

There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Condoleezza Rice
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Nancy Pelosi
- ✓ IMAGE PATRIOT Act Protests
- ✓ IMAGE Hurricane Katrina
- ✓ VIDEO Domestic Challenges
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ



LESSON 3

Domestic Challenges

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • How is American culture shaped by a set of common values and practices? • How have disputes over ideas, values, and politics resulted in change?

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- controversial

Content Vocabulary

- swing vote

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Outlining Use the following graphic organizer to create an outline using the major headings of the lesson.

Domestic Challenges	
I.	Security vs. Liberty
A.	
B.	
II.	

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

After a close campaign, President Bush was reelected in 2004, but scandals and continued difficulties in Iraq helped Democrats win control of Congress in 2006.

Security vs. Liberty

GUIDING QUESTION How did the September 11th terrorist attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq increase tension between the need for national security and protecting civil liberties?

In early 2004, President Bush's approval ratings began to fall. The ongoing war in Iraq and the failure of inspectors to find any weapons of mass destruction weakened his support, as did the scandal at the Iraqi prison of Abu Ghraib, where some prisoners were abused by American soldiers. These events gave Democrats the opportunity to mount a serious challenge in the 2004 election.

President Bush and Vice President Cheney were renominated by the Republicans. The Democrats nominated Massachusetts senator John Kerry for president and North Carolina senator John Edwards for vice president. Despite the problems in Iraq, voters felt it safer to stay with the incumbent. Nationwide, Bush won both the popular and the electoral vote.

Prisoners at Guantanamo

The war on terror heightened the tension between national security and civil liberties. People questioned whether terrorist attacks justified limits on civil liberties and whether captured terrorists had any rights at all.

In 2004 President Bush decided to hold captured members of al-Qaeda at the American military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they could be interrogated. This decision was very **controversial**. Some people argued that the prisoners should have the right to a lawyer, formal charges, and a proper trial. The Bush administration insisted that the prisoners were enemy combatants, not suspects charged with a crime, and did not have the right to appeal their detentions to an American court. The administration

also declared that the procedures regarding the treatment of prisoners, as specified in the Geneva Conventions, did not apply to terrorists since they were not part of any nation's armed forces.

The Supreme Court disagreed. In *Rasul v. Bush* (2004), the Court ruled that foreign prisoners who claimed that they were unlawfully imprisoned had the right to have their cases heard in court. In response, the Bush administration created military tribunals to hear detainee cases. The Supreme Court struck this plan down in 2006 in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*.

Bush then asked Congress to establish new tribunals that met the Court's objections. Congress passed the Military Commissions Act, which stated that noncitizens captured as enemy combatants had no right to file writs of habeas corpus. In 2008, in *Boumediene v. Bush*, the Supreme Court ruled that the detainees had a right to habeas corpus and declared that section of the Military Commissions Act unconstitutional.

Domestic Surveillance

As part of the war on terror, the National Security Agency (NSA) began wiretapping domestic telephone calls made to overseas locations when they believed one party in the call was a member of al-Qaeda or affiliated with al-Qaeda. When the monitoring program became public in 2005, it created a controversy. Civil rights groups argued that the program violated the Fourth Amendment. In 2006 a federal judge declared the wiretapping to be unconstitutional, but the following year an appeals court overturned the judge's decision. When Congress began drafting legislation to address the issue, the Bush administration suspended the program and announced that future wiretaps would require a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Reasoning Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision about the rights of detainees at Guantanamo Bay? Why or why not?

A Stormy Second Term

GUIDING QUESTION *What were the successes and failures of President George W. Bush's second term?*

President Bush's reelection convinced him that he had a mandate to continue his policies. He explained in a press conference: "[W]hen you win, there is a feeling that the people have spoken and embraced your point of view. And that's what I intend to tell the Congress. . . . I earned capital in the campaign, political capital. And now I intend to spend it."

Debating Social Security

One priority of Bush's second term domestic policy was Social Security reform. He proposed that workers be allowed to put 4 percent of their income in private accounts rather than in Social Security. He believed that private accounts would grow rapidly and help cover the expected shortfall in Social Security accounts. Democrats argued that privatizing any part of Social Security was dangerous. With the public unenthusiastic, the plan was never brought to a vote in Congress. Although this plan failed, Bush did convince Congress to enact a new prescription drug program for seniors. Under the new program, provided by Medicare, people age 65 and older can sign up for insurance that helps cover the cost of prescription drugs.

Hamdan v. Rumsfeld

Al-Qaeda associate Salim Ahmed Hamdan was captured in 2001 and was moved to Guantanamo Bay in 2002. President Bush later determined that Hamdan was eligible for a military trial on counts of committing war crimes. Writing for the Supreme Court, Justice John Paul Stevens argued that the military commission created to conduct the trial violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Geneva Conventions. Stevens stated: "It is not evident why the danger posed by international terrorism . . . should require . . . any variance from the courts-martial rules."

CRITICAL THINKING

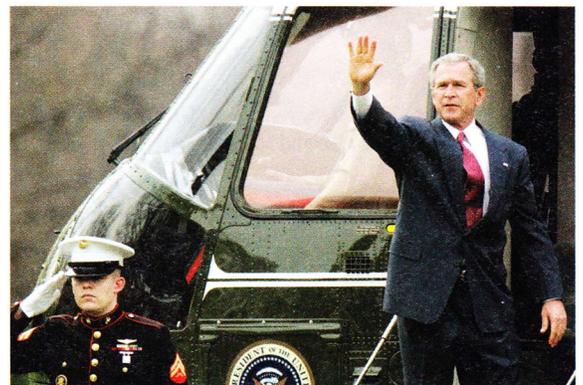
Drawing Conclusions How did the ruling affect the policy on detainees?

controversial given to controversy, disputable

President Bush's second term was marked by several disputes over the nation's domestic policy goals, such as how to operate national security investigations.

CRITICAL THINKING

Making Inferences What civil liberties did opponents of the national security program believe were being violated?





Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, Louisiana. During the flooding, people wrote messages on their roofs in the hope that rescuers would see them.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Identifying Central Ideas Why were Americans angered over President Bush's response to Hurricane Katrina?

swing vote a vote that may sometimes lean conservative and other times liberal

Hurricane Katrina

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina smashed into the Gulf Coast of the United States, spreading devastation from Florida to Louisiana. The fierce winds, rain, high tides, and storm surges destroyed buildings, roads, and electrical lines, left thousands of people homeless, and cost at least 1,200 lives. After the hurricane had passed, rising waters breached levees protecting New Orleans and flooded the low-lying city, causing thousands to flee to rooftops and for shelter in the convention center and at the Superdome. Waiting for days with little food, clean water, or information from authorities, survivors were shown on television news in deplorable conditions.

Reporters asked why the government was not responding more quickly. The mayor of New Orleans was faulted for not issuing a mandatory evacuation until the storm was less than a day away and for having failed to provide public transportation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seemed unprepared in its response. With polls showing a sharp drop in confidence in his administration, President Bush fired the head of FEMA and traveled to New Orleans to pledge federal funds for rebuilding the city. Congress approved \$200 billion for the massive task.

New Supreme Court Judges

In 2005 President Bush filled two vacancies on the Supreme Court. In the spring of 2005, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement. Although appointed by President Reagan, Justice O'Connor had been a pivotal **swing vote** on the Court, sometimes siding with conservatives, sometimes with liberals. As her replacement, Bush nominated federal judge John G. Roberts, Jr., a conservative who was well regarded in the Senate. Before the Senate could act, however, Chief Justice William Rehnquist died. Bush then named Roberts to replace him. Again attempting to fill Justice O'Connor's vacancy, President Bush nominated federal judge Samuel Alito, Jr., a well-known conservative justice. Roberts and Alito were confirmed by the Senate.

Evaluating Information

Suppose you needed to write a report about an election. The Internet might be the first place you would look for information. How do you evaluate if the information you find is valid and unbiased? You should check to see if the organization or author is identified. If you are unable to verify the creator of the site, be wary of trusting the information. If a site refers to sources, that is a clue that the information is reliable. Also, the information should be presented factually and objectively, without bias.

The 2006 Midterm Elections

The first two years of President Bush's second term had not gone well. At the same time, Americans had also grown frustrated with Congress. The Republican majority seemed awash in scandals. Two Republicans had resigned from Congress after being convicted of corruption, and House majority leader Tom DeLay had resigned after being indicted for violating campaign finance laws. Congress seemed unable to control spending, partly because Republicans and Democrats had been adding an increasing number of special funding requests to spending bills.

Voters expressed their unhappiness with the president and the Republican Congress in 2006. The Democrats won a majority in both the House and the Senate for the first time since 1992. House Democrats then elected California representative Nancy Pelosi to be the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. She summed up Democrats' interpretation of their victory:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“The election of 2006 was a call to change, not merely to change the control of Congress, but for a new direction for our country. . . . Our Founders envisioned a new America driven by optimism, opportunity, and courage. . . . Now it is our responsibility to carry forth that vision of a new America into the 21st century.”

—from a speech to the House of Representatives, January 4, 2007

Despite promises to end the war and change how Congress operated, Speaker Pelosi and other Democrats were not able to get enough votes to cut funding, set a deadline for pulling troops out of Iraq, or reduce spending. The American economy was on a downturn.

Economic Recession

By 2008, the American economy was in crisis. In 2007 many people with low incomes or poor credit began defaulting on their mortgage payments. At the same time, housing prices began to fall. People could no longer borrow against their home values, and banks across the country that had relied on mortgage-backed investments did not know what their investments were worth. Without adequate “real” funds to lend, banks reduced the amounts they lent, and many businesses feared they could not borrow enough money to keep operating. This led to a long recession and caused a number of well-known investment banking firms to face bankruptcy and collapse. Companies began laying off workers in response to the financial crisis. By January 2009, the unemployment rate was up to 7.2%. The country was in an economic recession.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Making Inferences What effect did Hurricane Katrina have on the Bush administration?

LESSON 3 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

1. Explaining What is meant by the term *swing vote*?

Using Your Notes

2. Summarizing Review your notes and write a summary of the major domestic events of President Bush's second term.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. Making Connections How did the September 11th terrorist attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq increase tension between the need for national security and protecting civil liberties?

4. Evaluating What were the successes and failures of President George W. Bush's second term?

Writing Activity

5. NARRATIVE Write a journal entry describing President Bush's second term that will be read by students 50 years in the future. Be clear and concise with your descriptions of these events.