



- ▲ Bush's casual style attracted voters in both of his presidential races. By his reelection in 2004, he was often referred to simply as "W."

## WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

### A Two-Term President

In 2005, George W. Bush was sworn in as President for a second term. In his inaugural address, he alluded to a remarkable shift in traditional American foreign policy, saying that the cause of advancing freedom and democracy abroad was sufficient reason for the United States to involve itself in conflict overseas.

“All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you.”

—George W. Bush, Second Inaugural Address, 2005

# The George W. Bush Presidency

## Objectives

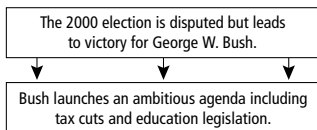
- Assess the outcome of the 2000 presidential election.
- Explain the goals and achievements of George W. Bush's domestic policy.
- Analyze the impact of terrorist attacks on the United States.
- Summarize the important issues of Bush's second term.

## Terms and People

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| George W. Bush           | Patriot Act                     |
| No Child Left Behind Act | Department of Homeland Security |
| Taliban                  | WMD                             |

## NoteTaking

**Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence** Record the sequence of events in Bush's presidency in a flowchart like the one below.



**Why It Matters** The election of **George W. Bush** to the presidency assured Republican domination of the White House and Congress. When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, Bush would use this unity—along with the support of a galvanized American public—to move the nation in a new direction. **Section Focus Question:** What was the impact of Bush's domestic agenda and his response to the terrorist attack against the United States?

## An Election Controversy

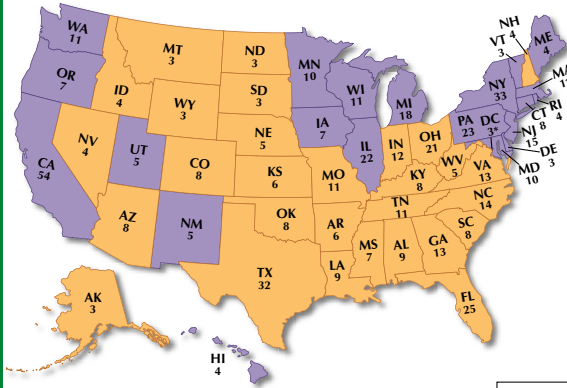
The year 2000 brought an end to Clinton's two terms as President. Clinton's legacy of a strong economy coupled with personal scandal polarized voters. As candidates geared up for the 2000 presidential race, it promised to be a close election.

**Three Candidates Run** Clinton's Vice President, Al Gore, Jr., of Tennessee, ran for the Democrats. Gore selected Connecticut senator Joseph Lieberman as his Vice President, making Lieberman the first Jewish person to be on the ticket of a major party. Gore tried to associate himself with the economic record of the Clinton administration while distancing himself from Clinton's personal scandals.

The Republicans chose George W. Bush as their candidate. A son of George H.W. Bush and a former governor of Texas, Bush was popular with party leaders, conservatives, and Christian fundamentalists. As governor of Texas, he had been adept at working with Democrats as well as Republicans. Although he was not a gifted orator, he struck many Americans as down-to-earth and sincere.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader ran for the Green Party. Saying that corporate interests controlled the two major parties, he claimed he alone represented all Americans.

# Presidential Election of 2000



**Map Skills** In the 2000 presidential election, the votes were so close in the state of Florida that officials like the one above recounted ballots by hand.

Although Al Gore wound up winning the popular vote, George Bush captured a greater number of electoral votes, winning him the presidency.

**1. Identify** In general, which regions voted for Bush? Which voted for Gore?

**2. Predict Consequences** How might the dispute over the 2000 election affect future elections?

| Candidate (Party)           | Electoral Vote | Popular Vote | % Electoral Vote | % Popular Vote |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| George W. Bush (Republican) | 271            | 50,456,002   | 50.5             | 47.9           |
| Albert Gore (Democrat)      | 266            | 50,999,897   | 49.5             | 48.4           |
| Ralph Nader (Green)         | —              | 2,882,955    | —                | 2.7            |
| Other                       | —              | 1,066,246    | —                | 1              |

\*One elector from Washington, D.C., abstained from voting

**A Tight Race** The campaigns focused mainly on how to spend the federal budget surplus. Bush wanted to use it to institute widespread tax cuts, while Gore proposed strengthening Social Security and paying down the national debt. Bush also said that a Republican President would restore morality to the White House. None of the candidates had the appeal of former Presidents Reagan or Clinton. Bush tended to mispronounce words, and Gore appeared dull and cold. On election night, Americans voted mainly by party affiliation.

The vote margin in the Electoral College was razor thin. Although Gore received a half million more votes than Bush, he fell short of winning the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency. So did Bush. The issue was Florida's 25 electoral votes. Gore ran strong in the cities and along the coast, but Bush won the suburbs and the center of the state. The popular vote in Florida was so close that a state law mandated an automatic statewide recount of votes. Bush led by a margin of 327 popular votes. He was awarded a total of 271 electoral votes, one more than was needed to win the election.

**The Supreme Court Intervenes** Given the extreme closeness of the votes, Democrats demanded a hand, rather than machine, recount in several Florida counties. Republicans countered by suing in a Miami district court to prevent the hand recount. For more than a month, confusion reigned as each charge prompted a countercharge. Finally, the Supreme Court ruled on the issue. In the case of *Bush v. Gore*, the court ended the re-counting by a 5-to-4 decision. On December 12, 2000, Gore conceded defeat, and Bush delivered a conciliatory victory speech. The election showed an interesting geographical pattern. The Democrats captured votes in their traditional strongholds such as the two coasts and large cities. The Republicans had extended their influence, winning votes in a large bloc that included most of the Midwest and the South.



**Checkpoint** Why did the Supreme Court decide the 2000 presidential election?

## Bush Launches an Ambitious Agenda

Once in office, Bush turned to the domestic issues that most concerned him, including using Clinton's budget surplus to finance tax cuts. Like most Republicans, Bush believed that tax cuts would stimulate the economy. He felt they would provide Americans with more disposable income, leading to greater spending, heavier investment, and the creation of new jobs. In 2001, Bush successfully pushed a \$1.3 trillion tax cut through Congress. The cut was highly controversial. It did put more money in the hands of consumers. Yet coming on the heels of a declining economy, it also increased federal budget deficits.

Bush's other domestic priority was education. He favored legislation that tied the federal funding of schools to demonstrable academic success. The 2002 **No Child Left Behind Act**, which attracted bipartisan support, held schools accountable by penalizing those that did not reach federal performance standards. It also called for improving teacher quality and for making information about schools more readily available to parents.

Bush also addressed the concern of older Americans who were caught between their relatively fixed incomes and the rising costs of prescription drugs. In 2003, Congress extended Medicare to cover prescription drugs for senior citizens. Like his tax cuts, the measure was controversial. It was expensive, creating further budget deficits, and many seniors found its provisions confusing and its coverage inadequate.

✓ **Checkpoint** What were Bush's domestic priorities?

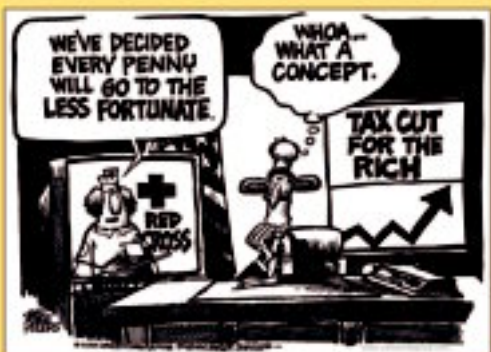
### Comparing Viewpoints

## Should President Bush's Tax Cuts Be Passed?

President Bush's tax cuts sharply divided Americans into two camps—those who agreed with the cuts and those who opposed them.



Primary Source



Primary Source

### Compare


1. In the cartoon on the left, the artist mocks Democrats for overreacting to the tax cuts. How does he do this?
2. Who does the artist of the cartoon on the right imply is the main beneficiary of Bush's tax cuts?

## The United States Is Attacked

Bush had been in office less than a year when the United States was attacked by a foreign enemy for the first time since Pearl Harbor. Following the hijacking and crashing of four commercial airplanes on September 11, 2001, millions of Americans rushed to donate money, supplies, services, and their own blood. As it became clear that the crashes were part of an organized terrorist attack on the United States, Americans responded as they had after Pearl Harbor—as a unified, determined nation. The attack challenged the new President in unforeseen ways and led to a major shift in American foreign policy. On the day of the attacks, President Bush addressed the nation:

### Events That Changed America

## The Terrorist Attacks of 9/11



**Shortly before 9 A.M. Eastern time on September 11, 2001,** American Airline Flight 11 slammed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. The crash was the first of four airplane crashes in an orchestrated attack against the United States. Just over an hour after the first crash, the World Trade Center began to collapse, trapping the hundreds of firefighters and police who had gone into rescue people. Meanwhile, passengers on another hijacked plane, after learning of the crashes on their cell phones, bravely stormed the cockpit to prevent hijackers targeting another building.

This attack was the first on American soil since the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor 50 years ago. More than 3,000 Americans died in the attacks. American's confidence in their nation's power and safety was deeply shaken.

◀ Terrified workers run away from the collapsing World Trade towers.


### Thinking Critically

- 1. Expressing Problems Clearly** Why was September 11, 2001, an "event that changed America"?
- 2. Draw Inferences** After the attacks, a French newspaper declared "We are all Americans." What was meant by this statement?

### Primary Source

“Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, and our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. . . . Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. . . . These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. . . . Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”

—President George W. Bush, September 11, 2001

 **Checkpoint** What was the significance of September 11, 2001?

## America's War on Terrorism

In the wake of September 11, Bush and his advisers agreed that the most important priority should be finding and prosecuting the people behind 9/11. This would be just the first step in what Bush called the “war on terrorism.”

**Invading Afghanistan** American government officials quickly determined that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network had been behind the September 11 attacks. Bin Laden opposed the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. economic boycott against Iraq, and U.S. support for Israel. He also opposed any governments in the Middle East that he felt were pro-Western. Bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders were believed to be hiding in Afghanistan, where the Islamic fundamentalist **Taliban** government allowed them to operate training camps for terrorists.

Bush believed that any government that sponsored terrorism, even if it did not itself commit terrorist acts, should be held accountable. He immediately demanded that the Taliban turn over bin Laden to U.S. custody. When the Taliban refused, he quickly sent American forces, joined by Great Britain and other allies, into Afghanistan. Joined by Afghan rebels, the allied forces overthrew the Taliban within three months. Although American troops captured several of al Qaeda's leaders, bin Laden himself escaped. While Afghanistan held its first free elections and wrote a new constitution, the United States still faced the threat of terrorism elsewhere.

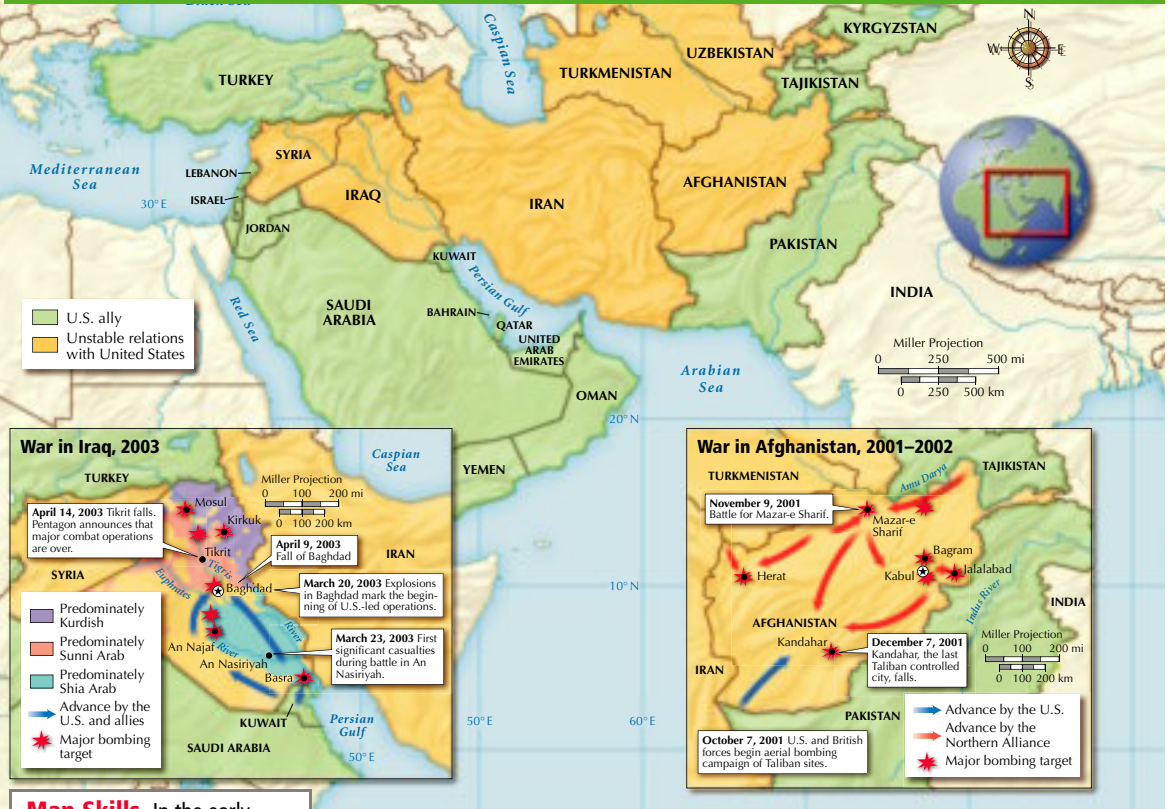
**Improving National Security** Bush also moved quickly on the home front to prevent future terrorist attacks. Soon after September 11, Congress passed the **Patriot Act** to give law enforcement broader powers to monitor suspected terrorists. Congress also approved Bush's call for the creation of a new Cabinet-level **Department of Homeland Security** to coordinate domestic security matters among a number of federal, state, and local agencies. Some critics charged that the Patriot Act violated civil liberties, but most Americans were willing to give up some freedoms in return for improved protection against attack.

**Launching Operation Iraqi Freedom** Bush next turned his attention to Iraq. In the decade after the first Gulf War, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had defied UN weapons inspectors. Many people both inside and outside of the Bush administration believed that Saddam was constructing and stockpiling nuclear, biological, and chemical **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**. Bush contemplated invading Iraq as part of his wider war on terrorism.

Despite many Americans' belief that UN weapons inspectors should be allowed to continue their search for WMD, in October of 2002 Congress authorized Bush to use American military forces against Iraq. On March 19, 2003, American and British military forces invaded Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# The United States and the Middle East



**Map Skills** In the early 2000s, the United States waged two wars in the Middle East.

- Locate:** (a) Baghdad, (b) Kabul, (c) Pakistan, (d) Syria
- Location** Describe the location of Baghdad. What difficulty might a Baghdad-based government have keeping peace?
- Draw Inferences** Notice the location of Pakistan. Why is it important to the United States that Pakistan remain a reliable ally?

Saddam's forces collapsed almost immediately. As the Iraqi capital of Baghdad fell, Saddam and the other Iraqi leaders went into hiding. Bush gave a victory speech on May 1, 2003, in front of a banner reading "mission accomplished." In the months that followed, Saddam and many of his supporters were captured.

**Checkpoint** How did Bush combat terrorism?

## Bush's Second Term

The Iraq war, terrorism, and the budget weighed heavily on Americans' minds as they cast their votes in the 2004 election.

Bush relied heavily on his image as a "war president," saying that the lack of an attack on American soil since 9/11 proved his competency as commander in chief. The Democratic candidate, Massachusetts senator John F. Kerry, was a decorated Vietnam veteran with many more years of political experience than Bush. His message never fully resonated with Americans, however, and Bush defeated Kerry by a comfortable margin. Once again, the U.S. electoral map indicated what many began to call a "red state, blue state" divide, with people along the coasts and in the big cities voting Democratic, and people in the South, Midwest, and rural areas voting Republican.

**Geography Interactive**

For: Interactive map  
 Web Code: nep-2043

Iraq remained the major focus of Bush's second term. Saddam's brutal rule kept fighting among Iraq's three major groups: Sunnis, Shi'a, and Kurds in check. With Saddam's overthrow, these groups fought bitterly for power. By the end of 2005, Iraq had written a new constitution and established the beginnings of a democracy. But the chaos continued. Saddam went into hiding, but was soon captured. After a lengthy trial, Iraq's High Tribunal sentenced him to death for crimes against humanity. Saddam was executed in 2006.

By early 2004, the United Nations had determined that Saddam had never possessed nuclear weapons or the materials to make them. Critics of Bush charged that he had exaggerated evidence of WMD and misled Congress and the American people in his effort to win support for the war. Even those who agreed that the war was necessary worried that the United States had gotten itself into a quagmire.

Meanwhile, Bush faced serious domestic challenges. With so much money being spent on Iraq, the federal deficit grew larger. In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, destroying much of the city of New Orleans. The government response to Katrina, which largely affected poor people, was slow. National discontent was reflected in the 2006 Congressional elections in which Democrats, for the first time in 12 years, won control of both the House and the Senate.

During the final two years of his second term, Bush's approval ratings fell dramatically. By 2008 Americans faced serious problems. Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, possible spread of nuclear weapons, and the continuing threat of terrorists stretched American resources. At home, healthcare concerns, the cost of oil, immigration problems, and the economy added to American worries.

✓ **Checkpoint** What challenges did Bush face in his second term?

## The 2008 Election

The 2008 election broke new ground in America's political landscape. In the primary campaign, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton became the first woman to win a major party's presidential primary. She came close to winning the Democratic nomination for president. Meanwhile, Democrat Barack Obama became the first African American to be nominated for president by a major party. Finally, Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska was the second woman, since Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 to be selected as a Vice Presidential running mate.

**The Candidates** In the 2008 presidential race, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama advanced different solutions to key issues such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the economy, healthcare, and energy policy. But they shared a firm belief in service to their country. McCain, the son and grandson of navy admirals, served as a pilot in the Vietnam War. He also endured six years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam after his plane was shot down. After his release, he entered politics to continue to serve his country.

After graduating from Columbia University and Harvard Law School, Obama worked as a community organizer on the south side of Chicago. He set up programs to aid minorities and the poor. Like McCain,

### HISTORY MAKERS

#### Condoleezza Rice (born 1954)

Condoleezza Rice grew up in segregated Birmingham, Alabama. At age 15, she entered college intending to become a concert pianist but graduated at age 19 with a degree in political science instead. By age 30, she had earned a Ph.D., served as an intern in the Carter administration, and held a professorship at Stanford University. In 2000, Rice was tapped by George W. Bush to become National Security Advisor. In 2004, she became the first African American woman to be named Secretary of State. Dr. Rice has taken an active role in the U.S. rebuilding of Iraq.





In a decisive victory, Barack Obama became the nation's first African American President.

he entered politics to fulfill a commitment to solving America's foreign and domestic problems.

**An Historic Moment** On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama became the 44<sup>th</sup> President and the first African American to hold the office. Speaking at a huge rally in Chicago after winning the race, his words defined the historic moment. "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

Obama's victory not only marked a shift in American politics but reflected the changed national mood. The election drew a huge voter turnout, with an unexpectedly large participation of young voters. Along with the economic crisis—nearly 62% of voters cited the economy as a major concern—and with the low approval ratings of President Bush, a Republican victory seemed almost impossible.

In Congress, the Democratic Party, which won a majority of seats in 2006, expanded its majority in the 2008 election.

## Banking Crisis

During the last month of the 2008 campaign both candidates faced a disturbing, and potentially disastrous, economic crisis centered on Wall Street and in the banking industry. The causes of the crisis that flared up stemmed from a series of risky bank loans and a general decline in the value of many American homes. As a result, millions of Americans could not pay their home mortgages. Several important banking and investment firms who had engaged in the risky lending policies were either forced out of business or bought by other firms. Congress passed legislation that attempted to solve the problem but the crisis defied any quick-fix solutions. By the time of the election the crisis had spread around the world. The situation was so serious that many people considered it to be the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

**Checkpoint** Why was the 2008 election significant?

## SECTION 4 Assessment

### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice  
Web Code: nea-2041

### Comprehension

- 1. Terms and People** Using complete sentences, relate each of the following items to the presidency of George W. Bush.
- No Child Left Behind Act
  - Taliban
  - Patriot Act
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - WMD

### 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

**Recognize Sequence** Use your completed flowchart to answer the Section Focus Question: What was the impact of Bush's domestic agenda and his response to the terrorist attack against the United States?

### Writing About History

#### 3. Quick Write: Provide Details

Choose an American issue that has relevance both to the Bush presidency and to an earlier period of American history. Analyze the issue in both time periods, including details that define the issue and support your points.

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Compare Points of View** Compare how Democrats and Republicans viewed the initial results of the 2000 election.
- 5. Analyzing Effects** Why do you think the economic crisis in the United States in 2008 had a global effect? Explain.
- 6. Identify Assumptions** What assumptions about the United States were conveyed in Bush's speech to the nation on September 11?
- 7. Recognize Cause and Effect** How did the September 11 attacks influence American policy in the Middle East?