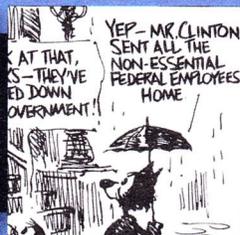


There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Hillary Clinton
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Newt Gingrich
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- ✓ IMAGE Chief Justice Rehnquist
- ✓ IMAGE Soldiers and Serbians
- ✓ VIDEO The Clinton Years
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ



LESSON 1

The Clinton Years

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • How have improvements in science and technology helped change society? • How have immigration, technology, and global trade changed the world?

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- modify
- unprecedented
- participant

Content Vocabulary

- perjury
- ethnic cleansing

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Outlining As you read about the administration of President Clinton, use the headings of the section to create an outline similar to the one below.

The Clinton Years

- I. Clinton's Agenda
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- II.

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

When William Jefferson Clinton was elected in 1992, he became the first Democrat to win the presidency in 12 years. After achieving only part of his agenda, he faced a Republican Congress that had very different plans.

Clinton's Agenda

GUIDING QUESTION During his first presidential term, what domestic policy areas did Clinton focus on?

Just 46 years old when he took office, Bill Clinton was the first baby boomer to reach the Oval Office. He set out an ambitious domestic agenda focusing on the economy, the family, education, crime, and health care.

Raising Taxes, Cutting Spending

Clinton first focused on the economy. He saw the massive federal deficit as the main source of the economy's weakness. It forced the government to borrow heavily, which helped drive up interest rates. Clinton believed that lowering interest rates would enable businesses and consumers to borrow more money for business investment and increased consumer purchasing, which would then promote growth.

About half of all government spending went to entitlement programs—such as Social Security and veterans' benefits—that could not easily be cut because so many people relied on them. Facing these constraints, Clinton's 1993 plan for reducing the deficit proposed raising taxes on middle and upper incomes and placing new taxes on gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas. Congressional Republicans refused to support the unpopular tax increases. Clinton pressured Democrats, however, and after many amendments, a **modified** version of the plan narrowly passed.

Stumbling on Health Care

During his campaign, Clinton had promised to reform the health care system. Some 40 million Americans, or roughly 15 percent of the nation, did not have health insurance. The president created a

task force and appointed his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to head it—an **unprecedented** role for a First Lady. The task force developed a plan that put much of the burden of paying for the benefits on employers. Small business owners feared they could not afford it. The insurance industry and doctors' organizations mounted a nationwide advertising campaign to build public opposition to the plan. Republican opposition and a divided Democratic Party led to the death of the plan without a vote.

Families and Education

During his campaign, Clinton had stressed the need to help American families. His first success was the Family Medical Leave Act. This law gave workers up to 12 weeks per year of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child or for the illness of a family member. He also persuaded Congress to create the AmeriCorps program. This program puts students to work improving low-income housing, teaching children to read, and cleaning up the environment. AmeriCorps incorporated the VISTA program that John F. Kennedy had created. AmeriCorps volunteers earn a salary and are awarded a scholarship to continue their education. In September 1994, some 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers began serving in more than 1,000 communities.

Crime and Gun Control

Clinton strongly endorsed new gun-control laws. Despite opposition from many Republicans and the National Rifle Association (NRA), Congress passed a gun-control law known as the Brady Bill. This law established a waiting period and required a criminal background check before selling someone a handgun. The following year, Clinton introduced another bill to fund new prisons and add 100,000 more police officers. It also banned 19 kinds of assault weapons and funded crime prevention programs.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Summarizing How did Clinton help stimulate the economy and handle the massive federal deficit?

Republicans Gain Control of Congress

GUIDING QUESTION *How did the Republican Party respond to the victory in the 1994 midterm elections?*

Clinton's popularity was low by late 1994. He had raised taxes and failed to fix health care. The economy was improving, but many companies were still downsizing. Personal issues involving Clinton further weakened public confidence in him. In response, many Americans decided to vote Republican.

The Contract With America

In the 1994 midterm elections, congressional Republicans, led by Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia, proposed the "Contract with America." This program proposed changes including lower taxes, welfare reform, tougher anticrime laws, and a balanced budget amendment. Republicans won a majority in both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years. House Republicans quickly passed almost the entire program, but the Senate defeated several proposals, and the president vetoed others.

The Budget Battle

In 1995 Republicans and Clinton clashed over the new federal budget. Clinton vetoed several Republican budget proposals, saying they cut into social programs too much. Gingrich believed if Republicans stood firm, Clinton would approve the budget rather than let the government shut down for lack of funds. Clinton, however, allowed the federal government to close.

modify to make changes or alter

unprecedented having no earlier occurrence of something similar



President Clinton explains the proposed Health Security card in a speech to Congress in October 1993.

CRITICAL THINKING

Determining Cause and Effect What factors contributed to the failure of Clinton's health care plan?

By standing firm, Clinton regained much of the support he had lost. Congressional Republicans realized that they needed to work with the president to pass legislation. Soon afterward, they reached an agreement with Clinton to balance the budget. The next year, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability Act to improve health coverage for people who changed jobs and to reduce discrimination against those with pre-existing illnesses. Congress also passed the Welfare Reform Act, which limited people to no more than two consecutive years on welfare and required them to work to receive benefits. The law also increased child-care spending and gave tax breaks to companies hiring new employees who had been on welfare.

Clinton Wins Reelection

The economic boom of the 1990s was the longest sustained peacetime expansion in American history, and Clinton took credit for it. Inflation and unemployment fell to their lowest levels in 40 years. A booming economy helped Clinton's popularity climb rapidly.

In April 1995, however, an act of domestic terrorism shocked the nation. Timothy McVeigh, formerly a soldier in the U.S. Army, planted a massive homemade bomb in a rental truck near a federal building in Oklahoma City. The explosion killed 168 people and injured more than 500 others. As a result, American officials began investigating right-wing militant groups who shared views like McVeigh's, and membership in those groups declined.

PHOTOS: (l) Terry Asher/Time-Life Pictures/Getty Images, (r) Georgia General Assembly

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES



Is a Balanced Budget Amendment a Good Idea?

One of the ideas that congressional Republicans put forth in the "Contract with America" was a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Would such an amendment force Congress to be more responsible in how it spends the taxpayers' money? Or would it dangerously limit Congress's ability to respond to economic and national security emergencies?

YES

“While Congress could achieve a balanced budget by statute, past efforts . . . have failed. It is simply too easy for Congress to change its mind. . . . The constitutional amendment is unyielding in its imposition of discipline on Congress to make the tough decisions necessary to balance the federal budget. Over the past half-century, Congress has demonstrated a total lack of fiscal discipline evidenced by an irrational and irresponsible pattern of spending. This reckless approach has seriously jeopardized the Federal government and threatens the very future of this Nation. As a result, I believe we must look to constitutional protection from a firmly entrenched fiscal policy which threatens the liberties and opportunities of our present and future citizens.”

—statement to the Judiciary Committee, February 16, 1994



Strom Thurmond
U.S. Senator

NO

“And I thought the amendment simply a political ploy to erroneously make Americans think we were actually doing something about the deficit. In fact, we knew how to truly balance the budget but lacked the political courage to do so. Instead, this amendment had a hidden escape valve, saying we could all ignore it with a three-fifth Congressional vote. And . . . this [amendment] could have taken up to seven years to be adopted. We didn't have that long. . . . I wanted a balanced budget with all these kinks worked out. I've been quoted as saying, 'I pray for the integrity, justice, and courage to vote the correct vote, not the political vote,' and this was no time for change.”



Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senator

—from *Against the Grain: Reflections of a Rebel Republican*, 2001

DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents

- Analyzing Primary Sources** How might an “irresponsible pattern of spending” by Congress threaten the nation's future?
- Drawing Conclusions** Which argument do you find more convincing? Why?



In 1995 a clash between congressional Republicans and President Clinton over the federal budget led to a shutdown of the federal government.

- 1 Identifying Central Ideas** Why do you think the cartoonist says that both Clinton and Gingrich might be non-essential federal employees?
- 2 Making Inferences** What is the significance of depicting rain and puddles in the cartoon?

In 1996 Republicans nominated Senator Bob Dole to run against Clinton. H. Ross Perot also ran against Clinton. Despite two opponents, Clinton won reelection with more than 49 percent of the popular vote and 379 electoral votes. Republicans, however, retained control of Congress.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Drawing Conclusions What were the political consequences of the budget battle?

Clinton's Second Term

GUIDING QUESTION Why was President Clinton's domestic agenda less aggressive during his second term?

During Clinton's second term, the economy continued to expand. In 1997 he submitted a balanced budget to Congress. In 1998 the government began to run a surplus—that is, it collected more money than it spent. Despite these achievements, Clinton devoted much of his second term to foreign policy and struggling against personal scandal.

Putting Children First

One area of domestic policy Clinton did focus on during his second term was helping the nation's children. He asked Congress for a \$500 per child tax credit. He also signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act and asked Congress to ban cigarette advertising aimed at children. In August 1997, Clinton signed the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide health insurance for children whose parents could not afford it.

Clinton also focused on students. "I came from a family where nobody had ever gone to college before. . . . When I became President, I was determined to do what I could to give every student that chance. I am well aware, if it hadn't been for that chance . . . I wouldn't be standing here today," he told graduating college students. Clinton asked for a tax credit, a large increase in student grants, and expansion of Head Start for disadvantaged preschoolers.

Clinton Is Impeached

Clinton's popularity soon faltered, however. During his first term, he was accused of arranging illegal loans for Whitewater Development, an Arkansas real estate company, as governor of that state. Attorney General Janet Reno called for an independent counsel to investigate. A three-judge panel appointed former federal judge Kenneth Starr to this role.

Thinking Like a HISTORIAN

Comparing and Contrasting

Bill Clinton became only the second American president to be impeached. The first was Andrew Johnson, the Reconstruction-era president who succeeded Abraham Lincoln. In both cases, political opposition to the president by Congress played a role in bringing the Chief Executive to trial. Unlike Clinton's case, however, Johnson's crisis stemmed from a political, rather than personal, scandal: he fired the secretary of war without Senate approval, a violation of the Tenure of Office Act. Although Congress failed to remove either leader, historians generally agree that political motivations contributed to their trials.



Clinton's impeachment trial captured the attention of the nation.

▶ CRITICAL THINKING

Predicting Consequences What influence might public opinion have on the outcome of an impeachment trial?

perjury lying when one has sworn under oath to tell the truth

ethnic cleansing the expulsion, imprisonment, or killing of ethnic minorities by a dominant majority group

participant one who takes part or shares in something

Haitians gather outside the fence of the U.S. camp to talk to American peacekeepers.

▶ CRITICAL THINKING

Making Inferences What can you conclude about the Haitian people's hope for peace from the way they are clustered at the fence?

In early 1998, new allegations emerged about Clinton's relationship with a White House intern. Some evidence suggested that he had committed **perjury**, or had lied under oath, about the relationship. In September 1998, Starr argued that Clinton had obstructed justice, abused his power as president, and committed perjury. Starr found no evidence to formally charge Clinton regarding the Whitewater accusations, however.

Clinton's supporters argued that Starr was playing politics. Opponents claimed Clinton should face charges if he had committed a crime. On December 19, 1998, the House of Representatives passed two articles of impeachment, one for perjury and one for obstruction of justice. The vote split along party lines, and the case moved to the Senate. On February 12, 1999, the senators voted 55 to 45 that Clinton was not guilty of perjury, and 50–50 on obstruction of justice. Both votes fell short of the two-thirds needed to remove Clinton from office, but his reputation suffered.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Examining What impact did impeachment have on Clinton's second term?

Clinton's Foreign Policy

GUIDING QUESTION How did the Clinton administration provide foreign aid to areas of conflict around the world?

Although Clinton's domestic policies became bogged down in struggles with Congress, he was able to engage in a series of major foreign policy initiatives. Several times he used force to try to resolve regional conflicts.

The Haitian Intervention

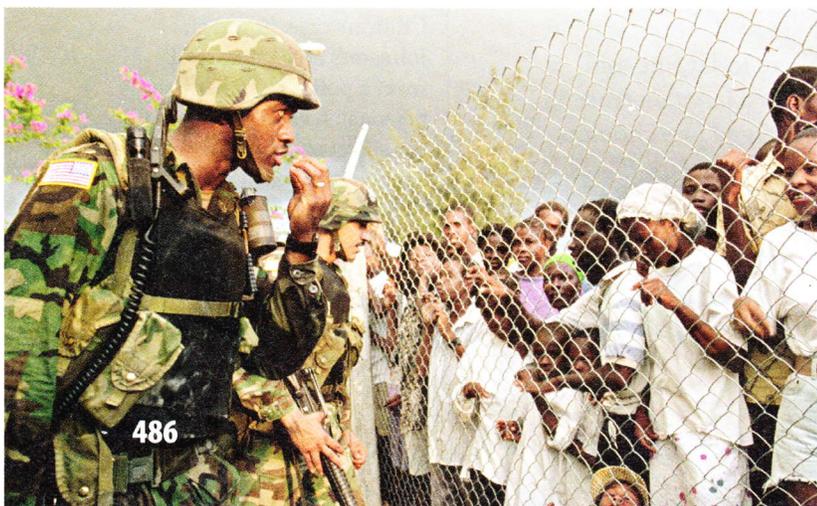
In 1991 military leaders in Haiti overthrew democratically elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Seeking to restore democracy, the Clinton administration convinced the United Nations to impose a trade embargo on Haiti. The embargo caused a severe economic crisis in that country, and many Haitians fled to the United States. Clinton then ordered an invasion of Haiti. However, former president Carter convinced Haiti's rulers to step aside, and American troops landed to serve as peacekeepers.

Bosnia and Kosovo

The United States also was concerned about mounting tensions in southeastern Europe. During the Cold War, Yugoslavia had been a nation of many ethnic groups under a strong Communist government. In 1991 Yugoslavia began to split apart. In the new republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a civil war erupted among Orthodox Christian Serbs, Catholic Croatians, and Bosnian Muslims. The Serbs began what they called **ethnic cleansing**—the brutal expulsion of non-Serbs from a geographic area. In some cases, Serbian troops slaughtered Bosnian Muslims instead of moving them.

The United States convinced its NATO allies to take military action. NATO warplanes attacked the Serbs in Bosnia, forcing them to negotiate. The Clinton administration arranged peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, where the **participants** signed a peace plan known as the Dayton Accords. In 1996 about 60,000 NATO troops entered Bosnia to enforce the plan.

In 1998 another war erupted, this time in the Serbian province of Kosovo. Kosovo has two major ethnic groups—Serbs and Albanians. Many Albanians wanted Kosovo to separate



from Serbia. To keep Kosovo in Serbia, Serbian leader Slobodan Milošević ordered a crackdown. Worried by Serbian violence against Albanian civilians, Clinton asked European leaders to intervene. In March 1999, NATO began bombing Serbia, and Serbia pulled its troops out of Kosovo.

Peacemaking in the Middle East

Although Iraq was defeated in the Persian Gulf War, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was determined to hang onto power. In 1996 Iraqi forces attacked the Kurds, an ethnic group whose homeland lies in northern Iraq. To stop the attacks, the United States fired cruise missiles at Iraqi military targets.

Relations between Israel and the Palestinians were even more volatile. In 1993 Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir Arafat reached an agreement. The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist, and Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians. President Clinton then invited Arafat and Rabin to the White House, where they signed the Declaration of Principles—a plan for creating a Palestinian government. Extremist opposition to the peace plan emerged on both sides. Radical Palestinians exploded bombs in Israel, killing 256. In 1995 a right-wing Israeli assassinated Prime Minister Rabin.

In 1994, with help from the United States, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty. In 1998 Israeli and Palestinian leaders met with President Clinton at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland. The agreement they reached, however, did not address the contested status of Jerusalem or the ultimate dimensions of a projected Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

In July 2000, President Clinton invited Arafat and Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak to Camp David to discuss unresolved issues. Barak agreed to the creation of a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and over 90 percent of the West Bank, but Arafat rejected the deal. In late September 2000, a Palestinian uprising began. The region was as far from peace as ever.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Drawing Conclusions Why did the Clinton administration intervene in conflicts such as Haiti, the former Yugoslavia, and the Middle East?



Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat shake hands after signing the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

CRITICAL THINKING

Defending Do you think that the United States should intervene in world conflicts? Why or why not?

LESSON 1 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

- Defining** How is perjury different from lying?
- Identifying** For what purpose did Bosnian Serbs practice ethnic cleansing?

Using Your Notes

- Evaluating** Review the notes you took during the lesson. Write a paragraph telling whether President Clinton was more successful in domestic policy or in foreign policy. Support your opinion with specific details from the lesson.

Answering the Guiding Questions

- Identifying** During his first presidential term, what domestic policy areas did Clinton focus on?

- Describing** How did the Republican Party respond to the victory in the 1994 midterm elections?
- Assessing** Why was President Clinton's domestic agenda less aggressive during his second term?
- Explaining** How did the Clinton administration provide foreign aid to areas of conflict around the world?

Writing Activity

- ARGUMENT** Suppose that you are a member of Congress. Write a speech in which you attempt to persuade other lawmakers to vote for or against Clinton's impeachment.