

CHAPTER 26 Section 1 (pages 860–868)

The 1990s and the New Millennium

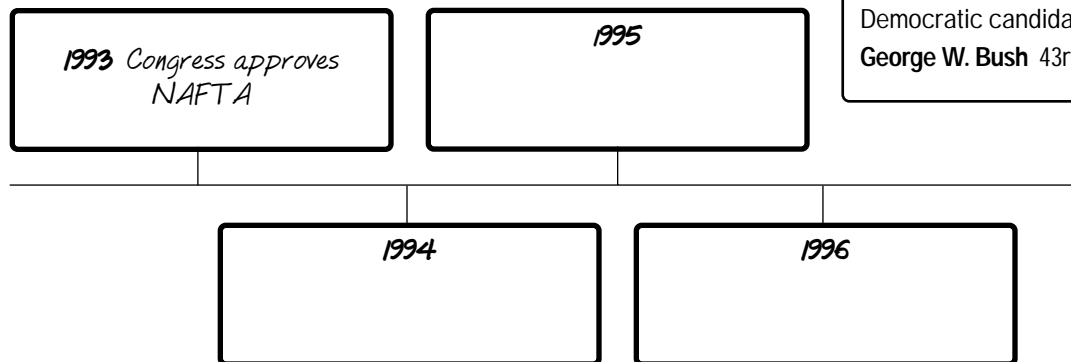
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about American foreign policy at the end of the Cold War.

In this section, you will read about Bill Clinton's presidency.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes about the major events of Clinton's first term.



TERMS AND NAMES

William Jefferson Clinton 42nd president

H. Ross Perot Texas billionaire who was a third-party candidate in 1992 election

Hillary Rodham Clinton First Lady and health-care reformer

NAFTA Trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States

Newt Gingrich Speaker of the House of Representatives

Contract with America Republican plan for political reform

Kenneth Starr Independent counsel who investigated Clinton

Al Gore Clinton's vice-president, and Democratic candidate in 2000 election

George W. Bush 43rd president of U.S.

Clinton Wins the Presidency; Moderate Reform and Economic Boom

(pages 860–862)

What was the important issue in the 1992 election?

Governor **William Jefferson Clinton** of Arkansas was the first member of the baby-boom generation to win the presidency. Clinton defeated President George Bush and Texas billionaire, **H. Ross Perot** in the election. Bush's popularity, which was sky-high after the Gulf War, fell as the economy went into a recession. Clinton convinced voters he would move the Democratic Party to the political center by embracing both liberal and conservative programs.

Clinton tried to reform the nation's program for health care insurance. He appointed First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** to head the team creating the plan. Congress never voted on the plan after

Republicans attacked its promotion of "big government." Clinton was more successful in balancing the budget. The economy began to produce surpluses for the government and the economy boomed.

1. Why did George Bush's popularity fall after the Gulf War?

Crime and Terrorism (pages 862–863)

Where did terrorists attack?

Terrorism and violence raised Americans' fears during the 1990s and in the first years of the 2000s. In 1993, foreign terrorists exploded a bomb at the World Trade Center in New York City. In 1995, an American terrorist named Timothy McVeigh exploded a bomb at the Federal building in Oklahoma City. The bomb killed 168 men, women, and children.

School violence also plagued the nation. In 1999, two students at Columbine High School in Colorado killed 12 and wounded 23 classmates and a teacher before killing themselves.

In 2001, the worst attack on the United States in its history took place. Foreign terrorists hijacked airplanes and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. The explosions leveled the World Trade Center and severely damaged the Pentagon. Approximately 4,500 people died in the attacks.

2. What buildings were the target of two terrorist attacks?

New Foreign Policy Challenges; Partisan Politics and Impeachment

(pages 863–865)

Why was President Clinton impeached?

In the 1990s, the major foreign policy problem was in Yugoslavia where Serbs embarked on a murderous policy of “ethnic cleansing” first in Bosnia, then in Kosovo. The United States and NATO launched air strikes against the Serbs forcing them to back down.

Free trade was a goal of the Clinton administration. In 1994, the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** was signed into law by President Clinton. It provided for free trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Critics of free trade opposed American actions by protesting at meetings of world trade groups in Seattle, Washington, and Quebec City, Canada.

President Clinton developed political troubles beginning in 1994 when the Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress. **Newt Gingrich**, who became speaker of the house, led the Republicans. The Republicans used a document they called the **Contract with America** to oppose President Clinton.

Clinton won reelection in 1996 even though he was being investigated by **Kenneth Starr**, the independent counsel appointed by the federal court. Starr began investigating Clinton’s involvement in a land deal. He then investigated whether Clinton had lied under oath in questioning about an

improper relationship with a young White House intern. The House approved two articles of impeachment against the president even though a majority of Americans approved of Clinton’s job performance. The Senate trial that followed in 1999 failed to convict Clinton and he remained in office. The impeachment trial left bitter political partisanship for the remainder of Clinton’s term in office.

3. Why was President Clinton impeached?

The Race for the White House; The Bush Administration Begins Anew (pages 866–868)

What was controversial about George W. Bush’s election as president?

The candidates in the 2000 election were Vice-President **Al Gore**, the Democratic candidate, and Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, the Republican candidate. There was confusion on election night over who won the state of Florida. Gore had won the popular vote. But whoever won Florida would win a majority of the electoral votes and the election.

Both sides sent lawyers and spokespeople to Florida to try to secure victory. Bush held a slim lead. A confusing ballot in one county caused many likely Gore voters to cast votes for other candidates. Gore’s representatives called for a recount, while Bush’s representatives opposed the recount. The battle moved to the courts. On December 12, more than a month after Election Day, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to stop the recount. As a result, Bush won Florida and the presidency.

In his first six months in office, Bush signed into law a large tax cut. He faced opposition over environmental decisions. In May, Republican Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont, unhappy with the conservative direction of Bush’s policies, left the party. As a result, control of the Senate passed from the Republicans to the Democrats, creating further legislative problems for the new president.

4. How was the election of 2000 decided?
