

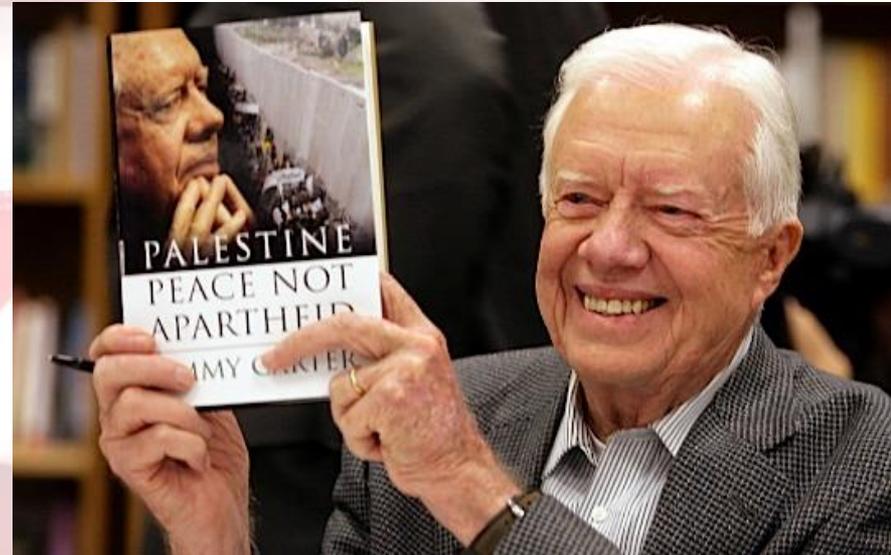
New Hopes, New Fears

Unit 9: Carter to Obama



Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)

- Democrat, 1 term
- Washington “outsider”
 - helped him win election after Johnson and Nixon, but he had trouble with the politics of the job
- Model Ex-President
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Middle East diplomacy



Domestic Events and Policies

- Energy Crisis

- proposals resisted by fuel-producing states and automakers, “Malaise” speech
- National Energy Act: tax on gas-guzzlers, no price controls on domestic fuel, tax credits for alt. energy
- Three Mile Island nuclear reactor
- Middle East conflict > fuel shortage + price hike = even worse inflation
- Automation + high energy costs + increased foreign competition = downsizing

- Affirmative Action

- *University of CA v. Bakke*

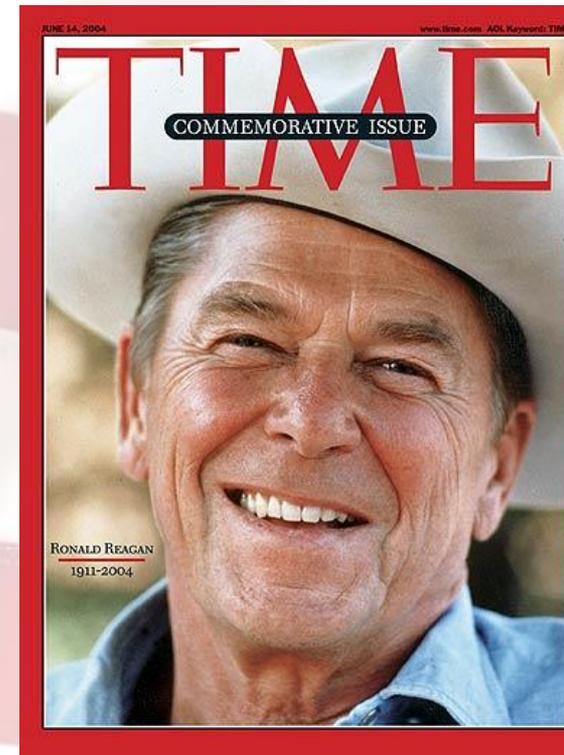
Foreign Events and Policies

- Human Rights
 - use of sanctions
 - Détente suffers: Soviet invasion of Afghanistan – SALT II treaty fails
- Panama Canal treaties improve LA-relations
- Camp David Accords
 - historic, though largely symbolic, negotiation between Israel and Egypt (see p. 1022)
- Iran Hostage Crisis
 - resulted from support of the shah against rebels, allowing him to enter U.S. for cancer treatment
 - didn't release until Reagan sworn in



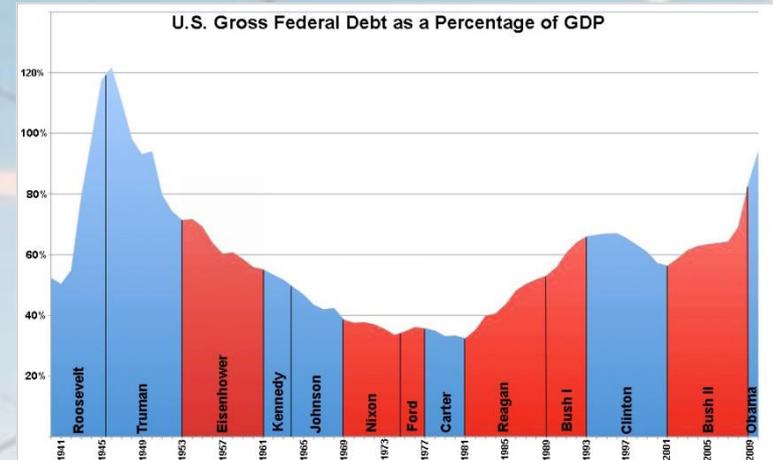
Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)

- Republican, 2 terms
- The Great Communicator
- Conservative
 - Included: religious people, anti-abortion forces, anti-affirmative action, anti-welfare, anti- “big government”
 - Cut gov’t. programs such as: food stamps, welfare, job training, Medicaid, school lunches, student loans
 - Result: smaller gov’t., inner cities suffer
 - Appointed several conservative Supreme Court justices, including Sandra Day O’Connor



Domestic Events and Policies

- Reaganomics
 - Cut taxes 25 percent + Increase military spending
 - Ex: Star Wars – SDI
 - Result: HUGE DEBT
- Deregulation
 - Less regulation + inspections of business
 - “Supply-side” or “Trickle-down” economics
 - Ex: banks, nursing homes, airlines, the environment
 - Result: lower prices, savings and loan crisis
- Social Issues
 - AIDS
 - War on Drugs



Foreign Events and Policies

- Soviet Union
 - Called “evil empire”, “peace through strength”
 - New leader of USSR Gorbachev and Reagan have good relations
 - Policies: perestroika = economic reform and Glastnost = openness, reform led to breakup of USSR
 - “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
 - Chernobyl nuclear disaster
- Panama
 - 20, 000 US troops overthrow drug-trafficking Pres. Manuel Noriega

Foreign Events and Policies

- Nicaragua
 - Supported anti-communist group called contras.
 - Congress bans funding of Contras in Boland Amendment. Reagan admin. secretly sells weapons to Iran to raise \$ to give them.
 - Result: Iran–Contra Scandal, but the “Teflon President” deflects the scandal, Vice Pres. Bush pardons all when he is President.
- Grenada
 - (Island nation near Cuba) – 2,000 US troops to overthrow pro-Castro gov’t.

George Bush (1989-1992)

- Republican, 1 term
- Reagan “lite”
 - Had been his Vice President, continued his policies
- “Read my lips . . . no new taxes”
 - but ended up raising taxes, which hurt his re-election bid



Foreign Events and Policies

- Cold War
 - 1989: Fall of Berlin Wall, Tiananmen Square
 - 1991: Soviet Union dissolves, Commonwealth of Independent States formed. Other countries in the former Soviet bloc make transitions also
 - 1992-1993: Bush and Russian president Boris Yeltsin declare end to Cold War, sign START II to cut nuclear arsenals by 2/3

Foreign Events and Policies

- Operation Desert Storm – “1st Iraq War”
 - Goal: to protect our access to oil in the Persian Gulf
 - Saddam Hussein attacks Kuwait.
 - UN-coalition: forces led by US defeat Iraq in less than 5 days with < 400 casualties.
 - But...Saddam Hussein remains in power. In treaty, promises weapons inspections



Domestic Events and Policies

- Financial Issues
 - Savings and Loan Crisis
 - Issues with deregulation
 - Debt
 - From increased military spending, cutting taxes
 - Had to break campaign promise
 - Recession 1990-92
- Americans with Disabilities Act

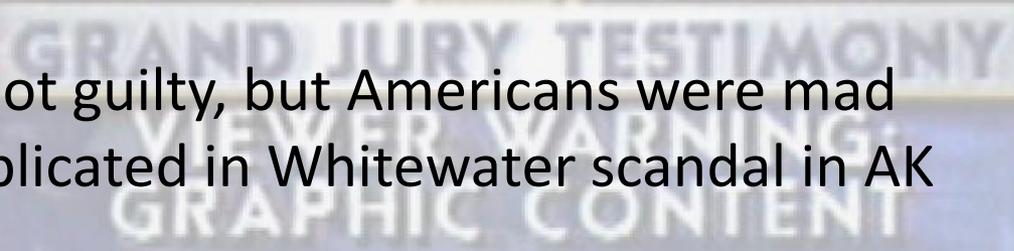
Bill Clinton (1993-2001)

- Democrat, 2 terms
- New Democrat
 - “New”: balance budget, reform welfare, streamline gov’t, supported death penalty
 - “Old”: Universal health care coverage, more student aid, gays in the military



Domestic Events and Policies

- Military and security
 - Don't ask, don't tell
 - Oklahoma City bombings, Unabomber
- Battle with Republican Congress
 - Newt Gingrich – Contract with America
 - Budget showdown > gov't shutdown – Reps. get blame, Clinton re-elected but...
 - Impeachment: Perjury and obstruction of justice during investigations of Monica Lewinsky scandal and Paula Jones lawsuit
 - Found not guilty, but Americans were mad
 - Also implicated in Whitewater scandal in AK



Domestic Events and Policies

- Balancing the Budget
 - Sacrificed programs he wanted to cut spending and balance the budget.
 - Robust economy: (fueled by the “new” internet economy”) kept tax revenues high
 - By 1998 the government had a surplus
 - Worked with Congress to cut welfare rolls by 50% - work requirements, time limits
- Health Care
 - Problems: Insurance companies, drs, health management orgs. couldn't agree
 - Hillary Clinton: put in charge of proposals; not well received by Reps – failed

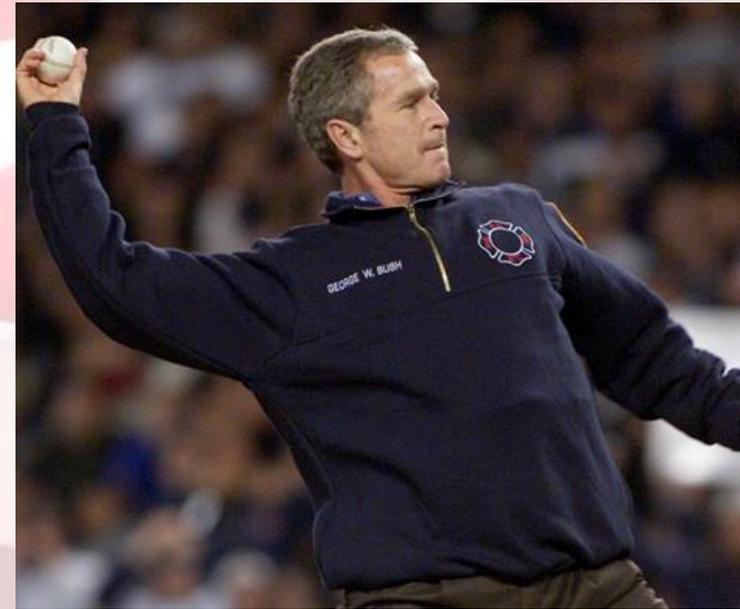
Foreign Events and Policies

- Trade
 - NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) – eliminate trade barriers like tariffs between U.S., Mexico, and Canada
 - Normal trading status extended to China
- Peacekeeping
 - Africa: Rwandan genocide, Black Hawks shot down in Somalia, al-Qaeda bombs U.S. Embassy
 - Former Yugoslavia: U.S. aids NATO mission to protect “safe zones” in Bosnia, UN investigates Milosevic, “ethnic cleansing” in Kosovo
 - Oslo Accords: historic, though largely symbolic, first negotiation between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization



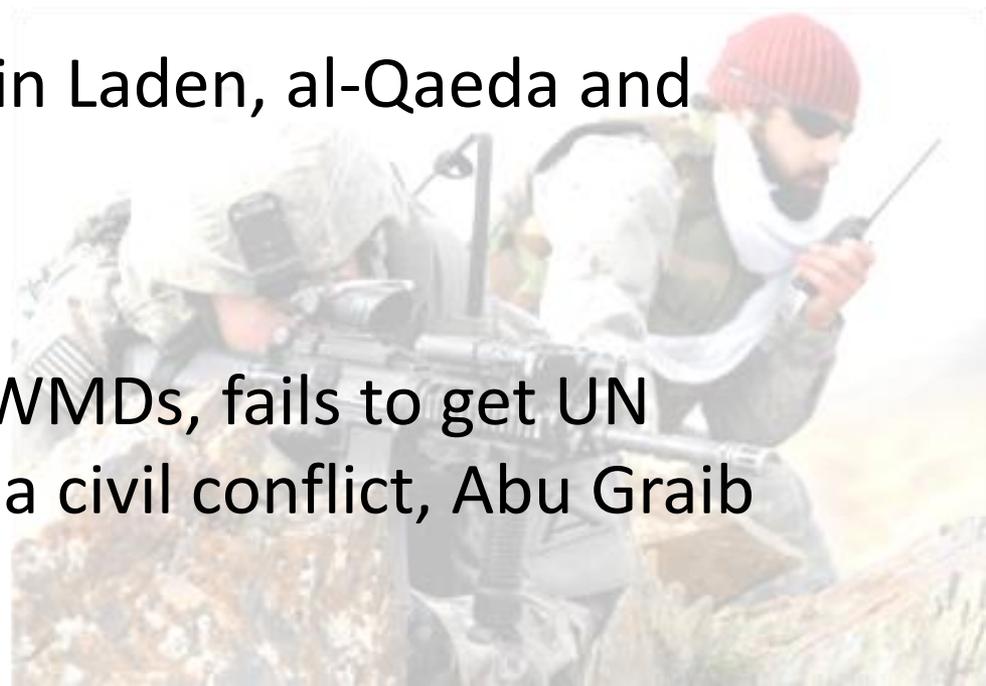
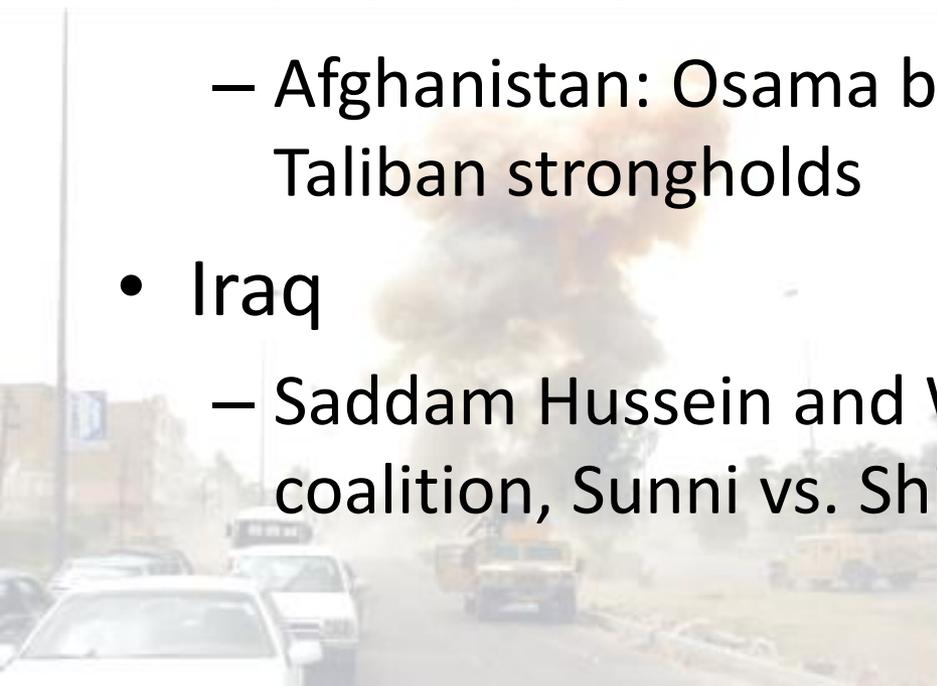
George W. Bush (2001-2009)

- Republican, 2 terms
- Election of 2000
 - Florida – hanging chads, confusing ballots, Governor Jeb Bush
 - *Bush v. Gore*: Five weeks later the Supreme Court stopped the manual recounts



Foreign Events and Policies

- September 11
 - Patriot Act: Gitmo, enhanced interrogation, racial profiling, wiretapping
- War on Terror
 - Afghanistan: Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and Taliban strongholds
- Iraq
 - Saddam Hussein and WMDs, fails to get UN coalition, Sunni vs. Shia civil conflict, Abu Graib



Domestic Events and Policies

- The Great Recession
 - Dotcom and housing bubbles burst
 - Bailouts for banks, industries “too big to fail”
- Budget
 - Tax cuts + 2 wars = huge deficit
 - High spending and regulation efforts alienates more conservative Republicans
- Other Issues
 - Katrina disaster and FEMA
 - Environmentalism – Inconvenient Truth, Kyoto Protocol, “Drill baby drill”
 - No Child Left Behind Act

Barack Obama (2009-2017)

- Democrat, 2 terms
- Election of 2008 – Democratic landslide
- Since then, Republicans have gradually taken back Congress and many states
- International support
 - Nobel Peace Prize for nonproliferation, Arab relations
 - Even now, very popular in many parts of the world (our “slow recovery” has been better than many countries after the recession)



Foreign Events and Policies

- Pulling out of Iraq
 - troops withdrawn, civil conflict
 - ISIS/ISIL dilemma
- More focus on Afghanistan
 - Bin Laden
 - Continuing issue with terrorists
- Diplomacy Issues
 - After “Arab Spring”: unrest, turmoil
 - Israel: strained relationship with Netanyahu
 - Benghazi fallout
 - Post-Cold War relationships: Cuba, Russia, China



Domestic Events and Policies

- From Recession to Slow Recovery
- Affordable Health Care Act: “Obamacare”
- Major platform issues, stay tuned...
 - Gay rights: “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repealed, *Obergefell*
 - GITMO: prisoner transfer, torture report
 - Gun control: NRA, Sandy Hook, San Bernadino, etc.
 - Environment: Clean energy, fracking, Paris talks
- Crisis in Ferguson, Baltimore, etc.
 - Militarization of police (War on drugs, 9/11)
 - Racial issues