



UNIT 9 NOTES

1980- PRESENT



George

A RAPIDLY CHANGING U.S. GOVERNMENT

- The Reagan Revolution
- Taxes took less of people's incomes, the federal debt ballooned, and a 50-year period in which labor unions could rely on a friendly government came to an end.
- The Cold War ended



RONALD REAGAN AND THE REAGAN COALITION

- Former actor
- President Screen Actors Guild
- Once a New Deal Democrat, he became a Republican, represented the “New Right”
- Governor of California



REAGANOMICS — SUPPLY-SIDE TAX CUTS, MILITARY GROWTH, AND ELECTORAL POLITICS

- By the 1980s, the public had grown tired of the New Deal and Great Society and were ready to slash bills
- Cut taxes 25% over three years
- Many social programs cut
- Increasing disparity between rich and poor
- Emergence of “yuppies”



EXPANDING THE COLD WAR — FROM STAR WARS TO IRAN CONTRA

- Reagan brought a new tactic - a massive arms race to outspend the Soviets
- The U.S. could afford it, the Soviets could not
- Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) - “Star Wars”
- Advocated winning a nuclear war
- “Evil Empire” speech



THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST



ENDING THE COLD WAR

- 1985 - Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the reform-minded leader of the Soviet Union
- Glasnost, or “openness,” which aimed to introduce free speech and political liberty to the Soviet Union
- Perestroika, or “restructuring,” which meant that the Soviets would adopt free-market economies similar to those in the West



THE STRAINED ELECTION OF 1988

- George H.W. Bush – Reagan's vice president, was the Republican nominee
- Michael Dukakis – Democratic nominee
- Bush wins



THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

- One of the striking features of the economy of the 1980s was the extraordinary fortunes made by a few individuals.
- Insider trading
- October 1987 – “Black Monday”



CHANGES IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

- Live Aid concerts
- Raised \$80 million for Africa
- International connections



POPULAR CULTURE — MUSIC, TELEVISION, THEATER

- Popularity of American music and musicians such as Bruce Springsteen
- 1980s – one of the most successful decades for movies
- Most successful TV show – “Bill Cosby Show”



CULTURE WARS — THE CHRISTIAN COALITION AND OTHER CRITICS

- The Religious Right was made up of people who were increasingly angry at many of the cultural trends of the 1980s and 1990s.
- Pat Robertson
- Ralph Reed
- Americans were becoming individualistic and consumption-oriented and were losing their ability to work together.



NEW IMMIGRANTS, NEW DIVERSITIES

- Immigration increased
- After 1980, most new immigrants came from Latin America and Asia
- Immigrants moved to every part of the United States
- Debates about immigration became intense



AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE 1980S — CASINOS AND REBIRTH

- Gambling transformed many American Indian communities in the 1980s
- Gambling brought prosperity to many tribes
- The new wealth allowed tribes to design their own museums, support retention of tribal languages, and maintain aspects of their culture.



AIDS AND THE GAY COMMUNITY

- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- As HIV-AIDS spread—the CDC confirmed 98,835 cases by 1988—the famous and the unknown were afflicted.
- Gay activists became increasingly militant
- Eventually in 1992, Congress appropriated approximately \$2 billion for AIDS research



THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, 1989-1993

- Bush well prepared
- Knew the key players
- Less prepared to deal with domestic issues



FOREIGN POLICY BETWEEN 1989 AND 1993

- Fall of the Soviet Union (December 25, 1991)
- Resulted in the end of the Cold War
- 1989 - Tiananmen Square
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- Operation Desert Storm
- NAFTA



EUROPE AFTER COMMUNISM

MAP 29-1, Europe After Communism



EDUCATION, LEGISLATION, AND THE SUPREME COURT

- Clean Air Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court



RACE: FROM RODNEY KING TO O.J. SIMPSON

- Rodney King
- Los Angeles Riots
- October 1995 – O.J. Simpson acquitted of murder charges



ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND THE ELECTION OF 1992

- Bush's greatest political failure was his inability to manage the U.S. economy
- Despite pledge, Bush raised taxes
- 1992 – 3-way race: Bush, Clinton, and Perot
- Clinton wins



THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY

- Clinton came in with high hopes
- First baby boomer president
- Clinton did cut the federal deficit, dramatically
- Success on other fronts, however, was more elusive



THE EARLY CLINTON AGENDA: IT'S STILL—MOSTLY—THE ECONOMY

- First Lady, Hillary Clinton, was charged with redesigning the nation's health care policy
- It failed
- David Koresh, Waco, Texas
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Balance the federal budget and lower the federal debt



“THE ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER”

- After several months of budget battles, Congress passed a budget that included cuts in social programs
- Clinton vetoed the budget
- Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act



SMALL WARS AND DANGEROUS TERRORISTS — CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY

- Somalia
- Haiti
- Yugoslavia fell apart
- Clinton ordered the bombing of Serbian positions
- Dayton Peace Accords



YUGOSLAVIA COMES APART



TERRORISM AT HOME

- April 19, 1995 – Oklahoma City blast
- Columbine, Colorado
- Terrorists bombed the World Trade Center in 1993
- Terrorists were trained by al-Qaeda, their leader was a rich Saudi, Osama bin Laden



SCANDAL AND IMPEACHMENT

- The president of the United States had been involved in an affair with a young White House intern and had lied about it to his wife, to his administration, to the press, and under oath.
- Led to impeachment charges
- Clinton survives impeachment



THE PROSPEROUS 1990S

- Although an economic downturn brought Clinton to office, an economic upsurge kept him there.

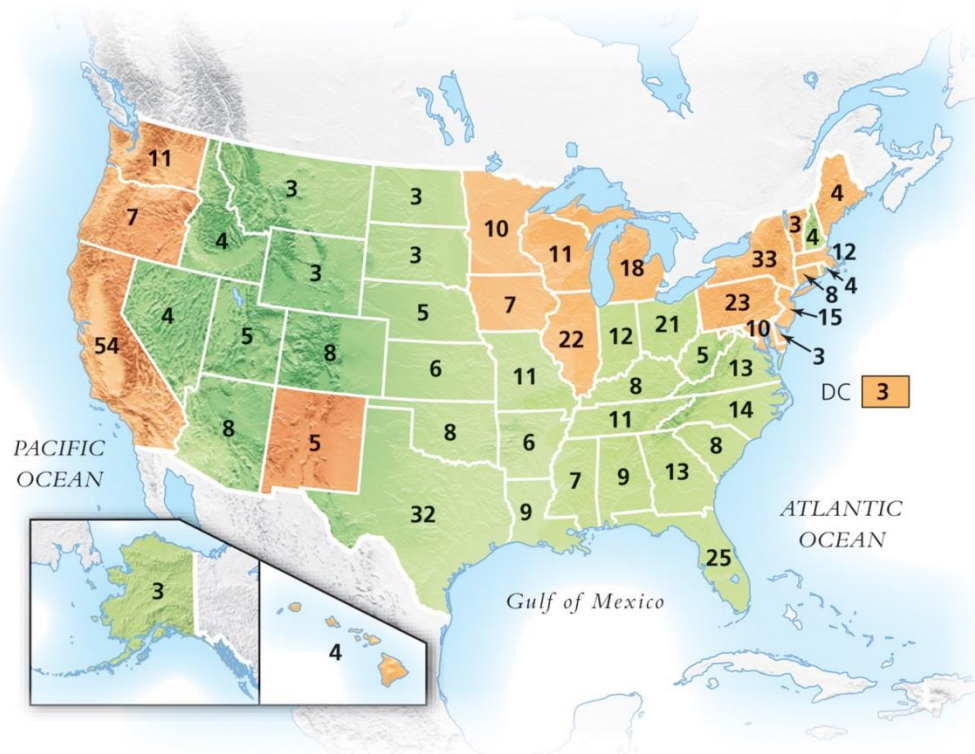


BUSH V. GORE — THE ELECTION AND THE COURT CASE OF 2000

- Vote came down to one state – Florida
- Recounts
- Supreme Court orders an end to the recounts
- Bush elected, despite losing the popular vote



THE ELECTION OF 2000



	Electoral Vote (%)	Popular Vote (%)
GEORGE W. BUSH (Republican)	271 (50.5)	50,456,169 (48.0)
Al Gore (Democrat)	266 (49.5)	50,996,116 (48.0)



TECHNOLOGY DOMINATES AN ERA

- Americans were transforming the world in a very different way
- In the 1990s, computer use and technological innovation became widespread in the United States



THE BIRTH OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Desktop computers
- IBM
- Apple
- Steve Jobs
- Microsoft
- Bill Gates



THE Y2K SCARE OF JANUARY 1, 2000

- The Y2K problem was relatively simple
- Two digit codes were used for years
- Worried they would reset to “00” in 2000
- Very few problems actually occurred



A CONNECTED NATION

- Internet
- World Wide Web (WWW)
- E-mail



THE DOT.COM BUBBLE AND ITS EVENTUAL BURST

- Just as the world of electronic communications was being born in the 1990s, many people decided that the key to making a fortune was investing in the enterprise.
- In 2000, stocks in high technology companies fell dramatically.



GOOGLE BECOMES A VERB

- Started in 1998, Google quickly became the leading search engine for the Internet.
- By 2001, they had scanned or indexed 80 percent of the webpages in existence.



THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY — WINNERS, LOSERS, AND CHANGE AGENTS

- Sony Walkman
- Napster and music sharing
- Newspapers
- Loss of privacy



THE IMPACT OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

- Nearly 3,000 people died—246 passengers on the planes; 2,600 at the World Trade Center
- 125 people at the Pentagon
- The fear, loss, anger, and fortitude generated from that day would shape a new reality for the nation



FINDING THE TERRORISTS — AL-QAEDA, THE TALIBAN, AFGHANISTAN

- Evidence pointed to an attack by al-Qaeda, ordered by its leader Osama bin Laden
- Prepared for an attack on Afghanistan, whose Taliban government was protecting bin Laden and al-Qaeda



THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA

- No Child Left Behind
- Tax cuts
- “Faith-based initiatives”
- Reform Social Security



THE WAR ON TERROR AT HOME

- USA PATRIOT Act
- The act expanded authority of the Department of Justice to search telephone, e-mail, medical, financial, and library records without a court order
- It also gave the Treasury the right to monitor financial records and bank transactions



THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

- After considerable debate, Congress voted to authorize the use of military force in Iraq.
- After the air attack, ground forces moved across the country
- Baghdad fell to U.S.-led troops and U.S. tanks roared into the capital city



AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ



HURRICANE KATRINA AND ITS AFTERMATH

- Early Monday morning August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, one of the most powerful and deadly hurricanes in American history, hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.
- The result was days of anguish for many, over 1,800 deaths, and more than \$75 billion in damage.



THE FAILURE TO PREPARE

- New Orleans vulnerable to storms coming from the Gulf of Mexico
- As Hurricane Katrina began to strengthen in late August 2005, more immediate failures added dangerously to the already vulnerable area.



THE STORM

- The hurricane's winds splintered buildings, toppled power lines, collapsed highway bridges, tore off part of the roof of the New Orleans Superdome, and stirred up waves on Lake Pontchartrain that weakened the levees.
- The weakened levees failed and a wall of water poured into neighborhoods.



THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008

- Housing bubble collapsed
- Jobs were lost
- Unemployment rates stayed high
- Economy seemed not to recover



NEW LIBERALS, NEW CONSERVATIVES

- Barack Obama
- Elected as a U.S. Senator from Illinois, just as George W. Bush won a second term in 2004



THE UNPRECEDENTED ELECTION OF 2008

- Obama wanted a digital campaign
- Vietnam vet and Arizona Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee
- The September financial crisis played to Obama's strengths
- First African-American president



OBAMA'S AGENDA — STIMULUS AND A HEALTH PLAN

- Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Health care reform
- “Obamacare”



THE RISE OF THE TEA PARTY, OCCUPY WALL STREET, AND DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

- Tea Party – a protest group that objected to the rising federal debt, Obamacare, and most government regulation
- Occupy Wall Street - “We are the 99%”
- Occupy was a response to the financial crisis and the growing gap between rich and poor in the country.



THE ELECTION OF 2012

- As President Obama and the Democrats looked to the 2012 election, they did so with considerable optimism.
- Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee
- Obama won reelection
- Congress remained divided



THE ELECTION OF 2012

