- Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces treaty
- U.S. and USSR would eliminate most of their ballistic and cruise missiles
- First time the superpowers agreed to reduce their arsenals



Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan sign the INF Treaty in December 1987

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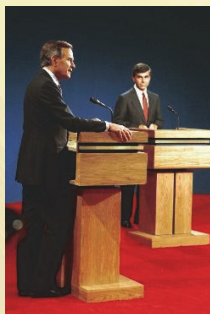
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## 1988 Presidential Election



Bush and Dukakis debate

- Bush and Dukakis emerged as nominees
- Campaign issues; use of “attack ads”
- Vice-presidential debate
- Republicans won handily

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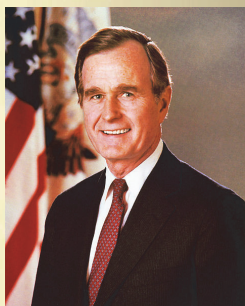
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## George H.W. Bush

- 41st President
- Long career in public service
- “Kinder, gentler America”
- Presided over end of Cold War, Gulf War
- Defeated for re-election in 1992



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**Recent U.S. History**

## Bush's Domestic and Economic Policies



President Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Dealing with high deficits
- Tax policies
- 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act
- Clean Air Act
- Immigration Act of 1990

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**Recent U.S. History**

## End of the Cold War



BUSH-GORBACHEV  
HELSINKI  
SEPTEMBER 1990

FINLANDIA

Bush and Gorbachev give a joint presentation at a summit in Helsinki, Finland in 1990

- Soviet economy stagnated; defense spending cut
- Bush and Gorbachev announced end to Cold War in 1989
- Communist Party lost political power in USSR
- USSR dissolved in December 1990

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Discussion Questions

1. What happened that caused the Iran-Contra scandal? What impact did the scandal have on Reagan's presidency?
2. What was the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces treaty designed to do? What "first" did it signify?
3. What factors led to the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s and early 1990s?

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## The 1991 Gulf War



President Bush meets with National Security Advisors at Camp David to discuss the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

- U.S. backs Iraq during Iran-Iraq War
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- Bush gains Congressional approval
- Builds coalition of 34 nations
- More than 500,000 troops deployed

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## Operation Desert Storm

- Air war begins on January 16th
- Scud missile attacks against Israel, other targets
- Ground war begins on February 23rd
- Iraqi army crushed
- Results of war



A Patriot missile is fired to intercept an Iraqi Scud missile

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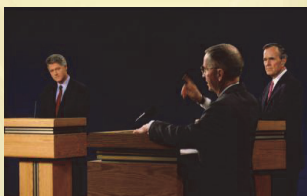
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## 1992 Presidential Election



Clinton, Bush, and Perot at a presidential debate

- Clinton/Gore vs. Bush/Quayle
- Perot mounts independent challenge
- Clinton elected president
- Election heralded as "Year of the Woman"

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## Bill Clinton

- 42nd President
- Rhodes Scholar
- Former Governor of Arkansas
- Defeated Bush and Perot in 1992
- Defeated Dole in 1996 for second term
- Impeached (but not convicted) in 1998



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## Clinton's Domestic and Economic Policies

- Failed attempt at healthcare reform
- Deficit reduction
- 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill
- Move to make federal agencies visible online
- State Children's Health Insurance Program
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Welfare Reform Act of 1994

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## NAFTA

- North American Free Trade Agreement
- Signed during Bush administration
- Agreement included Mexico in U.S./Canada free-trade agreement
- Concern that U.S. jobs would move to Mexico
- Ratified by Congress in 1993



Clinton signing NAFTA

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## 1994 Congressional Elections



House Speaker Newt Gingrich stands to the back and right of President Clinton during the 1997 State of the Union Address

- Conservative groups allied against Clinton
- “Contract for America”
- Prosperity didn’t help Democrats in election
- Republicans made huge gains in Congress, state government
- Conservative legislation enacted

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## Siege at Waco

- Began February 28, 1993 at Branch Davidian compound
- ATF agents attempted to serve search warrants
- 4 agents, 6 Davidians died
- 76 more Davidians died in a fire at the compound on April 19, 1993



A propane tank explodes during the FBI assault on the Branch Davidian compound

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## Oklahoma City Bombing



The Murrah Federal Building a few days after the attack

- April 19, 1995
- Truck bomb destroys Murrah Federal Building
- 168 people killed
- McVeigh and Nichols
- McVeigh executed in 2001
- Nichols serving life sentence

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## Discussion Questions

1. What caused the 1991 Gulf War? Can the outcome of the war be considered a complete victory for the U.S.? Explain.
2. What was NAFTA? Why was this treaty controversial? How did Clinton modify it?
3. What was the significance of the 1994 Congressional elections? What was the "Contract for America"?
4. What was the significance of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing? What was the motive of the men behind it?

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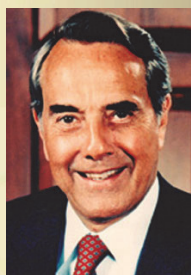
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## 1996 Presidential Election

- Clinton easily re-nominated
- Dole won GOP nomination
- Economy, deficits, preparing for 21st century were main issues
- Clinton won easily
- Republicans maintained control of Congress



Bob Dole

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## Balkan Military Involvement



Marines escort Serbian detainees to the Kosovo-Serbia border so they can be handed off to Serbian authorities

- "Ethnic cleansing"
- Muslims slaughtered
- Dayton Accords
- Serbia invaded Kosovo
- Air strikes
- NATO coalition in Kosovo
- Milosevic overthrown, tried for war crimes

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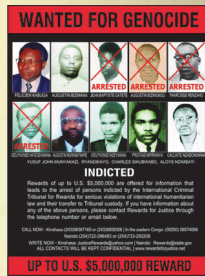
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## Crisis in Rwanda

- Genocide occurs in small east African nation in 1994
- Ruling Hutu tribe massacres members of Tutsi tribe
- 800,000 to 1 million reported killed
- Clinton fails to take action



This American "Rewards for Justice" poster offered up to \$5 million for leaders of the Rwandan genocide

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## Impeachment of President Clinton

- Paula Jones lawsuit
- "Whitewater" probe widened
- Clinton, Lewinsky denied affair
- Conversations between Lewinsky and Tripp surfaced
- Clinton admitted "inappropriate contact" with Lewinsky
- Clinton charged with perjury, obstruction of justice
- Became 2nd president to be impeached (Andrew Johnson)

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## Senate Trial

- Senate heard case starting in January 1999
- House "managers" presented case
- GOP lacked votes needed to convict in Senate
- Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both counts
- Clinton's legacy damaged



The Senate during the impeachment trial

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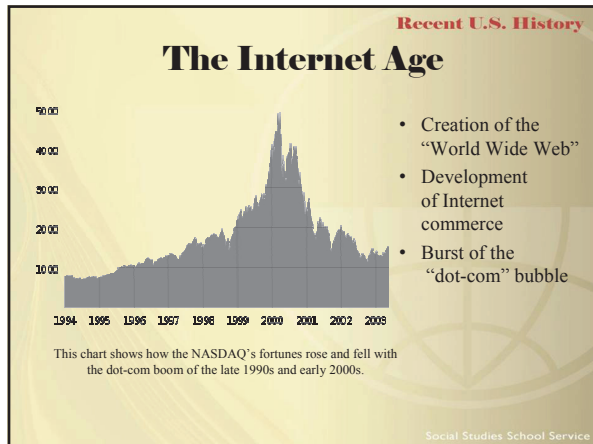
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**Recent U.S. History**

## 2000 Presidential Election

Al Gore

- Gore/Lieberman vs. Bush/Cheney as VP candidate
- Nader nominated by Green Party
- Social Security and spending the budget surplus were major issues

George W. Bush

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**Recent U.S. History**

## A Disputed Election

- Gore won popular vote
- Vote in Florida too close to call
- Florida vote certified in favor of Bush
- State Supreme Court ordered hand recount
- Bush appealed to U.S. Supreme Court

Palm Beach County's "butterfly ballot," which confused some voters

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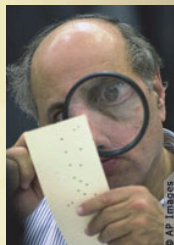
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## Bush Elected President

- Florida voting
- “Chads”
- Supreme Court voted 5–4 to halt recount
- Bush awarded Florida electoral vote
- Gore conceded next day
- Impact of Nader on election



A Florida recount official examines a punchcard ballot for not fully punched “chads”

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## Discussion Questions

1. What issues led to U.S. military involvement in the Balkans? What were the Dayton Accords?
2. What events led to Clinton’s impeachment in 1998? What was the final verdict? Do you think his impeachment was politically motivated? Explain.

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## Discussion Questions (con’t.)

3. What sparked the Internet Age? What caused the “dot-com” bubble to burst?
4. What was the controversy that led to the prolonged debate over who won the 2000 presidential election? How was the election decided?

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**Recent U.S. History**

## George W. Bush



- 43rd President
- Son of George H.W. Bush
- General manager of Texas Rangers franchise
- Two-term Texas Governor
- “Compassionate conservative”
- Won re-election in 2004

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**Recent U.S. History**

## September 11th, 2001

- Worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil
- Planes hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon
- Another flight crashed in Pennsylvania
- Over 3000 died in the attacks



American Airlines Flight 11 departed Boston's Logan International Airport at 7:59 a.m. It crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 9/11 departed Boston's Logan International Airport at 8:14 a.m. It crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m.

The flight paths of the two planes that hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001

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**Recent U.S. History**

## The Terrorists

- Nineteen hijackers identified
- All linked to al-Qaeda
- Osama bin Laden linked to attacks
- Atta considered the ringleader
- First time terrorists had used planes as weapons



Mohammed Atta, considered to be the ringleader of the terrorists

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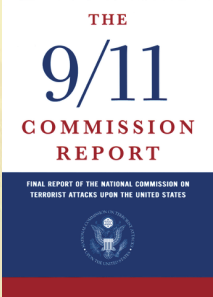
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**Recent U.S. History**

## The 9/11 Commission



- Created to investigate why and how the 9/11 attacks occurred
- Bipartisan
- Findings

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Invasion of Afghanistan



- “War on terror”
- Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan
- Invasion began October 7th
- Fall of Kabul
- Guantanamo prisoners
- Karzai named prime minister
- Search for bin Laden

U.S. troops in northern Afghanistan in 2001

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Homeland Security

- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Creation of Department of Homeland Security
- Patriot Act
- 9/11 Commission
- Treatment of detainees at Guantanamo



This system was designed to warn the public of the possibility of terrorist attacks

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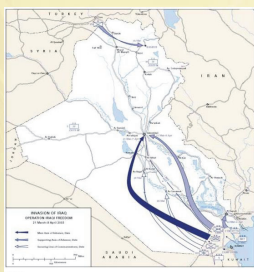
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## Invasion of Iraq



Progress of U.S. forces headed toward Baghdad during the first weeks of Operation Enduring Freedom

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- “Axis of Evil”
- “Neo-cons” and the Bush Doctrine
- Concerns about “weapons of mass destruction” (WMDs)
- Powell’s case before the UN

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## Operation Enduring Freedom

- Invasion began on March 19, 2003
- American forces entered Baghdad in early April
- “Mission Accomplished” speech
- Hussein captured
- Sectarian violence ensued
- U.S. finally left Iraq in 2011



Iraqi civilians watch U.S. forces topple a huge statue of Saddam Hussein

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## Discussion Questions

1. What events made the 9/11 attacks the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil? What did the 9/11 Commission determine about how and why the attacks occurred?
2. Why was Afghanistan targeted for invasion by U.S. forces? In your view, did the invasion succeed in meeting its goal? Explain your view.

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## Discussion Questions (con't.)

3. Did the government overextend its reach and power by passing laws such as the Patriot Act, allowing TSA screenings, and detaining al-Qaeda suspects at Guantanamo? Explain your view.
4. Why did the United States decide to invade Iraq? In your view, was "Mission Accomplished" a valid statement for President Bush to make in May 2003? Why or why not?

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## Bush's Domestic Agenda

- Tax cuts
- 2001 Energy Bill
- "No Child Left Behind"
- Debate over stem-cell research
- McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill



President Bush signs the No Child Left Behind Act

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## Corporate Scandals



Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling, Enron executives convicted of fraud and conspiracy

- Worldwide recession
- Government deficits
- Collapse of Enron
- "Cooking the books"
- Tyco scandal

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## Election of 2004

- Bush seeks second term
- Dean early Democratic front-runner
- Kerry wins Democratic nomination
- “Swift Boat” campaign
- Bush wins close election



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry

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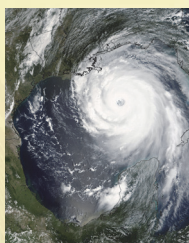
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## Hurricane Katrina



In this NASA satellite photo, Hurricane Katrina bears down on the Louisiana coast

- August 2005
- Category 5 hurricane
- Over 1800 killed in storm
- Damages in excess of \$100 billion
- Costliest storm in American history

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## Controversial Government Responses

- Critics claimed that response was slow because victims were poor
- FEMA highly criticized
- Bush criticized for vacation during crisis
- Corps of Engineers criticized for levee construction and maintenance



Flooding in New Orleans

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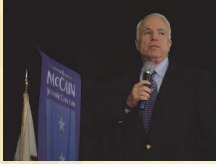
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## Election of 2008



- Obama/Biden vs. McCain/Palin
- Issues in the campaign
- Obama became first African American president
- Democrats controlled Congress

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## Barack Obama

- 44th President
- Born in Hawaii in 1961
- Community activist in Chicago
- Illinois state senator
- Elected to U.S. Senate in 2004
- Won 2008 presidential election



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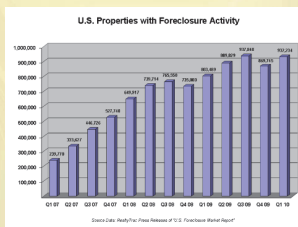
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## 2008 Recession



Housing foreclosures rose sharply starting in 2007 as the real estate market collapsed

- Housing crisis
- Risky loans cause banking crisis
- Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)
- Federal bailouts (banks, General Motors)

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Obama's Domestic and Economic Policies

- Reversal of stem-cell research policy
- Supreme Court appointments
- Economic stimulus package
- Automobile industry bailout
- Healthcare reform



As Vice-President Joe Biden looks on, President Barack Obama signs the 2009 Economic Stimulus Bill into law

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**Recent U.S. History**

## The Tea Party and Republicans' Right Turn



- Populist political movement
- Wanted to reduce national debt, strictly interpret the Constitution, cut taxes
- Major influence on Republican Party
- Influenced 2010 elections
- Opposition to Obama's measures

A Tea Party protester during a march in Washington, D.C.

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Raid on bin Laden



- Killed by Navy SEALs in May 2011 in Pakistan
- Body buried at sea after DNA testing confirmed identity
- Major political and military victory for Obama
- Pakistan upset

President Obama, Vice-President Biden, Secretary of State Clinton, and others wait in the White House Situation Room for news of the raid on bin Laden

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**Recent U.S. History**

## War in Afghanistan–2011

- 10th anniversary of Afghan invasion in 2011
- Nearly 2000 Americans killed in battle
- Costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Obama plans shift in U.S. role from military to advisory



President Obama makes a speech in July 2011 announcing that U.S. troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of that year

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Legacy of the Era

- Nation divided by partisan politics
- Republicans controlled the White House through most of end of 20th century and the start of 21st
- Economic issues
- Daily life changed by terrorist threats and 9/11 attacks

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**Recent U.S. History**

## Discussion Questions

1. What factors led to the 2008 recession? How did the government attempt to counter it?
2. What was the Tea Party movement? What did its members support? How did it affect the 2010 Congressional elections?
3. How and where was Osama bin Laden killed? How did the killing affect U.S. politics and foreign policy?

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