

Ronald Reagan

1980-1988



Objectives:

- Explain Pres. Reagan's path to the presidency.
- Identify and describe the main components of Pres. Reagan's domestic policy.
- Identify and describe the main components of Pres. Reagan's foreign policy.

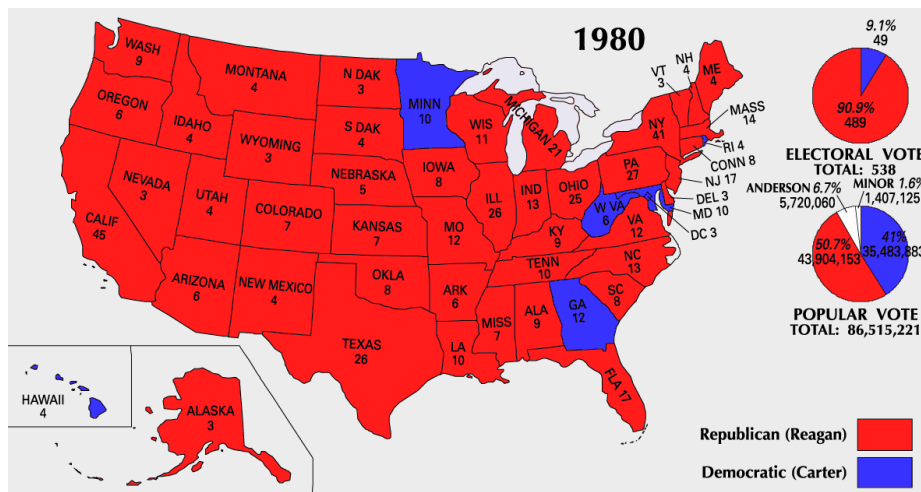
Before the Presidency

- Former Hollywood film actor and former president of the Screen Actors Guild
- Was originally a Democrat, but switched to Republican Party
- VERY patriotic and optimistic
- Nickname: "The Great Communicator"
- Governor of California (1966-1974)
- *New Right*: A political partnership of different conservative groups that were concerned about the size of the government and its role in the economy
 - President Reagan supported shrinking the size of government and increasing U.S. military power



1980 Election

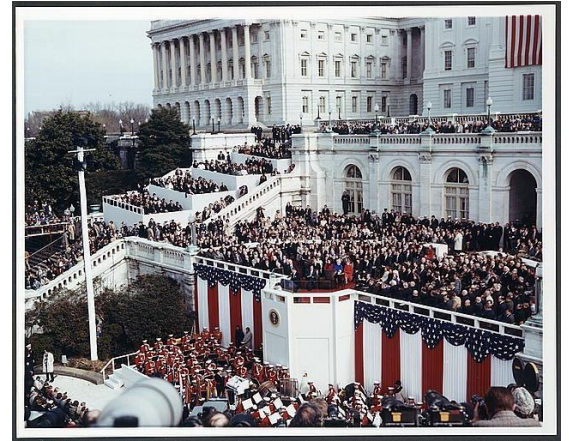
- Defeated the incumbent President Jimmy Carter in the 1980 Presidential election.
"Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?"
- Reagan won in a landslide – beat Carter in 44 states.



President Ronald Reagan

The Main Idea:

“Ronald Reagan worked to boost the nation’s pride and prosperity by cutting taxes, shrinking the federal government, and increasing defense spending.”



“In the days ahead I will propose removing the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between various levels of government. Progress may be slow, measured in inches and feet, not miles, but we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. And these will be our first priorities, and on these principles there will be no compromise.”

- Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address, 1981

Assassination Attempt

- May 30, 1981 – 69 days into Reagan’s presidency
- John Hinckley, Jr. shot President Reagan outside the Washington Hilton Hotel
 - President Reagan was shot in the chest and lower right arm – punctured lung and internal bleeding
- Hinckley, Jr. was found not guilty by reason of insanity – is still in a psychiatric care facility
 - He said he shot President Reagan because he was obsessed with the actress Jodi Foster – wanted to “win her heart” by assassinating the president
- The American public were very concerned – Ronald Reagan was an extremely popular president
 - He made a full recovery, returning to his duties in a few months



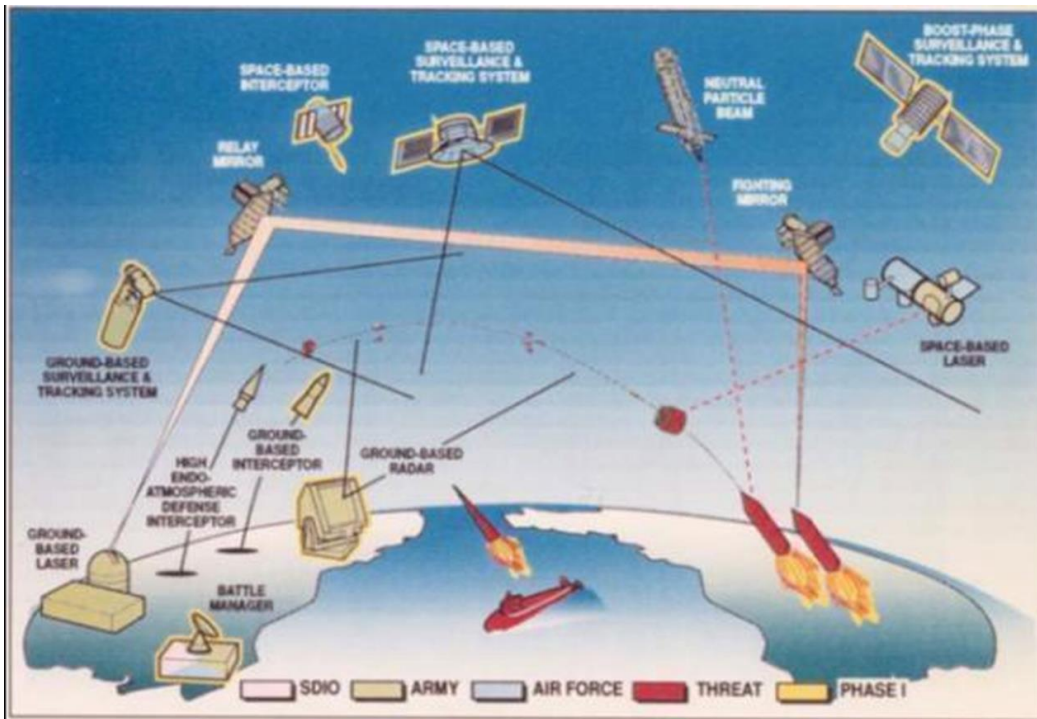
Economics...or “Reaganomics”

- Supply-Side Economics: theory that cutting taxes will increase money spent and expand businesses.
- “Trickle Down Theory”
 1. Cut taxes to spur economic growth.
 2. Control money supply to reduce inflation.
 3. Deregulate the economy – less restrictions on business.
 4. Reduce government spending.



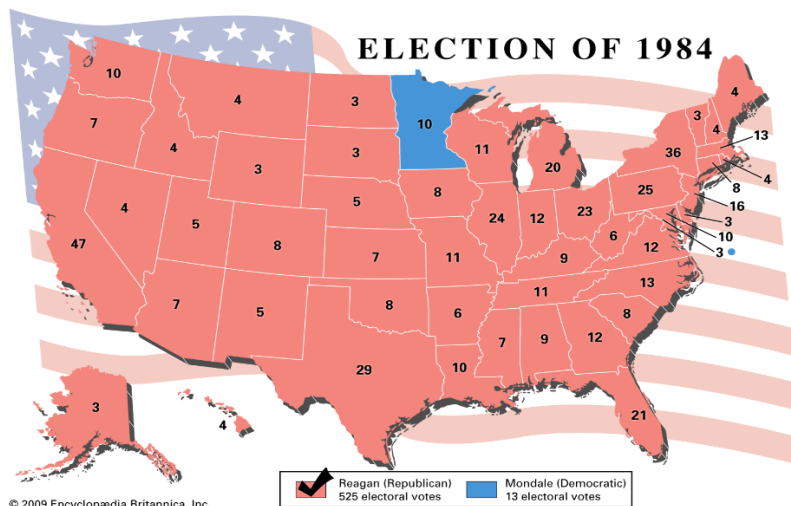
Reagan's Foreign Policy

- Reagan was a "Cold Warrior"
 - He believed in a tough approach toward the Soviet Union – the "Evil Empire"
 - Fiercely anti-communist
 - "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"
- Military build-up
 - Spent \$1.1 trillion on military buildup in 5 years – the cost of fighting the Cold War with USSR
 - New Weapons & New Technology
- 1983 *Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)*: proposal to put a satellite shield in space to intercept missiles from the Soviet Union - "Star Wars"



1984 Election

- "Morning in America" & "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"
- Another landslide victory – defeated Walter Mondale (D) – took 59% of the popular vote and nearly all electoral votes.



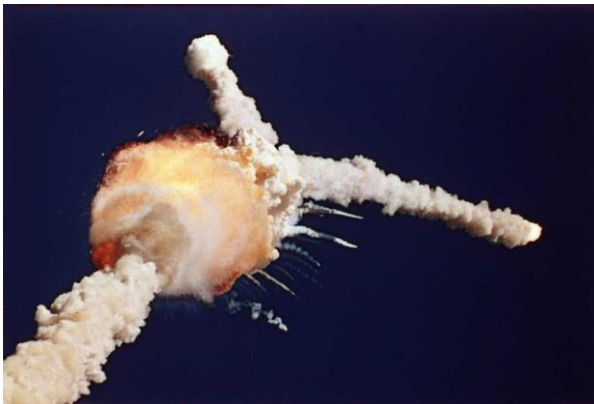
Iran-Contra Affair

- 1984 - Covert military operation –funded anti-Communist rebels in Nicaragua (“Sandinistas”) using money from illegal weapons sales to Iran
 - President Reagan had no knowledge of the scandal – this is due to his “hands off” management style
 - His style of leadership was to delegate
 - Showed EXCELLENT leadership by accepting responsibility for the actions of those he led



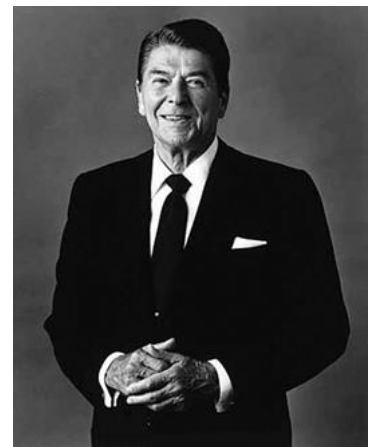
Challenger Disaster

- January 28, 1986
- NASA Space Shuttle Challenger blew apart on takeoff
- 7 astronauts were killed



Reagan's Legacy

- 1989 – left office with 60% approval rating
 - VERY popular president
 - Foreign policy success: given credit as the president who defeated the USSR in the Cold War
 - Led the U.S. to better relations with USSR – glasnost (“political openness”)
- America experienced economic success for most of his presidency
 - Market crash in 1987 – eventually recovered during Bush’s presidency
- His presidency made many Americans feel proud and confident again



George H.W. Bush

1988-1992



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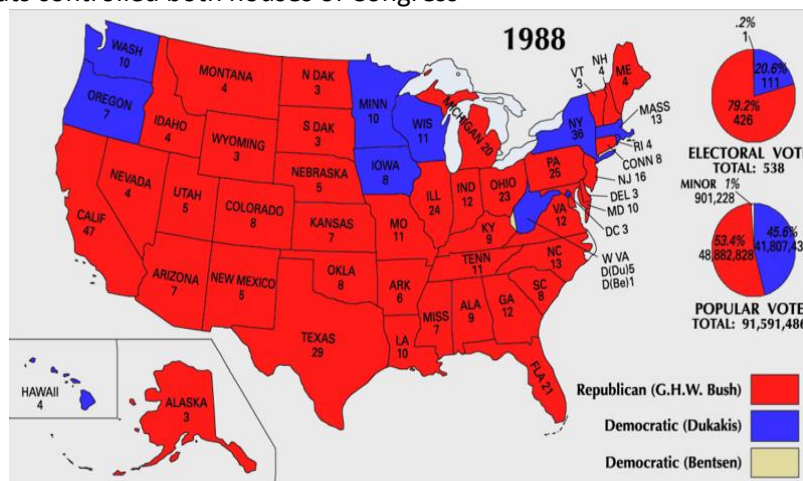
George Bush

- The son of a well-to-do Conn. Senator
- Yale baseball star – 1st baseman
- Served in WWII as a bomber pilot in the Pacific Theater
 - War hero – was earned the Distinguished Flying Cross
- After the war - became a very profitable oil businessman after moving to Texas
- Became involved in politics in 1966:
 - Member of Congress from Texas
 - Ambassador to United Nations under Nixon
 - Chairperson of Republican National Committee
 - American envoy to China under President Ford
 - Head of the CIA until 1977
 - Ronald Reagan's Vice President from 1980-1988



George Bush & the 1988 Election

- Ronald Reagan was enormously popular when he left office in 1989
- George Bush was Reagan's Vice-President
 - Ran against Democratic opponent Michael Dukakis (former Governor of Mass.)
- Won with 54% of popular vote and won 40 states in the Electoral College
- Bush tried to continue the policies of Ronald Reagan
 - Hard for Bush to measure up to Reagan's popularity or charismatic appeal
 - "No new taxes"
 - Democrats controlled both houses of Congress



Cold War Ends

- President Bush's major triumphs came in foreign policy
 - Soviet Union dissolved slowly 1989-1991 under Gorbachev's leadership
 - Berlin Wall falls in the summer of 1989 – Germany reunified
 - Poland revolts against USSR – holds free elections in June, 1989
 - December 25, 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as leader of the Soviet Union

"The Cold War is now behind us. Let us not wrangle over who won it."

- Mikhail Gorbachev, 1991

- June 4, 1989 – Tiananmen Square – Chinese students marched for democracy and reform
 - Hundreds (maybe thousands) of protestors died
- December 1989 – U.S. invaded Panama
 - Panama's dictator Manuel Noriega was smuggling cocaine – surrendered in days
 - Noriega was found guilty in federal court

Iraq Invades Kuwait

- Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, invaded Kuwait – August, 1990.
 - Justified his actions by saying they had territorial claims of the country
 - He really just wanted access to the oil fields in Kuwait
- President Bush was concerned for multiple reasons:
 1. Access to Kuwait's oil that the US relied on
 2. The security of Saudi Arabia (one of our allies) and neighbor of Kuwait
 3. Saddam Hussein's amount of destructive weapons



"There is much in the modern world that is subject to doubts or questions – washed in shades of gray. But not the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein against a peaceful, sovereign nation and its people. It's black and white. The facts are clear. The choice is unambiguous – right versus wrong."

- President George Bush, 1990





Persian Gulf War

- U.S. worked through the United Nations – mobilized an alliance of 28 countries to launch the Persian Gulf War
- “Operation Desert Storm” – a series of massive airstrikes on January 16-17, 1991
 - Kuwait was liberated in only 6 weeks of war
 - Less than 300 US casualties
 - Tens of thousands of Iraqi troops died
- Bush did not send troops to Iraq to get rid of Saddam Hussein, hoping that his opponents would overthrow him
 - Saddam Hussein remained in power



Domestic Issues

- President Bush had an 89% approval rating during the Persian Gulf War
- However, many Americans began to believe Bush didn't have a plan to handle domestic issues
- 1991 - nominated Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court – many people disagreed with this
- Economy:
 - Budget deficits grew – Bush wanted to slow spending in social programs (welfare)
 - Agreed to raise taxes – this broke Bush's promise “no new taxes” – people were UPSET!
 - Gas prices rose due to Persian Gulf War
 - Cold War was over – no more need for military manufacturing – downsizing
 - Unemployment rate rose to over 7%



Bill Clinton

1992-2000



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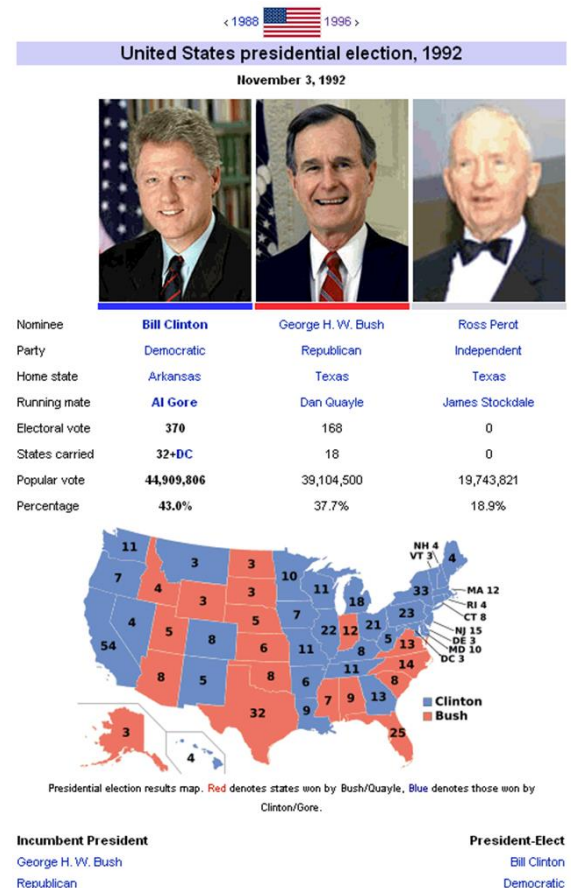
William Jefferson Clinton

- Born (August 19, 1946) and raised in Arkansas
- Never met his dad – died in a car accident 3 months before he was born
- Met JFK in 1963 when he visited the White House a member of Boys Nation
- Attended Georgetown University (Rhodes Scholar to Oxford University)
 - Law degree from Yale
- Married to Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Very good tenor saxophone player
- Served as Governor of Arkansas from 1979 to 1981 and 1983 to 1992
 - Was the Arkansas state Attorney General from 1977 to 1979
- Was a moderate Democrat



1992 Election

- 1992 election was a 3-way race:
 - President George Bush (Republican)
 - Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton (Democrat)
 - Billionaire businessman H. Ross Perot (Independent)
- Bill Clinton promised to:
 - End the recession
 - Deal with the nation's other economic issues
 - Address the federal budget deficit
 - Address problems in the health care system
- Bill Clinton believed that *"government was necessary to make America work again."*
- Clinton was criticized by many: he would say whatever was necessary – regardless of the truth – to win the election



Trying to fix the economy

- Bill Clinton tried to follow a “middle course”
 - Raise spending and cut taxes?
 - End the recession
 - Or cut spending and raise taxes?
 - Reduce budget deficit
- Decided to reduce budget deficit – spending cuts and tax increases
 - American public was not thrilled by his decision
- Healthcare
 - When Clinton took office, 37 million Americans had no health insurance
 - Bill Clinton: *“This healthcare system of ours is badly broken, and it is time to fix it.”*
 - Government-supervised health insurance program – guaranteed affordable health coverage for every American
 - failed to gain support – never passed Congress



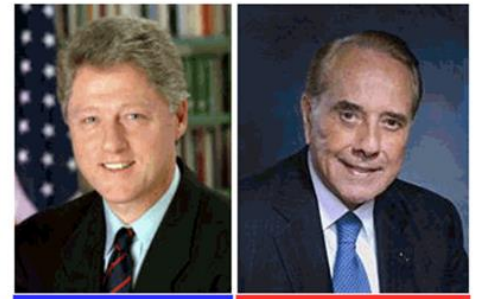
1996 Election

- Bill Clinton worked hard to show that he was not a “tax-and-spend liberal”
- Republicans nominate Senator Bob Dole
 - Senate Majority Leader – respected member of Congress for 35 years
- The economy was strong – worked in Clinton’s favor.
- Bill Clinton received 49% of the vote, Bob Dole received 41% of the vote – H. Ross Perot also ran again (Reform Party) and got 8% of the vote
- Clinton gained 379 electoral votes, Dole had 159.
- Previous scandals almost took him down:
 - Whitewater Affair
 - Campaign donations?

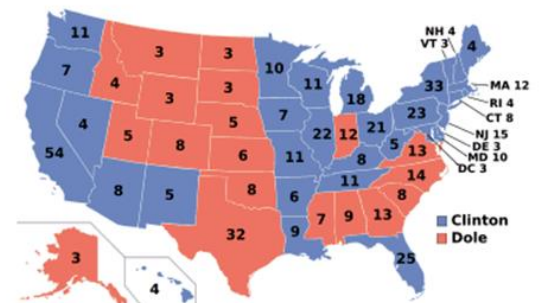
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United States presidential election, 1996

November 5, 1996



Nominee	Bill Clinton	Bob Dole
Party	Democratic	Republican
Home state	Arkansas	Kansas
Running mate	Al Gore	Jack Kemp
Electoral vote	379	159
States carried	31+DC	19
Popular vote	47,402,357	39,198,755
Percentage	49.24%	40.71%



Presidential election results map. Red denotes states won by Dole/Kemp, Blue denotes those won by Clinton/Gore.

Incumbent President

Bill Clinton
Democratic

President-Elect

Bill Clinton
Democratic

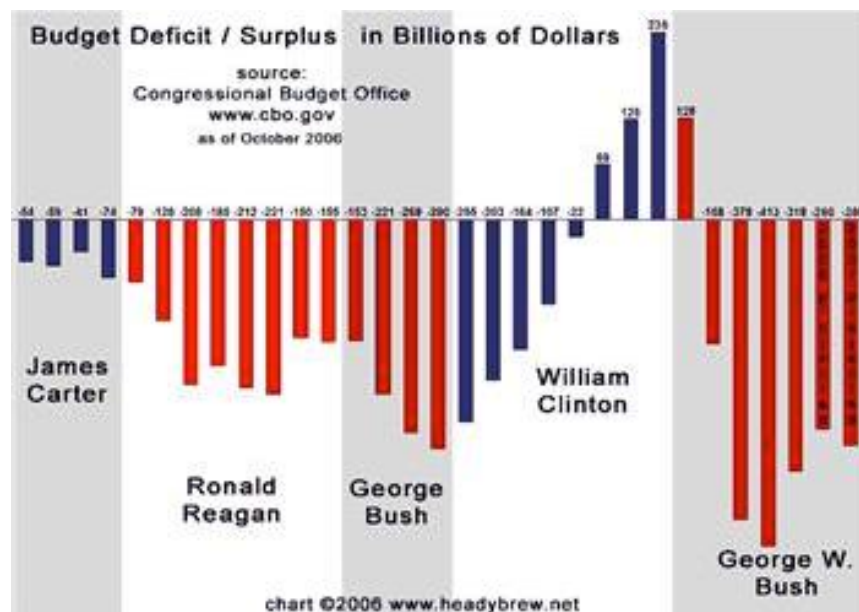
Lewinsky Scandal

- Bill Clinton had many previous scandals regarding affairs with women – character issues?
- Monica Lewinsky tells of a sexual relationship she had with President Clinton
- Massive investigation ensues
- Clinton denies any sexual relationship with her.
 - Admits to having an “inappropriate relationship”
 - Admits to having “misled” his family and country
- House of Representatives vote to impeach Clinton (Dec 19, 1998)
 - Perjury and Obstruction of Justice: “high crimes and misdemeanors?”
- Many Americans were deeply upset – a President with character issues?
 - Many other Americans believed he was doing a good job as President
- Senate voted to not impeach Clinton (Feb 12, 1999)



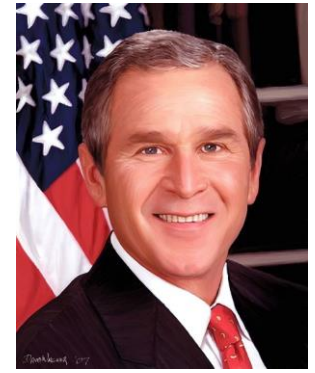
Clinton’s Legacy

- The biggest and longest economic growth in American history
 - 1998 – the government had achieved its first budget surplus since 1969
 - Low levels of unemployment
 - Low levels of inflation (lowest in 30 years)
 - Achieved a balance surplus
 - Reduced welfare rolls
- World Leader
 - Bombed Iraq when Saddam Hussein stopped UN forces
 - Campaigned against drug trafficking
- Trust?
 - Lied about an affair under oath? Perjury?
 - Major character issues – As President, how important is integrity?
 - Scandals!
- Hillary 2016?



George W. Bush

2000-2008

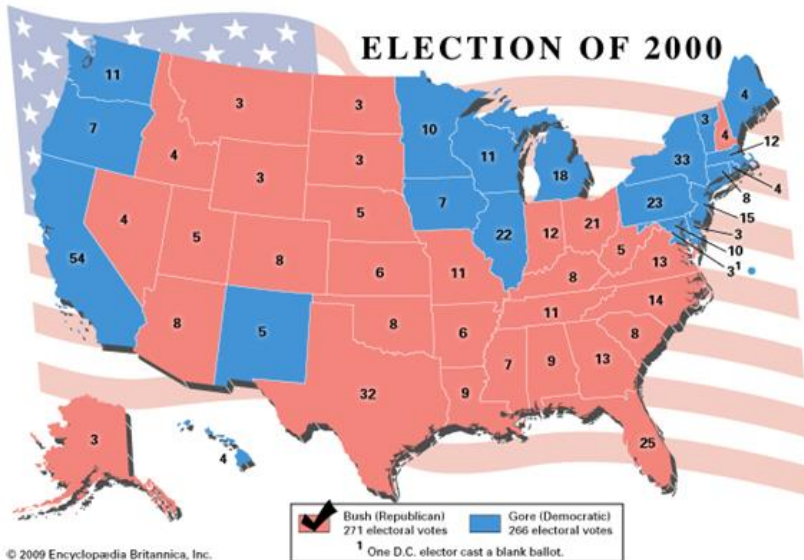


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2000 Election

- Texas Governor George W. Bush ran against Al Gore (Clinton's Vice President)
- Florida had to recount their votes
- Bush did not win with popular vote, but won in Electoral College



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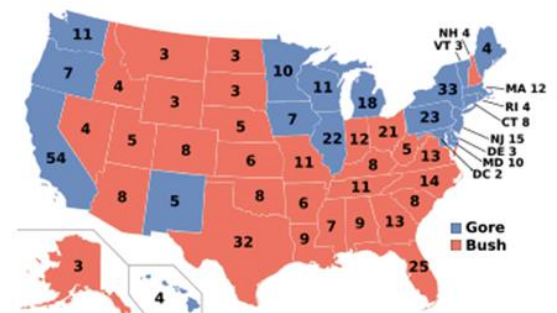
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United States presidential election, 2000

November 7, 2000



	George W. Bush	Al Gore
Nominee	Republican	Democratic
Party	Texas	Tennessee
Home state	Dick Cheney	Joe Lieberman
Running mate	271	266
Electoral vote	30	20+DC
States carried	50,456,002	50,999,897
Popular vote	47.9%	48.4%
Percentage		



Presidential election results map. Red denotes states won by Bush/Cheney(30). Blue denotes those won by Gore/Lieberman(20+DC).

Incumbent President

Bill Clinton
Democratic

President-Elect

George W. Bush
Republican

Domestic Policies

- No Child Left Behind-set new standards for schools and based federal aid for schools on achievement gains
- Cut taxes for federal tax payers to help end the recession
- Created Department of Homeland Security in response to 9/11 attacks



September 11, 2001

- Four planes were hijacked by al-Qaeda terrorists
 - 2 were flown in to the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in NYC
 - 1 crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, VA
 - 1 crashed into a field in PA after the passengers and crew tried to regain control
- About 3,000 people died
- Largest act of terrorism on American soil



The War on Terror

- Goals of the war: Find and defeat terrorists and their organizations and defend US citizens at home and abroad
 - Specifically al-Qaeda and the Taliban
- Invaded Afghanistan and Iraq to get rid of terrorists and help restructure their government

