

Student Name: _____

Unit #6: "The U.S. of Awesome" Guided Notes

Introduction

1950s
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s

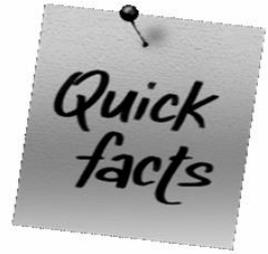
Here. We. Go.

1950s

The Fifties were mainly a **traditional** decade. The economy prospered and conformity was all the rage. The idea was to be conservative both socially and politically, but always superior to the **Russians**. And then rock 'n' roll came knocking with a beat that would change music forever!

Remember?

- TV dinners
- Barbie
- Tony the Tiger
- Slinky
- Duck and Cover
- McDonald's
- Matchbox cars
- Frisbee
- drive-ins
- trading stamps
- rock 'n' roll
- ponytails & DAs
- sock hops
- seamless stockings
- poodle skirts
- crew cuts
- Silly Putty
- saddle shoes
- and Hula Hoops!



1960s

The Sixties were a **rebellious** reaction to the Fifties.

Conservatism was “out”... free love and free speech were “in”. Momentous **social** and **political** activism took place. The times they were a-changin’, and fashion and music became the messengers for a **new** generation.

Remember?

- Hippies
- Astroturf
- bra-burning
- cable TV
- G.I. Joe
- MLK & JFK
- walk on the moon
- anti-war protests
- Woodstock
- Twister
- Communes
- VW Bug
- the peace sign
- flower power,
- Slip ‘n’ Slide
- and the British Invasion!



Quick facts



1970s

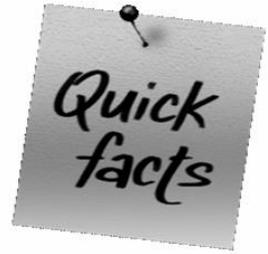
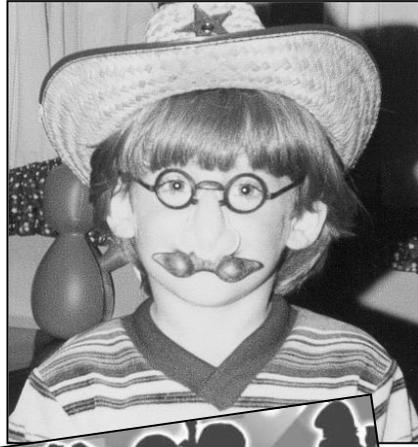
The Seventies were filled with both **disillusionment** and hope.

The Vietnam War came to an ambivalent end, gasoline was hard to come by, and **Watergate** created cynicism toward national leadership. Still, by decade's end, **disco** had introduced many to “The Hustle” and “YMCA”.



Remember?

- streaking
- CB radios
- Pinball
- *Saturday Night Live*
- Monday Night Football (MNF)
- Bicentennial
- Atari
- the birth of Hartnell
- quadraphonic sound
- pocket calculators
- test-tube babies
- personal computers
- John Travolta
- bell-bottoms
- mood rings
- pet rocks
- platform shoes
- Chia Pets
- and Spandex!



1980s

The Eighties were a decade of **self-fulfillment** not seen since the Fifties. While “**yuppies**” were often pegged as the ones striving for material gain, most of society found itself swept away by such greed. Truly, TV and video created a whole new kind of American.

Remember?

- Rubik's Cube
- CDs
- Aerobics
- MTV
- Sony Walkman
- new wave & retro
- AIDS
- tanning salons
- acid-washed jeans
- shoulder pads
- IZOD & jean jackets
- *Friday the 13th*
- Pac Man & Donkey Kong
- Nintendo
- Live Aid
- and Big Hair!



1990s

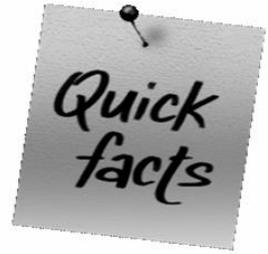
The Nineties began with the end of the **Cold War**. Different beliefs and ideas were accepted, it was important to be "**politically correct**", and the **Internet** created new ways to do just about everything. Alternative became mainstream while rap and hip-hop defined a generation.

Remember?

- Roller blading
- DVDs
- Caller ID
- Surfing the Net
- :-)
- *The Simpsons*
- Barney
- www.com
- grunge
- raves
- Teletubbies



- baggy jeans
- tattoos
- cell phones
- Clinton & Lewinsky
- snowboarding
- SUV
- Starbucks
- Power Rangers
- the Macarena
- Nintendo 64
- and Y2K!



2000s

The first decade of the 2000s began with a controversial election and a deadly **terrorist** attack – and ended with the historic election of America's first **black** President. **Reality TV** and **social media** changed the way Americans thought and interacted since "everybody" was now a celebrity.

Remember?

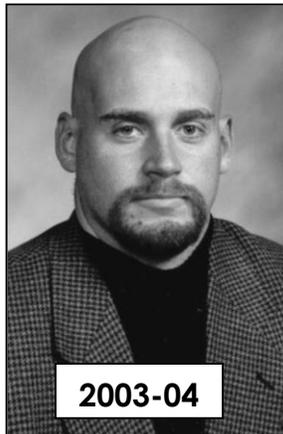
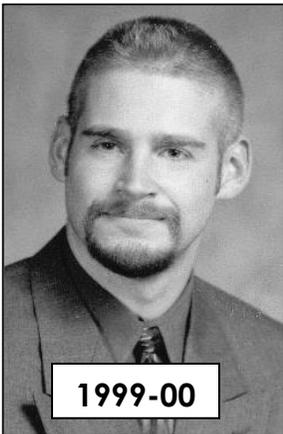
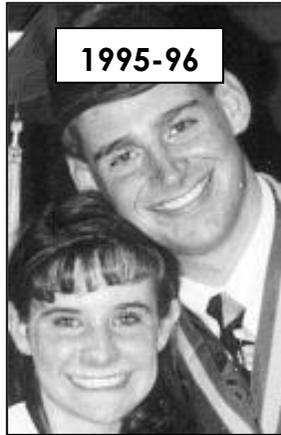
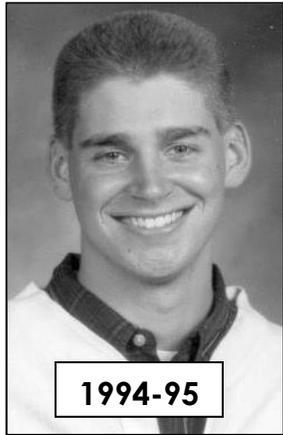
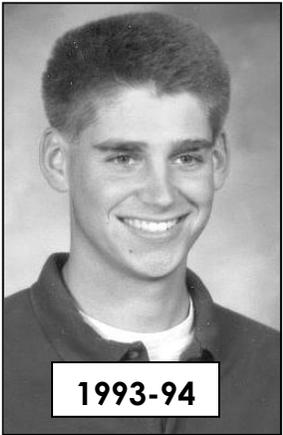
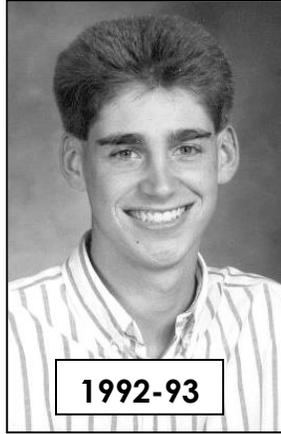
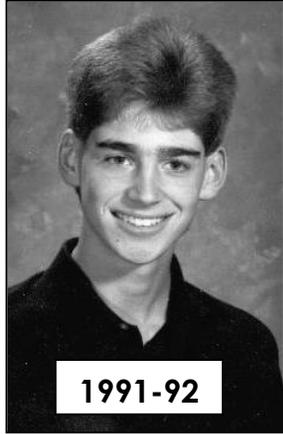
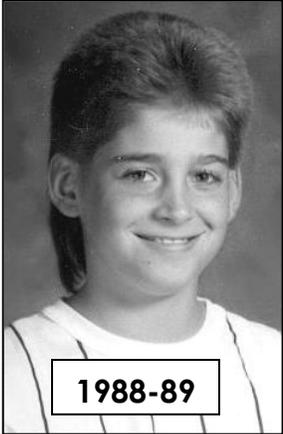
- Hanging chads
- 9/11 & bin Laden
- Afghanistan
- WMDs
- whale tails
- Ed Hardy
- *American Idol*
- Xbox 360
- Wii
- PlayStation 3
- Dora the Explorer



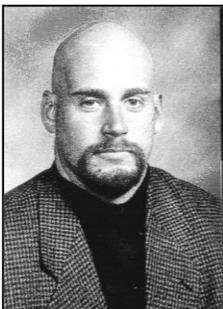
- Web 2.0
- Wikipedia
- Myspace
- Facebook
- Texting
- Twitter
- mp3s
- iPod
- iPhone
- Wi-Fi
- and Obama!



The Age of Hartnell (1977-Now!)



Quick facts



My Teacher

Can Beat Up Your Teacher



The 1970s

The chaotic events of 1960s, including war and social change, seemed destined to continue.

Major trends included...

...growing disillusionment of Federal Government.

...advances in Civil and Women's Rights Movements.

...concern for environment.

...and a continued interest in space exploration.

Many of "radical" ideas of 1960s gained wider acceptance and were mainstreamed into American life.

Events of the times were reflected in literature, entertainment, fashion, and even music of decade.

Dubbed the "Me Decade", 1970s saw...

... end of Vietnam War.

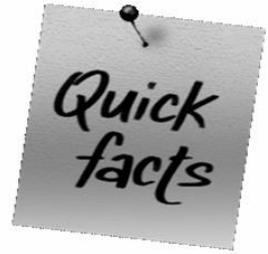
... Watergate Scandal.

... Oil Crisis in 1973 & 1979.

... Bicentennial in 1976.

... Hostage Crisis.

... birth of Dr. Hartnell: 10/1/77.



U.S. Growing Pains

The year **1968** is considered by historians as being a huge “game-changer” in American history because the major political events that took place eroded faith in the Federal Government (and the country as a whole) and forced the U.S. to head in a new direction.

On January 30, 1968, the North Vietnamese launched the **Tet Offensive**, which consisted of surprise attacks against military command centers throughout South Vietnam.

While the U.S. eventually turned back the attacks by the end of February, the Tet Offensive showed the American public that the U.S. was, despite what the Federal Government was telling it, actually **losing** the Vietnam War.

The **My Lai Massacre** on March 16, 1968 (300-500 civilians killed) turned the rest of the U.S. against the Vietnam War.

On March 31, 1968, President **Lyndon B. Johnson** decided not to run for re-election.

Vietnam had claimed its biggest casualty.

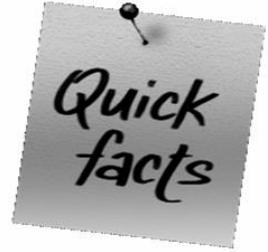
JFK’s brother, **Robert (Bobby)**, who served as Attorney General for JFK, campaigned for the Democratic Party nomination. (In fact, it was his voter appeal that caused LBJ to drop out.)

But tragedy would strike RFK as it had JFK.

Upon leaving a celebration in Los Angeles after his victory in the California primary, Bobby was shot by the Jerusalem born Jordanian **Sirhan Sirhan**.

Kennedy was shot 3 times, once in the **head** and twice in the **back**, with a fourth bullet passing through his jacket.

Kennedy died the following day, June 6, 1968.



Sirhan is currently serving life in jail. He is in CA.

Sirhan is an Arab that hates **Israel**. His reason for killing RFK was to prevent RFK from sending troops to Israel "to do harm to the Palestinians".

The nation, coming off of the April 4th assassination of **MLK**, was stunned.

As with JFK, multiple conspiracy theories exist today concerning RFK's assassination.

As a result, the Election of 1968 was conducted against a backdrop that included the deaths of MLK & RFK, race riots, and anti-war protester fights at the **Democratic National Convention**.

In the end...

Richard M. Nixon ran for Republicans.

Hubert H. Humphrey, LBJ's VP, ran for Democrats.

George C. Wallace, the racist Governor of Alabama, ran as an Independent.

Wallace ran for office in AL on the slogan of "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" and stood in the doorway to keep the Univ. of AL from being **desegregated**.

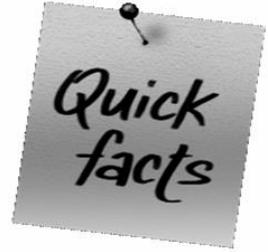


Popular Vote

Nixon: 43.4%
Humphrey: 42.7%
Wallace: 13.5%

Electoral Vote

Nixon: 301
Humphrey: 191
Wallace: 46



The Nixon Years

Richard Milhous Nixon served as the 37th President from 1969-1974.

When Nixon took office, he inherited Vietnam War.

U.S. troop strength contracted BUT war effort expanded.

Nixon began a program of Vietnamization to decrease # of U.S. troops; turning war effort over to S. Vietnamese.

Nixon extended war into Cambodia and Laos, where he *secretly* authorized bombing to block enemy supply routes.

People outraged since Nixon campaigned that he'd end war.

And then things took a turn for the worse...

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guard troops killed 4 students and wounded 9 more when they shot into an anti-war protest at Kent State University.

Two of the 4 killed had been at the protest, while the other 2 were walking from one class to the next.

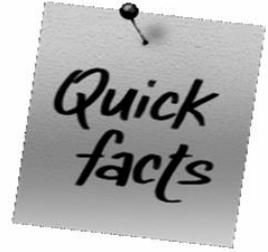
The shootings led to protests and the only student strike in U.S. history; 4 million students protested, forcing over 900 colleges to close.

Nixon was in danger of being run out of office. He had to end the war NOW.

Before he could end war, it was 1972... and re-election time.

Nixon won easily, beating George McGovern by almost 18 million PVs and 503 EVs (96.7% - 3.2%).

WATERGATE WARNING! (More on that later...)



In 1973, U.S. and N. Vietnam sign **Paris** Peace Accords.
The terms included:

1. U.S. withdrawal of **ALL** forces from Vietnam.
2. Vietnamese return of **POWs**.
3. End of **ALL** military operations in Cambodia/Laos.

U.S. troops left, but the war between N & S **continued**.

South Vietnam was **defeated** in April 1975 as Saigon fell;
Vietnam united under communism.

In the end, the U.S. suffered **362,906** casualties in Vietnam,
including **58,202** deaths.

Watergate

The **Tet Offensive** during the Vietnam War and the **Watergate** Scandal did much to discredit Federal Government.

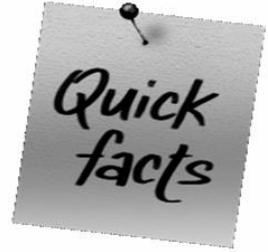
Watergate Scandal began with **burglary** and **wiretapping** of Democratic Party's campaign headquarters and engulfed President Nixon and his supporters in a variety of illegal acts.

Events culminated in first **resignation** of U.S. President.

On June 17, 1972, **5** men were caught in offices of Democratic National Committee at Watergate apartment and office complex in Washington, D.C.

They were gathering information illegally about **Larry O'Brien**, chairman of the DNC (in Florida at the time).

They were trying to set up a way to **monitor** his telephone conversations and photograph documents about Democratic donors and financial records.



Initially, the break-in garnered little media attention;
back-page news.

Investigation by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, reporters for *Washington Post*, uncovered White House-sponsored plan of **espionage** and attempts to **cover up** how burglary was planned and financed.

Tisk. Tisk. Tisk.

Reporters relied heavily on **anonymous** sources, including key source known as "**Deep Throat**". Not until 2005 was Deep Throat revealed to be **W. Mark Felt**, deputy director of FBI at the time of Watergate investigation.

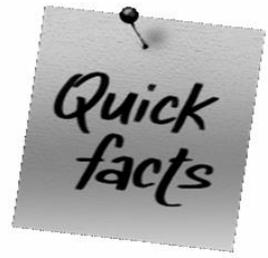
Testimony of White House aide Alexander Butterfield unlocked investigation; he said on nationwide TV that Nixon had ordered a taping system installed in the White House to automatically record all **conversations**; what Nixon said and when he said it could be verified.

Eight tapes were subpoenaed. Nixon **refused** to release the tapes, claiming they were vital to the national security.

Allegations of wrongdoing prompted Nixon famously to state "**I am not a crook**" in front of 400 startled Associated Press managing editors at Walt Disney World in Florida.

In April 1974, House Judiciary Committee subpoenaed tapes of 42 White House convos. Some conversations were **missing**; one tape had gap of **18** minutes... due to 5 separate **erasures**.

When more tapes were subpoenaed, Nixon **refused**.



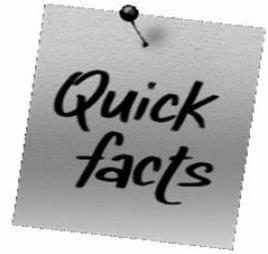
U.S. Supreme Court stepped in and voted **8-0** in *United States v. Nixon* that Nixon **must** turn over tapes.

House Judiciary Committee then approved 3 articles of **impeachment** for misusing power, **obstruction of justice**, and defying Judiciary Committee subpoenas.

Rather than face vote in House of Representatives that would have resulted in his impeachment (and eventual removal), Nixon **resigned** from office on August 9, 1974.

His VP, **Gerald R. Ford**, became President; Ford turned around and **pardoned** Nixon.

Andrew Johnson (1868) & **Bill Clinton** (1998) were impeached; neither were removed.



The Ford Years

Gerald Rudolph Ford served as the 38th U.S. President from **1974-1977**.

Ford (nicknamed "**Mr. Nice Guy**" or "Jerry") was only President never elected as President nor as VP.

Nixon's first VP, **Spiro Agnew** (served 1969-1973), resigned on October 10, 1973 following revelations of his financial improprieties. Nixon nominated Ford to succeed Agnew.

Public enjoyed Ford and his family, because they were normal, **middle-class** family.

He played center for **UM** and won national titles in '32 & '33.

But... in '34, UM lost 16-0 to MSU. Dr. Hartnell's Grandmother Eva McKim was at the game... and booed Ford.

Ford spent his first several press conferences answering questions about Nixon.

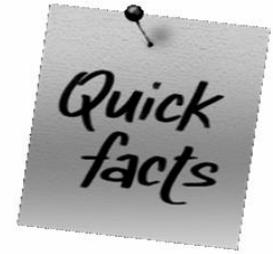
On September 9, 1974, Ford pardoned Nixon for any "*crimes he committed or may have committed*".

The party was over for Ford.

Ford's popularity dropped.

And when popularity goes, media gets mean (just ask George W. Bush).

Media started going after Ford's **clumsiness** – he tripped and fell down stairs of Presidential airplane and fell down skiing.



Two assassination attempts were made on Ford... both in Sept. 1975 and both in CA.

On September 5th **Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme**, a follower of Charles Manson, tried to shoot Ford but was tackled before a shot was fired.

On September 22nd **Sara Jane Moore** fired revolver at Ford but missed. She was an estranged civil rights activist looking to "reconnect" with her high powered friends.

Both attempts failed to garner any sympathy for Ford.

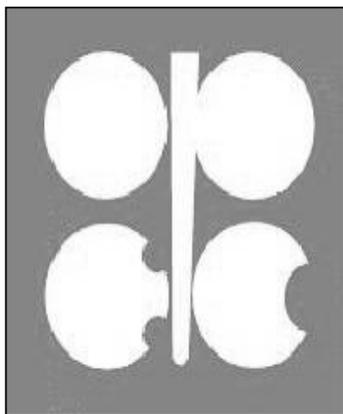
Ford also inherited weakest economy since WWII.

He faced 3 problems:

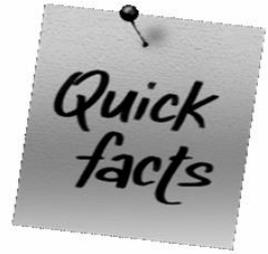
1. High **inflation**.
2. High **unemployment** (9%); highest since Depression.
3. **Energy** use; this was due to Oil Embargo against U.S.

The Oil Embargo against U.S. by **OPEC** (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) was enacted in 1973 to punish Western nations friendly to Israel during Yom Kippur War between Israel, Syria, and Egypt.

OPEC was founded in 1960. Members include:



1. Iran
2. Iraq
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Kuwait
5. Lybia
6. **Venezuela**



They control two-thirds of oil supply in world.

Embargo resulted in 1973 **Energy Crisis** under Nixon but effects still felt under Ford.

Brown outs, long lines at gas stations, fuel shortages, and paying higher prices at pumps (went from **30** cents/gallon to over a **dollar**).

Drivers of vehicles with odd-numbered license plates were allowed to purchase gasoline on odd-numbered days (even-numbers on even-days).

Nixon forced gas stations to close on **Sundays** and limited people to **10** gallons at a time.

A nationwide speed limit of **55** mph went into effect (repealed in 1995).

In Detroit, production of giant, gas guzzling cars was halted. The Geo Metro and Ford Escort were modeled after the Chevy Vega and Ford Pinto of the 1970s.

Japanese car sales increased; they were more fuel efficient.

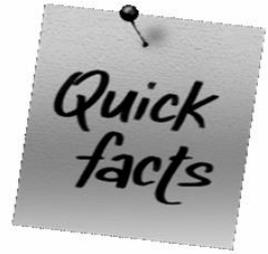
Daylight Savings Time was issued year round in an effort to reduce electrical use.

Some school districts turned off lights in their hallways or reduced school week.

In a year of bad news, it was symbolic when Nixon said that because of Energy Crisis, lights on national Christmas tree would NOT be turned on.

Crisis ended in 1974, but another Oil Crisis would occur in 1979 under Carter.

To prevent severity of another crisis, President Ford asked American people to cut their energy consumption.





Citizens who signed a pledge to save energy were sent a button with the acronym "**WIN**" ("Whip Inflation Now").

Because media hated Ford, "WIN" buttons were mocked.



People wore buttons upside down, saying that "**NIM**" stood for "No Immediate Miracles" or "Need Immediate Money".

People suck.

Ford inherited final phases of Vietnam War.

All U.S. forces were out of Vietnam, but conservatives urged

Ford to give \$ to **South** Vietnam to help them against a final North Vietnamese invasion.

Ford agreed but Democratic-controlled Congress rejected his bills in 1975.

Ford offered **amnesty** (pardon) to draft dodgers. This upset both parties and much of public. Only 20,000 of the 100,000 dodgers came home.

In April 1975, South Vietnam fell to North. Vietnam was unified and Communist.



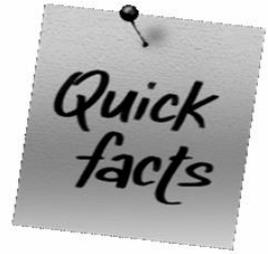
U.S. Embassy in Saigon was evacuated by Ford.

Record low voter turnout made Election of 1976 between Ford/Carter closest in decades. (Ironic – Bicentennial.)

Carter won **50.1%** - **48%** in PV.

Carter won **297** - **240** (55.2% - 44.6%) in EV.

Ford had fallen again.



The Carter Years

James Earl Carter, Jr. served as the 39th U.S. President from **1977-1981**.

“Jimmy” Carter was Governor of **Georgia**...

...and a **peanut** farmer.

His ease in front of TV cameras and his promise “*not to lie to the American people*” was comforting.

But his campaign promises soon fell apart.

Carter promised to reform tax system...

...but didn't.

He promised to reduce the number of Federal agencies...

...but instead increased them.

He promised to manage economy different than his Republican predecessors...

...but instead managed it exactly like Republicans.

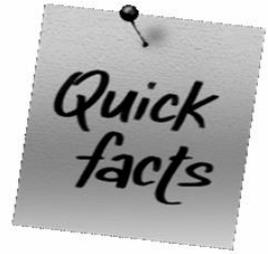
Polls showed that public liked Carter as a **person**... but lacked faith in his **leadership**.

Carter did try to act peacefully with foreign affairs.

In 1977, U.S. agreed to turn over **Panama Canal** (built in 1903) to Panama in 2000.

5 key foreign issues included:

1. Camp David Accords.
2. Communist China.
3. SALT II with Soviets.
4. **Iran Hostage Crisis**.
5. Afghanistan.



1. Camp David Accords:

Carter did prove to be a great negotiator.

In 1978, he brokered a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt at Camp David.

Peace didn't last long, but it was a start.

2. Communist China:

Carter continued Nixon's détente ("relaxation") policy to fix problems with China by granting full diplomatic and trade relations.

But to do this, he had to end relations with Tibet.

3. SALT II:

Carter also continued Nixon's nuclear treaties with Soviets.

Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (round 1) let both nations keep what nukes they had but outlawed building or buying new weapons.

Carter wanted to ban nukes entirely. He met with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and signed SALT II.

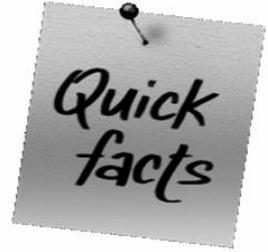
It set precise limits on number and type of nukes each nation could maintain.

4. Iran Hostage Crisis:

Islamic Revolution in Iran created first major foreign crisis for Carter.

Monarch (called Shah) was Mohammad Pahlavi. He was a U.S. ally since WWII. His rule was very autocratic.

Still, when revolution broke out in January 1979, U.S. did not intervene.



Shah was overthrown in favor of **Ayatollah Khomeini**, who established Islamic Republic.

Khomeini urged his people to demonstrate against U.S. and Israeli interests.

Khomeini denounced U.S. as "**Great Satan**" and "Enemy of Islam".

On November 4, 1979, a group of Iranian students who supported Ayatollah and opposed Western influences stormed U.S. embassy in **Tehrān**, capital of Iran, and took **66** Americans hostage.

U.S. responded by freezing Iranian assets held by U.S. banks and imposing trade sanctions against Iran.

U.S. public was outraged by Iran's actions.

Hostage-takers, declaring their solidarity with other "oppressed minorities" and "the special place of women in Islam", released 13 female and black hostages in November.

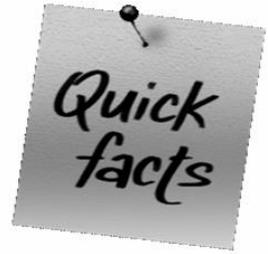
When Khomeini endorsed students' actions, "**Iran Hostage Crisis**" ensued... lasting until 1/20/1981.

Remaining hostages were kept captive and paraded around blindfolded on TV.

Iran demanded U.S. apologize for acts committed in support of Shah; help bring Shah back to Iran (he fled to U.S.) to face trial and execution; and return billions of dollars that Shah hid abroad.

Rejecting Iranian demands, Carter approved an ill-fated secret rescue mission called "Operation **Eagle Claw**".

On night of April 24, 1980, transport airplanes met up with helicopters.



As they began, 2 helicopters broke down in sandstorm.

Mission was aborted, but as aircraft took off again, a helicopter clipped a plane and crashed, killing 8; wounding 4.

In Iran, Khomeini's prestige skyrocketed as he said divine intervention caused failure.

Second attempt, "Operation **Credible Sport**", hoped cargo planes could land in soccer stadium by U.S. Embassy in Tehrān; airlift hostages out.

But, during practice run on October 29, 1980, aircraft suffered heavy landing, tearing off wing, setting it on fire; luckily crew survived.

Carter was now viewed as very weak and incompetent.

It cost Carter his re-election to **Ronald Reagan**.

On January 20, 1981, **minutes** after Reagan was sworn in as President, hostages were released... after having spent **444** days in captivity.

5. Afghanistan:

In December 1979, **Soviets** invaded Afghanistan after pro-Moscow regime overthrown.

U.S. worried Soviets could sieze Middle Eastern **oil**.

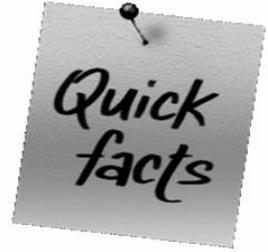
Carter had to show he could be tough.

Carter said this was "*the most serious threat to the peace since the Second World War*".

New **Carter Doctrine** stated U.S. would not allow any outside force to gain control of **Persian Gulf**.

He ended Russian Wheat Deal, which actually hurt U.S. farmers more than Russian.

He boycotted 1980 **Summer Olympics** in Moscow.



None of these caused Soviets to remove their troops.
Afghanistan became Soviet's "Vietnam" – lasted until 1989.
U.S. gave weapons (secretly) to militant Afghan groups...
...and put Taliban in power.

Ooops.

Just like what happened to Ford when he lost media support, Carter suffered same.

Big issues seemed worse; small issues were blown out of proportion. In particular:

Oil, his brother... and a bunny.

The 1979 Energy (or Oil) Crisis came in wake of Iranian Rev.

New Iranian regime's oil exports were lower than before, which drove up prices.

Long lines again appeared at U.S. gas stations.

Carter encouraged Americans to turn down thermostats.

Solar power panels installed on roof of White House.

Wood-burning stove installed in White House living quarters.

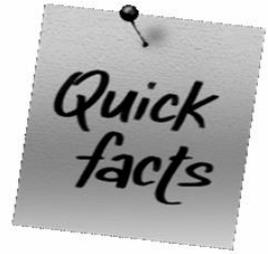
It was pathetic.

And then there was Jimmy's youngest brother, Billy Carter.

He was family's "black sheep".

When Billy did something stupid, media asked Jimmy.

Made worse when Billy endorsed Billy Beer.



"I had this beer brewed just for me. I think it's the best I've ever tasted. And I've tasted a lot. I think you'll like it, too..."

Brewed expressly for and with the personal approval of one of America's all-time great beer drinkers... Billy Carter.



And then came the bunny.

On April 20, 1979, Carter was attacked by a "**killer**" rabbit on a fishing trip in GA.

The rabbit was "*hissing menacingly, its teeth flashing and nostrils flared and making straight for the President!*"

Rabbit tried to enter boat, so Carter swung at it with an oar.

When media caught wind of it, it was over for Carter...

Newspaper headlines read:

"PRESIDENT ATTACKED BY RABBIT!"

Press called rabbit "**PAWS**".

Carter Fights 'Killer Rabbit'

Quick facts



The book *The Other Side of the Story* (1986) recounted story:

"Upon closer inspection, the animal turned out to be a rabbit. Not one of your cutesy, Easter Bunny-type rabbits, but one of those big splay-footed things called swamp rabbits. The animal was clearly in distress, or perhaps berserk. The President confessed to having had limited experience with enraged rabbits. He was unable to reach a definite conclusion about its state of mind."

Bunny incident became synonymous with Carter: he was hapless and enfeebled.

Carter lost to Ronald Reagan in the Election of 1980...

... **50.8%** - **41%** in PV.

... **489** - **49** (90.9% - 9.1%) in EV.

The Reagan Years

Ronald Wilson Reagan served as the 40th U.S. President from **1981-1989**.

Born in Illinois, Reagan was a Hollywood actor for 25 years and starred in over **50** movies.

He served as Governor of **California** from 1967-1974.

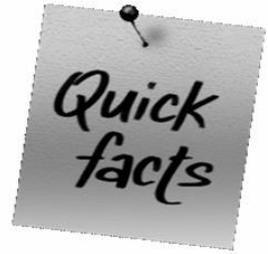
He tried to run for President in 1968 (Nixon), 1976 (Ford), but lost in Republican primaries.

His crushing defeat of Carter signaled huge change for U.S.

Reagan oversaw the most far-reaching changes in **economic** and **social** policy in 50 years.

He eliminated social programs of FDR and LBJ and lifted restrictions on **Big Business**.

Reagan delegated much of day-to-day work to his staff. He defined his style as "*to identify the problem, find the right individuals to do the job, and then let them go to it.*"



Reagan saw his role as "The Great Communicator".

He was liked by businessmen opposed to govt. regulation.

He was liked by anti-communists who felt U.S. should build up its military.

He was liked by conservative religious groups, who were appalled by America's growing acceptance of sex and drugs.

He was liked by moderate middle-class and working-class Americans, many whom used to support Democrats.

He was liked by people who thought U.S. Government was too large.

In short... white America LOVED Reagan.

Reagan appealed directly to people through media; his abilities as speaker influenced public opinion greatly.

He could sell ketchup popsicles to ladies wearing white gloves.

He could sell ice to Eskimos.

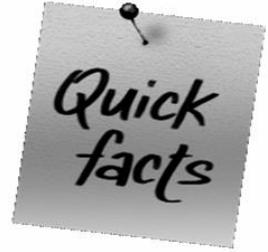
He could get the lactose-intolerant to drink milk.

But not everyone liked Reagan.

On March 30, 1981, John Hinckley, Jr. fired 6 shots at Reagan in attempt to attract "respect and love" of actress Jodie Foster.

Many believe Hinckley's attempt came from 1976 movie Taxi Driver.

Movie is about psychopath (Robert De Niro) who stalks candidate running for Senate. Jodie Foster made her acting début in *Taxi Driver*... as a 12-year-old prostitute.



Reagan was rushed into surgery; bullet struck him in chest... just missing his **heart**.

In attack, 2 Secret Service agents and Press Secretary **James Brady** were injured.

In 1993, **Brady Bill** passed; 5-day waiting period to buy guns.

Hinckley was found "not guilty" due to insanity and committed to mental hospital.

Unlike with Ford, public sympathy helped Reagan push his agenda through Congress.

In 1984, Reagan easily won re-election over Walter Mondale (Carter's VP)...

... **58.8%** - **40.6%** in PV.

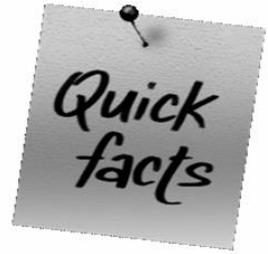
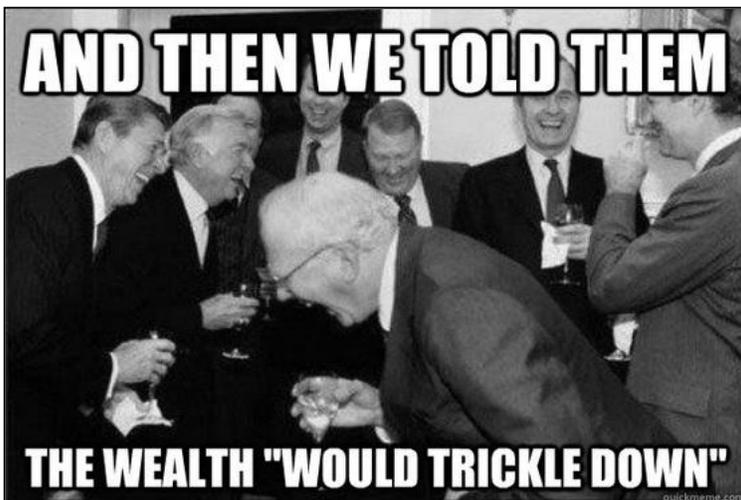
... **525** - **13** (97.6% - 2.4%) in EV.

Reagan based his economic program on supply-side economics (nicknamed "**Reaganomics**").

It advocated **reduction** in taxes; reduction in governmental spending; this leaves more money in hands of citizens.

According to supply-side theory, citizens would spend money on products, boosting economy; or they would invest in businesses, which would cause economy to **expand**.

Often called "**Trickle Down** Theory"; opposite of Deficit Spending.



This produced economic growth and fueled a 5-year increase in Stock Market.

As result, 1980s were a prosperous time for many Americans, particularly “well-to-do”, who benefited most from Reagan tax cuts.

Reagan also determined to make U.S. #1 in **military** again.

Defense spending increased: \$ **134** billion in 1980 to \$ **290** billion in 1988.

National Debt rose: \$908 billion in 1980 to \$2.6 trillion in 1988.

But... stealth bombers are fun.

Reagan changed **tone** of U.S. foreign policy.

Détente, peaceful policy of coexistence with U.S.S.R. that was stressed under Nixon and Ford... was de-emphasized under Reagan.

In short, Reagan wanted to **mess** up the Russians...

Reagan wanted to reverse tide of revolution in Central America and Caribbean.

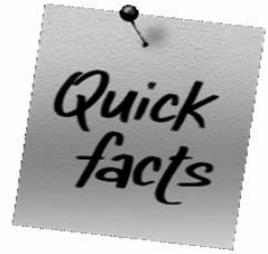
After Nicaraguan Revolution deposed dictator in 1979, U.S. accused new **Sandinista** Government of aiding communists in El Salvador.

Reagan HATED “Commies”.

So... U.S. cut off its aid to Nicaragua in 1981 and supported anti-Sandinista guerrillas called **Contras**.

Does the name ring a bell?

Up, up, down, down, left, right, left, right, B, A, B, A, select, start... infinite lives!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



In 1982, Nicaragua signed aid pact with Soviet Union.

Reagan then mounted major campaign to overthrow Sandinistas by supplying weapons, money, and training to Contras. Reagan sent arms and advisers to El Salvador.

Reagan meant business.

In 1983, U.S. troops invaded Caribbean island of **Grenada** after communists overthrew government there.

Reagan also supported 2 other major struggles against regimes based on forms of communism.

U.S. sent military supplies to Muslim guerrillas fighting Soviets in **Afghanistan**.

U.S. also joined with apartheid regime in **South Africa** in aiding guerrillas fighting the Communist Government of Angola.

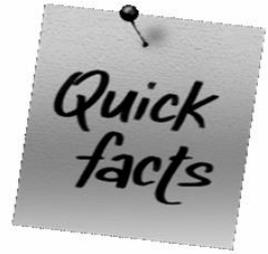
Under Reagan, U.S. relations with U.S.S.R. under **Mikhail Gorbachev** were cool, partly because of U.S. military buildup, particularly Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI; known as "**Star Wars**").

We can thank the "Star Wars" program for our **cell phones**.

Last 2 years of his Presidency were marred by **scandal**.

Called "**Iran-Contra Affair**", it was political scandal that turned public attention to effectiveness of Reagan's "hands-off" management style and damaged his reputation.

Congress designated Iran as a terrorist nation and outlawed sale of arms to Iranians.



In November 1986, newspapers reported U.S. secretly sold weapons to **Iran** (that's a no-no) in order to win Iranian support in freeing U.S. hostages held by Lebanese terrorists friendly to Iran.

Newspapers revealed U.S. used profits from weapons sales to Contras fighting Sandinistas to do all of this.

Reagan denied any knowledge of this.

Congress found no evidence that Reagan had known, but criticized lack of **supervision**.

Despite this scandal, Reagan went down in history as one of America's most **beloved** Presidents.

He is ranked by historians as a "Top Ten" President.

Not bad for a former B-Lister...



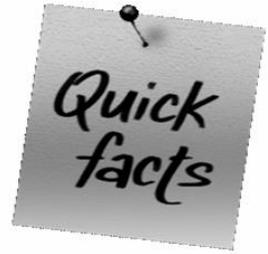
Reagan's VP, **George Herbert Walker Bush**, ran for President in 1988.

He promised voters: "**Read my lips: No new taxes.**"

Bush crushed the Democrat Michael Dukakis...

... 53.4% - 45.7% in PV.

... **426** - **111** (79.2% - 20.6%) in EV.



The H. W. Bush (Bush #1) Years

George Herbert Walker Bush served as the 41st U.S. President from **1989-1993**.

Despite winning entire South, most of West, and almost all Midwest, the Election of 1988 left one obstacle for Bush: the Democrats kept majorities in both **H.O.R.** and **Senate**.

Why was this an obstacle?

Republicans and Democrats don't play well together.

Bush toned down the imperial image that had surrounded the Reagan Presidency by jogging every morning in D.C.

First Lady **Barbara Bush** talked about her fake pearls and her inability to lose weight. The result was great popularity for the new President.

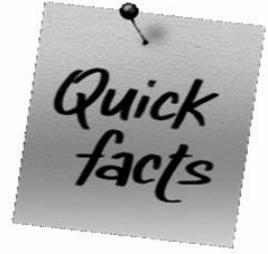
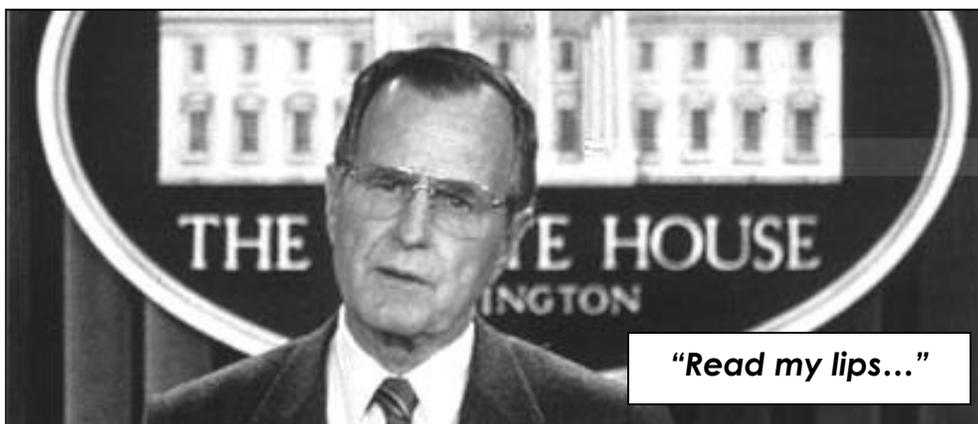
Bush's most dramatic departure from Reagan was his belief that Federal Government was not the **enemy**.

After Reagan's scandals, Bush spoke about the need for integrity in government. He quietly worked to increase Federal spending for education and child care.

Bush battled Congress on a **crime** bill to help police bring criminals to justice.

After 8 years of environmental disregard under Reagan, Bush moved to reauthorize the **Clean Air Act**, which established higher standards for air quality.

Reagan's economic legacy was the biggest domestic challenge Bush faced.



By 1990, the Federal Debt had increased to \$3.2 trillion. Bush believed that the incomes and standard of living of most Americans would not increase if its economy was built on a foundation of debt.

Bush tried to persuade Congress to reduce the deficit but found it difficult to please Democrats AND Republicans.

Democrats believed increasing taxes on the **wealthy** was the solution. Republicans believed major cuts in Federal domestic spending was the solution.

Finding a compromise would have been difficult for any President; for Bush, who never enjoyed the trust of his party's powerful conservative wing, it proved nearly impossible.

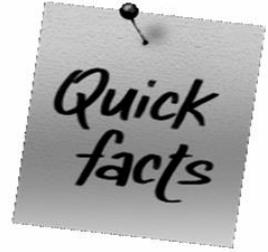
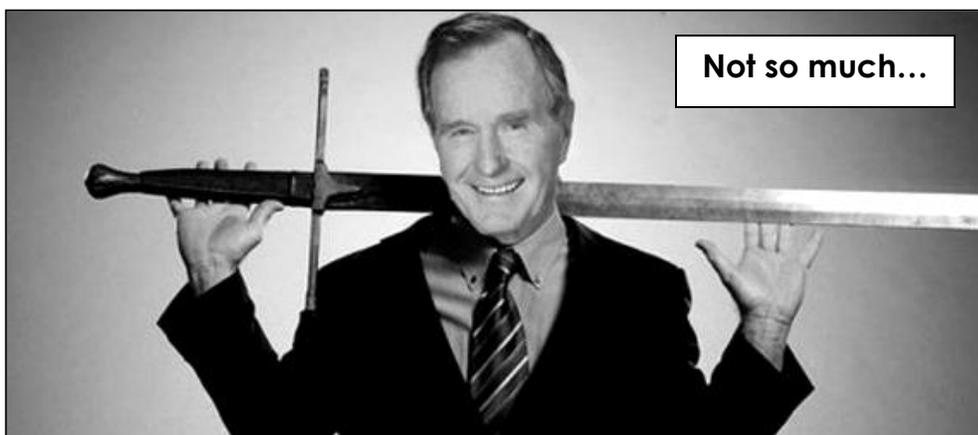
Bush's Democratic rivals in Congress consistently outmaneuvered him.

Democrats forced him to agree to sign a statement calling for tax **increases** before they'd even negotiate the budget.

Bush agreed (despite his campaign promise of "no new taxes") – and many Republicans felt **betrayed**.

The Democrats and Bush agreed to a historic package of spending cuts and tax increases that reduced the deficit by \$500 billion over 5 years, BUT angry Republican conservatives defeated the budget bill in the H.O.R.

Bush had to reassemble a bill that could win a majority, and to do so he had to accept almost all of the Democrats' **demands** (including higher taxes and more spending).



In popularity polls, Bush's approval rating fell **20** points in one 6-week period in late 1990.

The budget mess coincided with a mild **recession** in late 1990 that lasted only 6 months... but lingered in the public's mind for 2 years.

During the recession, Federal spending on **welfare** and other programs increased, wiping out the savings the budget deal had promised.

In 1991, Bush proposed the **North American Free Trade Agreement** (NAFTA) between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. NAFTA which would lower tariffs on trade between the 3 countries.

NAFTA was designed to help the 3 compete against similar free-trade zones in Europe and Asia. It was passed in 1993.

Bush was more active (and more successful) in **foreign** policy than he was in domestic legislation.

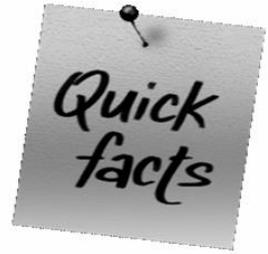
In December 1989, Bush sent 24,000 U.S. troops to Panama to assist military forces in a coup against Panamanian President **Manuel Noriega**.

Noriega had been indicted in the U.S. for **drug** trafficking in 1988, and in 1989 he had nullified an election that would have removed him from office.

Bush's critics pointed out that Noriega had been a **CIA** agent for years... including the time when Bush was CIA Director.

Nevertheless, the invasion lasted less than a week, leaving **23** U.S. soldiers and 500-600 Panamanian soldiers and civilians dead.

In January 1990, Noriega was captured and flown to the U.S. where he was convicted. The U.S. paid Panama \$1 billion to repair the invasion's damage.



On the Cold War front, the **Belin Wall**, which had separated Communist East Berlin from Capitalist West Berlin since 1961, fell on November 9, 1989.

This led to the reunification of East and West Germany on October 3, 1990.

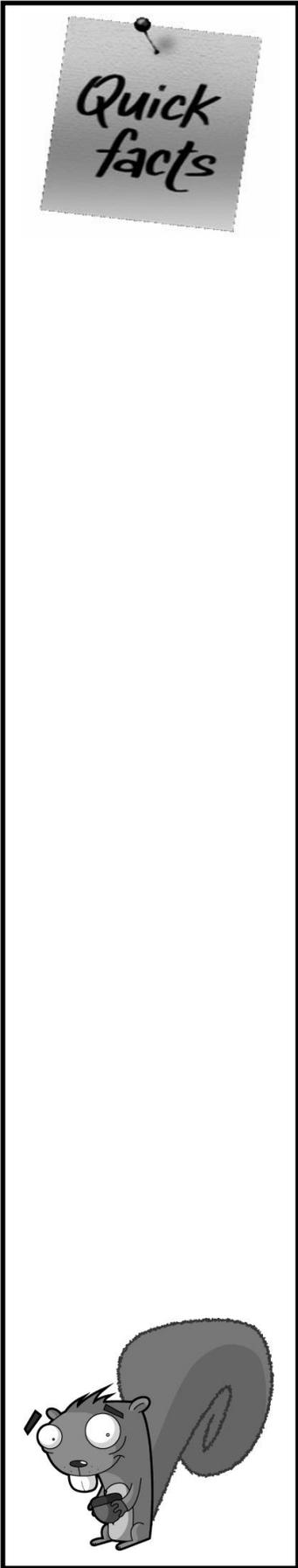
With communism failing in many countries, Bush wanted to forge a partnership with the **Soviet Union** (U.S.S.R.).

He believed the U.S.S.R. could become an **ally** – and if this happened, the U.S. could reduce its defense budget and save taxpayers billions.

Bush invited the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (who came to power in 1985) to an 3-day summit on the Mediterranean island of **Malta**, where they discussed 21 proposals from military cuts to economic aid.

Gorba-who? How'd we get here?

	Soviet Leader Flashback	
	Vladimir Lenin (1917-1922) <i>died in office</i>	
	Joseph Stalin (1922-1953) <i>died in office</i>	
	Nikita Khrushchev (1953-1964) <i>removed while on vacation</i>	
	Leonid Brezhnev (1964-1982) <i>died in office</i>	
	Yuri Andropov (1982-1984) <i>died in office</i>	
	Konstantin Chernenko (1984-1985) <i>died in office</i>	
	Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-1991) <i>steps down after U.S.S.R. ends</i>	
	Boris Yeltsin (1991-1999) 1 st President of non-Communist Russia	



Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the U.S.S.R.

In the late 1980s, he tried to change society with his policies of **glasnost** (Russian "openness") in political and cultural affairs and **perestroika** (Russian "restructuring") in economic affairs.

Gorbachev's policies prepared the country for **democratic** reforms and eased tensions with the U.S.

Gorbachev and Bush worked together to help bring the Cold War to a **smooth** end.

The Cold War ended like an old man easing into a bathtub.

The end started when, from August 20-31, 1991, **8** of the republics that made up the U.S.S.R. (Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia, Kirgizia, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan) joined Lithuania and Georgia in declaring their independence. Other republics followed in September and October.

On **December 25**, 1991, Gorbachev announced his resignation as leader in a solemn TV address. The Soviet Parliament passed its final resolution, acknowledging the dissolution of the Soviet Union, on December 26th. On December 31st, the U.S.S.R. **ceased to exist**.

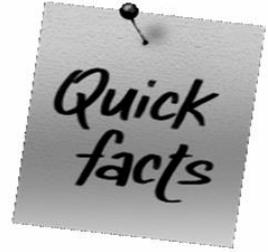
For those of you keeping score at home, that's...



U.S.A. 1
U.S.S.R. 0
Final



U.S.A.!
U.S.A.!
U.S.A.!
U.S.A.!
U.S.A.!
U.S.A.!



President Bush is, perhaps, best remembered for being in office during the Persian Gulf War (1991).

In August 1990, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein launched an attack on neighboring Kuwait, seizing control of the tiny country... and 10% of the world's oil.

Hussein then sent Iraqi forces to the border of Saudi Arabia, which controlled 25% of the world's oil.

Oil Update:

Kuwait has 10% of the oil.

Saudi Arabia has 25% of the oil.

Iraq has 10% of the oil.

This means Hussein was in striking distance of controlling almost half of the world's oil.

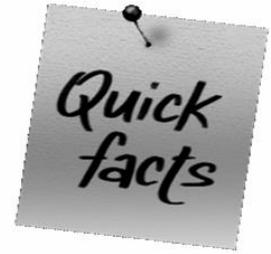
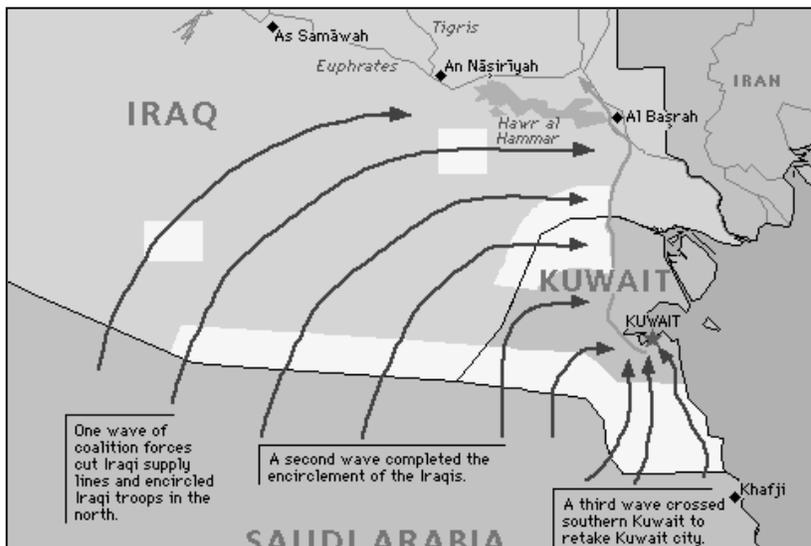
America likes oil.

Thus, Iraq had to be stopped.

America is good at war.

Iraq is toast.

Within hours of Saddam's attack, Bush began lining up European, Asian, and Middle Eastern allies—many of them suspicious of one another—to create a coalition against Iraq under the leadership of the United Nations.



Bush convinced the normally reluctant Saudi Arabians to allow U.S. troops on their territory to launch an attack into Kuwait and Iraq.

Bush ordered the Department of Defense to prepare for the biggest deployment of soldiers since the **Vietnam War**.

Iraq offered to end the conflict in exchange for part of Kuwait, but Bush wanted complete withdrawal.

The invasion of Kuwait, led by the U.S. under General **Norman Schwarzkopf** (called Operation **Desert Storm**), began on the night of January 16, 1991.

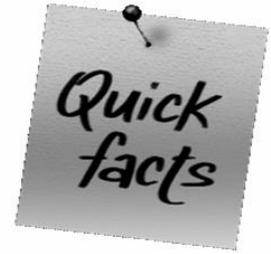
Hundreds of combat aircraft and bombers from 9 different nations blasted targets in and around Kuwait and Iraq.

More than **4,000** bombing runs were flown by Allied aircraft in the first week, and the pace continued for another 4 weeks before the ground invasion.

The U.S. used new weapons that had been developed during the Reagan-Bush military buildup; included the air- and sea-launched cruise missiles and **stealth bombers**.

The ground war lasted only 100 hours as allied troops rolled Iraq out of Kuwait.

Critics called Bush's decision to halt the invasion after 100 hours "premature"... since thousands of Saddam's best troops were allowed to escape. Bush was also condemned for not driving Iraqi forces all the way back to **Baghdād** and removing Saddam from power.



However, Bush had never made Saddam's removal the objective; he wanted to keep U.S. casualties low and return control of Kuwait to Kuwait. He had achieved both goals.

The removal of Saddam would become the objective of the **Second Gulf War** (2003-2011).

When the war ended **382** U.S. soldiers died (147 KIA), and **467** were wounded.

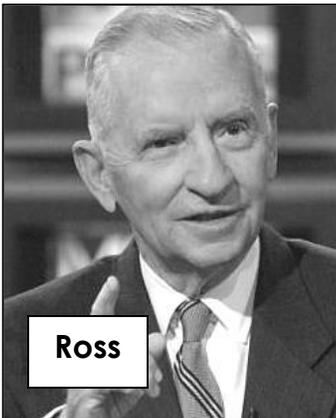
This war had only a **0.21%** casualty rate (compared to 6.69% in WW2 and 10.66% in Vietnam).

Iraq suffered **100,000** KIA.

Bush enjoyed **89%** approval ratings after the war. He believed his popularity would propel him into a second term.

However, Bush never put the same energy into **domestic** affairs that he did in the war.

This would cost him in 1992.



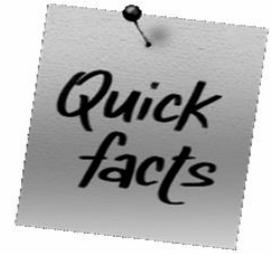
Texas billionaire **Ross Perot** complicated the political situation early in 1992 by launching a **third**-party bid for the Presidency.

Perot argued that neither Republicans nor Democrats could be trusted to eliminate the deficit and make government more efficient.



Democrats nominated Arkansas Governor **Bill Clinton**.

Clinton attacked Bush as a President who would do nothing to solve the problems of the **average** citizen.



Bush wasn't helped by his bumbling VP **Dan Quayle**, who made embarrassing mistakes.

Many said Bush needed to drop Quayle the ticket.

Perot's impact showed. He split the **Republican** vote in the Election of 1992. Had Perot not entered the race, Bush would have won re-election.

Popular Vote

Clinton: 43.0%

Bush: 37.5%

Perot: 18.9%

Electoral Vote

Clinton: 370

Bush: 168

Perot: 0

The Clinton Years

William Jefferson Clinton served as the 42nd U.S. President from **1993-2001**.

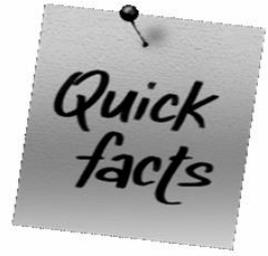
During most of his Presidency, "Bill" Clinton maintained strong support from those who had elected him, principally **African-Americans**, **women**, and **blue-collar** workers.

This resulted in him being informally called "America's first **black** President."

Among all U.S. Presidents, Clinton was one of the most forceful champions of **civil rights** for minorities and equality for women. He appointed record numbers of **minorities** and **women** as Federal court judges, Cabinet members, and other governmental officials.

Clinton quickly focused on improving the **economy**.

**IT'S THE ECONOMY
STUPID**



In fact, during the campaign, his strategist, James “the Ragin’ Cajun” Carville, hung a sign outside the office to keep everybody focused on what mattered. It read:
“It’s the economy, stupid!”

The strategy worked; Clinton beat a very popular war-time President because Bush lost focus on the **economy**.

Clinton believed that the key was reducing spending by the Federal Government in order to eliminate the huge deficits that occurred in the budget each year because the country spent more than it took in from taxes.

In 1993, Clinton submitted a budget to Congress that reduced Federal spending and **increased** taxes.

Every Republican in Congress voted against it, but the budget passed in both houses without one vote to spare.

Clinton’s budget victory reversed the trend of rising deficits, and it stimulated the economy.

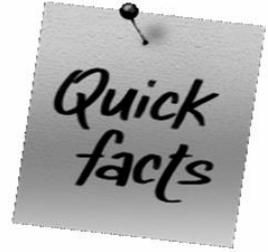
Clinton’s major policy initiative of his first term (providing **health care** insurance for *all* Americans) collapsed after a bitter fight in 1994.



This failure, along with the tax increase and budget battles with Republicans, hurt Clinton and the Democrats in 1994’s Congressional Elections.

The Republicans won a majority in **both** houses.

It was one of the biggest upheavals in Congressional history.



The new Republican makeup of Congress dramatically changed Clinton's strategy.

Unable to push his own programs, he turned his attention to preventing the Republicans' agenda from becoming law by frequently **vetoing** their budgets and bills.

In 1995, the Republican-controlled Congress shut down the Federal Government twice for short periods because it had not approved a budget.

He did reach a compromise with the Republicans on **welfare** reform, but this angered many in his own party.

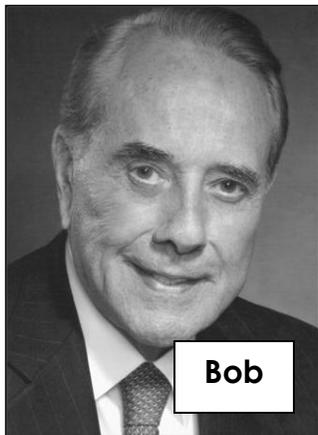
In 1996, Clinton ran for re-election against Republican Senator **Robert Dole**, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and Ross Perot, who ran as the candidate of the Reform Party.

As a freshman at MSU, Dr. Hartnell was old enough to vote for the first time.

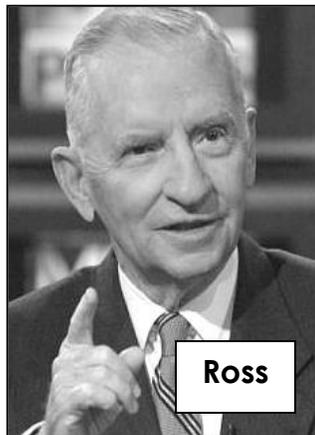
Voters were happy with the robust economy, and Clinton claimed credit for decreased numbers of people on welfare and promised additional reforms if re-elected.

Dole, a **WW2** veteran, was seen as "out-of-touch" with current issues and lacked the **energy** of Clinton's campaign.

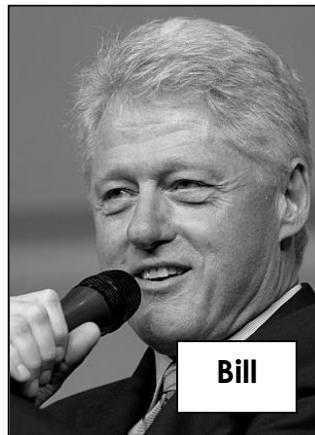
Perot was not as effective this time, but he did keep Clinton from hitting **50%** PV once again. (Clinton had 43% PV and Perot had 18.9% PV in 1992.)



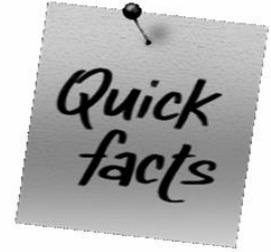
Bob



Ross



Bill



Popular Vote
Clinton: 49.2%
Dole: 40.7%
Perot: 8.4%

Electoral Vote
Clinton: 379
Dole: 159
Perot: 0

After Clinton's victory, Congress was less confrontational...
at first. Essentially, Clinton was a **popular** President.

In 1997, Clinton and Congress worked out compromises and
other reforms aimed at producing a **balanced** budget.

Because the Cold War had ended before he took office,
Clinton faced no threat to the nation's **security** like those
of preceding Presidents.

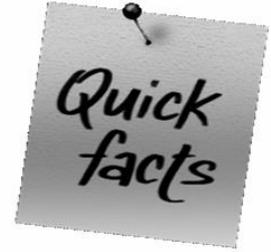
Still, he had to make difficult decisions about whether to
intervene in bloody conflicts in Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti,
Bosnia, and Kosovo.

Clinton was the opposite of Bush; he rocked domestically but
failed internationally.

A key example of Clinton's ineffectiveness came when
al-Qaeda terrorists attacked U.S. embassies in Kenya and
Tanzania (1998) and bombed the USS Cole (2000).

Even though the U.S. knew these were orchestrated by
Osama bin Laden, and despite locating him many times,
Clinton refused to "OK" his capture because of the fear
that too many innocent civilians might be killed.

How'd his decision work out for the U.S. on 9/11/2001?



Clinton's real emphasis in foreign policy was on **economic globalism**.

He believed that American security and prosperity depended on removing barriers to trade with other nations and by stabilizing countries with economic troubles.

Despite opposition from his own party, Clinton pushed Bush's **NAFTA** bill through Congress in 1993.

NAFTA lowered **tariffs** on trade between U.S., Canada, and Mexico; allowed 3 to compete against similar free-trade zones in Europe and Asia.

Canada has benefited the most from NAFTA (seeing 3.6% economic growth compared to the 3.3% in the U.S. and 2.7% in Mexico).

Nearly all trade **unions** in the U.S. opposed NAFTA, fearing that it would rob U.S. workers of jobs.

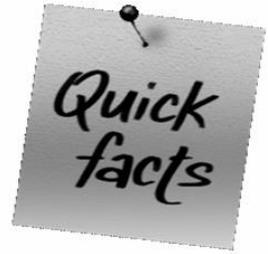
From his first months in office until his last day, Clinton's Presidency was plagued by charges of wrongdoing.

The longest-running issue was with **Whitewater**, a small real-estate project in Arkansas in which Clinton and his **wife** had invested during the late 1970s.

In a nutshell, the Clintons and another couple went in together on a land deal that fell through. Everyone (but the Clintons) did time in jail. Many accused Bill of using his position as President to "make it go away" and **hinder** the investigation.

The real scandal dropped in 1998 over a sexual affair with a 22-year-old White House intern named **Monica Lewinsky**.

Kenneth Starr, who had been appointed to look into the Whitewater scandal, would be the lead investigator again.



Allegations of sexual misconduct had been leveled against Clinton since his days as Governor of Arkansas.

One particular harassment case was settled out-of-court in 1998 when Clinton paid **Paula Jones** \$850,000 to drop her harassment case from 1991.

Although Lewinsky **denied** the affair, Starr acquired tape recordings of Lewinsky discussing the affair with her friend, Linda Tripp.

Starr had additional ammo against Clinton stemming from the **sworn** deposition the President gave during the Paula Jones' harassment case.

During his deposition for the Jones' case, the Lewinsky "affair" came up, to which Clinton swore, *"I have never had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. I've never had an affair with her."*

Oooooooh... buuuuusted.

After the recordings emerged, Lewinsky talked to Starr.

Clinton testified by closed-circuit TV to a **grand jury**.
Afterward, Clinton acknowledged to a national television audience that he had *"inappropriate intimate contact"* with Lewinsky.

Starr delivered a report to the H.O.R. recounting details of sexual incidents involving Clinton and Lewinsky.

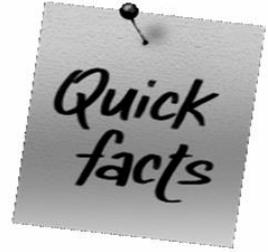
The House approved 2 articles of **impeachment**:

1. **Perjury** before a grand jury.
2. **Obstruction** of justice.

Impeachment does NOT mean **removal**; it means Clinton was now up for removal because H.O.R. brings charges and Senate does the removing.

Polls showed that majority of U.S. thought Clinton was doing a good job and should not be impeached nor removed.

On February 12, 1999, the Senate voted; **67** Senators (or **two-thirds**) would have to vote "GUILTY" in order to convict and remove.

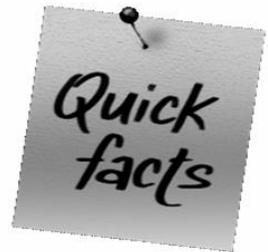


Article 1
perjury

Guilty: 45
Not Guilty: 55

Article 2
obstruction of justice

Guilty: 50
Not Guilty: 50



Article 1
perjury

Guilty: 45
Not Guilty: 55

specifics:

- 45 votes were Reps.
- 55 votes were 45 Dems. & 10 Reps.

Article 2
obstruction of justice

Guilty: 50
Not Guilty: 50

specifics:

- 50 "g" votes were Reps.
- 50 "ng" votes were 45 Dems. & 5 Republicans

It was only the second impeachment of a President in U.S. history, the other being in 1868 when **Andrew Johnson** (who took over after Lincoln died) was acquitted by the Senate by a margin of **1** vote.

Clinton had dodged a bullet.



Although the affair and impeachment sullied Clinton's Presidency, he was able to turn the investigation against the Republicans.

Many voters thought the Republicans were being unfair and hypocritical in pressing for impeachment and removal.

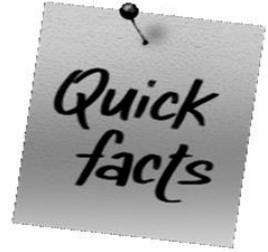
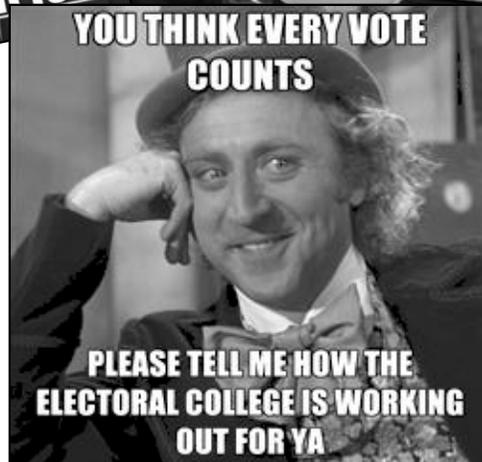
In the end, Clinton's biggest achievement was eliminating the Federal budget **deficit**. When he left office, the country was running on a **surplus** instead of a deficit.

Historians consider Clinton to be one of the nation's most brilliant political leaders.

Al Gore, Clinton's VP, ran for President in 2000.

His challenger was **George Walker Bush**, former Governor of Texas – and son of Bush #1.

Bush #2 won one of closest elections in history; he won EV (**271-266**) but lost PV (by **543,895** votes).



H-BOMB – Topic: *You can become President without winning the most Popular Votes.*

TRUE!

As bizarre as that may seem, the election of George W. Bush (even though he lost by over half a million Popular Votes) is totally within the realm of possibility under our current electoral system. In fact, this has happened 5 times in our history:

1824 (John Q. Adams),

1876 (Rutherford B. Hayes),

1888 (Benjamin Harrison),

2000 (George W. Bush), and

2016 (Donald J. Trump).

To understand how this can happen, let's examine how Presidential Elections work in this country.

The Electoral College

Introduction

It's time to exercise your democratic privilege and VOTE!

After all... every vote counts... right?

Electing a President is **indirect**.

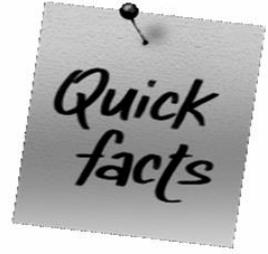
This means your vote does NOT actually determine who wins the White House.

When you vote, you're actually choosing **Electors** in the Electoral College for your state.

The Electoral College

The Electoral College was created by our Founding Fathers because they didn't **trust** us.

And who can blame them? We were a nation of drunken hilljacks! We're likely to elect a duck because it's funny.



But, they didn't want to have **Congress** pick the President.

Instead, their compromise was an **Electoral College** system that allowed voters to vote for Electors... who then cast their votes for the candidates.

There are 2 kinds of votes you'll hear mentioned on Election Day.

1. **Popular** Votes.

2. **Electoral** Votes.

Popular Votes:

A Popular Vote is the actual ballot **YOU** cast when you get into your little voting booth.

PVs help determine which candidate wins a certain **state**.

Electoral Votes:

An Electoral Vote is the vote cast by **members** of the Electoral College.

EVs help determine which candidate wins the **election**.

In order to become President, a candidate must win the majority (one more than half) of the Electoral Votes.

There are **538** Electoral Votes up for grabs on Election Night.

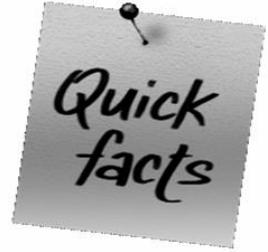
The first person to **270**... wins.

The number of Electoral Votes given to each state is calculated by adding together a state's **Senators** (every state gets 2) and a state's **Representatives** (based on the state's population).

Ohio is "worth" **18** EVs (2 Senators + 16 Reps = 18 EVs).

Ohio was worth **21** EVs in the Election of 2000 (based on the 1990 Census).

Ohio dropped to **20** EVs in the Election of 2004 (based on the 2000 Census).



California is worth the most (**55**).

Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington D.C., and Wyoming are worth the least (**3**).

The **23rd** Amendment (1961) made Washington, D.C. worth at least **3** EVs.

Back to Ohio...

Since 1944, the winner of Ohio wins the Presidency (except for 1960: OH went Nixon; JFK won).

Both Republican and Democratic Parties have 18 Electors chosen for Ohio since it's worth 18 EVs (or "**points**").

If the Republican candidate wins Ohio because she received more PVs than her opponent, she wins Ohio's 18 "points"; it doesn't matter whether she wins Ohio by 1 vote or 200,000 votes. Next, the Republicans send their 18 Electors to cast their Electoral Votes while the Democrat's 18 stay home.

Here's why the Founding Fathers did this...

The 18 Republican Electors chosen for Ohio do **NOT** have to vote for the Republican candidate.

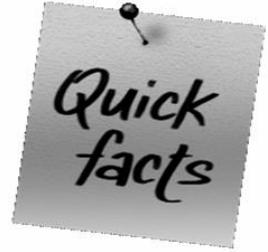
This was done because the Founding Fathers didn't trust us with such an important decision.

This way, if the people of Ohio elected Candidate "A" to win the state, the 18 Electors could opt out of voting for "A" and pick Candidate "B" instead.

Very rarely do Electors vote for someone they're *not pledged to*, but, it has happened before.

Let's say 100% of Ohioans voted for the Republican, one (or more) of the 18 Republican Electors could cast their EV for the Democrat instead. (Called a "**Faithless Elector**".)

Granted, it seems more logical to just count the TOTAL number of votes cast across the U.S. – and whichever candidate gets the most "wins"... but this harms the smaller states.



But, with a system like this, it *IS* possible to win the **most** PVs...
but **lose** the election.

Remember, this has happened 5 times in U.S. History...

1824 (John Q. Adams),

1876 (Rutherford B. Hayes),

1888 (Benjamin Harrison),

2000 (George W. Bush), and

2016 (Donald J. Trump).

The World Series Analogy

Think of the Presidential Election like the World Series...

To win the World Series, a team must win **4** of the 7 games.

To win the Election, a candidate must win **270** of the 538 EVs.

The number of runs scored by a team are like the number of
PVs a candidate receives.

World Series Results

Game 1 – Tigers 3, Braves 2 *(Tigers lead series 1-0)*

Game 2 – Tigers 5, Braves 0 *(Tigers lead series 2-0)*

Game 3 – Braves 10, Tigers 2 *(Tigers lead series 2-1)*

Game 4 – Braves 8, Tigers 4 *(Series tied 2-2)*

Game 5 – Braves 22, Tigers 1 *(Braves lead series 3-2)*

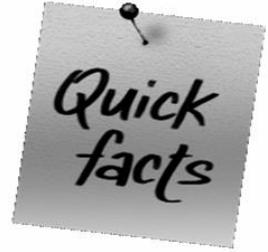
Game 6 – Tigers 4, Braves 3 *(Series tied 3-3)*

Game 7 – Tigers 2, Braves 1 *(Tigers win series 4-3)*

The Tigers win the World Series because they won more **GAMES**
than the Braves (4-3).

But... the Braves scored more **RUNS** than the Tigers (46-21).

Still... the Tigers are Champs because the World Series is based
on GAMES, not runs.



Election of 2000

George W. Bush:

- Won 30 states (58.82%)
- Won 271 Electoral Votes (50.4%)
- Won 50,456,002 Popular Votes (47.9%)

Albert Gore, Jr.:

- Won 20 states + DC (41.18%)
- Won 266* Electoral Votes (49.4%)
- Won 50,999,897 Popular Votes (48.9%)



* **NOTE:** Gore should have had 267 Electoral Votes, but a Democratic Elector from D.C. refused to cast her vote for Gore in protest of D.C.'s lack of voting representation in Congress.

Bush wins because he won more **EVs** than Gore (271-266).

But... Gore won more **PVs** than Bush (got 543,895 more votes).

Still... Bush is Champ because Presidential Elections are based on **ELECTORAL** Votes, NOT Popular Votes.

What if No Ones Gets 270?

If nobody wins 270 EVs, the decision is thrown to House of Representatives (thanks to the **12th** Amendment).

The top 3 EV candidates go before the House.

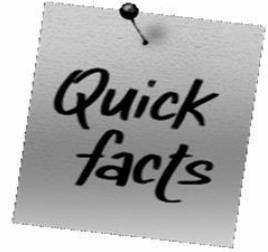
The House votes state-by-state to decide... 1 vote per state; a candidate needs **26** to win.

The vote is repeated until someone wins.

This has happened 2 times... in 1800 (Thomas Jefferson) and 1824 (J.Q. Adams).

But, this does mean that someone could actually become President that loses the PV *and* loses the EV!

In 1824, John Quincy Adams became the 6th President despite losing both the EV *and* the PV to Andrew Jackson.



Because no one won the majority of EVs (131 back then), the Election went to the House, who picked from the top 3 EV-getting candidates (Adams, Jackson, Crawford).

In the House, 13 states picked Adams, 7 picked Jackson, and 4 picked Crawford; this made Adams the new President.

The Redskins Know...

The NFL's Washington **Redskins** can predict the winner of a Presidential Election.

That's right... the Redskins have correctly predicted the winner of **18** of the last 21 Presidential Elections (that's 85.7%).

Dating back to 1936 (when the franchise was the Boston Redskins), if the Redskins **win** their last home game before a Presidential Election, the political party that occupies the White House at that time keeps it.

If the Redskins **lose** their last home game before a Presidential Election, then the challenging party's candidate wins it.

For instance, the Redskins beat the Colts 31-16 in 1996. Clinton was in office, and he went on to win re-election.

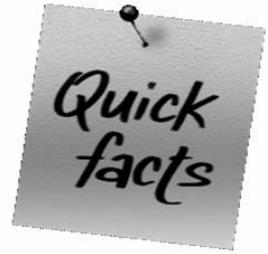
There have been 3 elections that broke the rule:

2004: The Redskins lost 28-14 to the Packers. Bush was in office but still won re-election.

2012: The Redskins lost to the Panthers 21-13. Obama was in office but still won re-election.

2016: The Redskins tied the Bengals 27-27 in their last game before the election... but this game was in London and the Redskins were the "away" team. Remember, the rule uses their last HOME game. As such, the last home game was on Oct. 16th (beat Eagles 27-20). Obama was in office, which means the Democrats (Hillary Clinton) should have won... but Clinton lost to Donald Trump.

Thanks, Founding Fathers!



The W. Bush (Bush #2) Years

George Walker Bush served as the 43rd U.S. President from 2001-2009.

The “W” Administration got off to an auspicious start thanks to the controversy surrounding his election.

One word sums up why the Election of 2000 was controversial: Florida.

FYI...

Dr. Hartnell was a student-teacher at Holt High School in Michigan when this all went down.

Talk about a teachable moment!

The outcome of the election hinged on Florida's 25 EVs.

At 8pm on Election night on November 7th, all 5 major TV stations prematurely called Gore the winner of FL.

But by 10pm, as votes were tallied from the panhandle, all 5 stations retracted their call.

As the night wore on, Florida became “too close to call”.

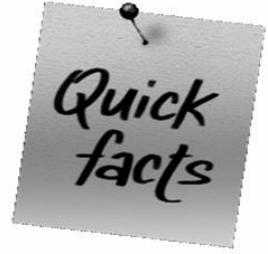
By 2:30am, with 85% of the vote counted, Bush now led Gore by more than 10,000 PVs.

So... all 5 stations called Bush the winner of Florida and the next President.

Gore even privately contacted Bush and congratulated him on winning the Presidency.

But by 4:30am, with 100% of the votes counted, Bush led by only 1,784 PVs out of the more than 6 million PVs cast.

This small margin was within the automatic recount rule.



As a result, the stations took back Bush's victory, Gore withdrew his concession, and Florida again became "too close to call".

A recount, which took a week, was conducted.

A recount means all of the PVs are counted... again.

This became significant because in taking the 25 EVs off Bush's EV total now meant Gore was winning the Election 266 246.

But Gore didn't have the necessary 270 to win.

Thus, the ENTIRE Election now hinged on the recount.

After the recount, Bush's lead dropped to less than **200** PVs.

Bush was now President, right?

Nope. Gore then requested a **hand** recount in 4 Democratic counties where 70,000 **punch-card** ballots had recorded a "no vote" for President.

A punch-card ballots require voters to punch holes in cards with a supplied punch device next to the name of the candidate they want to vote for.

Punch-ballots are then fed into a tabulating machine in order to "count" the vote.

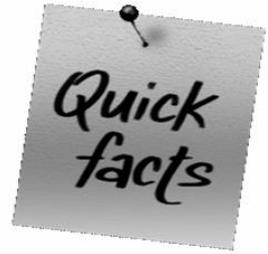
If a voter fails to punch hard enough and break the perforated hole, then when the punch-ballot gets run through the tabulating machine, the vote won't count and will show up as a "**no vote**".

Apparently people lack wrist strength in Florida.

On November 26th, Bush was declared the winner by **537** PVs and was now President.

Not so fast, my friend!

Gore contested these results to the Florida Supreme Court and demanded a re-recount of the 70,000 "no vote" punch ballots.



Gore's holdup was the "**hanging chad**".

A "chad" is the perforated hole that gets punched out by the voter on a punch-ballot.

Hand counting ballots with "hanging chads" became controversial for 2 reasons:

1. **Voter's intent**: If there was a "hanging chad" next to Gore's name, should that ballot count as a vote for Gore? Some vote counters said "yes" while others said "no".
2. **Technicality**: If the rules say "hanging chad" ballots are not to be counted, then why are they even being looked at?

The American public was growing tired. Almost a month had passed since the Election... and there was still NO winner.

That's when "Mom" stepped in.

On December 12th, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled twice in the case **Bush v. Gore**.

In a **7-2** vote, the Supreme Court ruled that because different vote counters interpreted the "hanging chads" differently, the Florida Supreme Court's approval of the re-count was unconstitutional.

In a **5-4** vote, the Supreme Court ruled that there was also not enough time to conduct the hand recount before the U.S. Government's December 15th deadline for when the state's Electoral College members are supposed to meet to determine who gets Florida's 25 EVs.

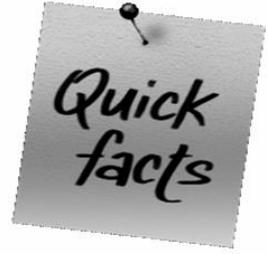
As a result, Bush officially won Florida by **537** PVs.

The 25 EVs he got for winning Florida pushed him past Gore (and 1 EV past the 270 mark).

Bush won 271-266 (not 267 because a "Faithless Elector" didn't vote for Gore) in the EV but lost by 543,895 in the PV.

On January 6, 2001, a joint session of Congress met to certify the EVs.

20 members of the H.O.R. filed objections to Florida's EVs.



According to an 1877 law, any such objection had to be sponsored by both a Representative *and* a Senator.

No Senator would co-sponsor these objections, deferring to the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings in *Bush v. Gore*.

In a twist of irony, Gore, who was still the acting VP under Clinton – and the President of the Senate – had to rule the 20 objections “out of order”.

Fourteen days later, on January 20th, Bush took the Oath of Office as the 43rd U.S. President.

But the recount issue still loomed over the country.

Many cried foul because Bush's younger brother, **Jeb**, was Florida's Governor.

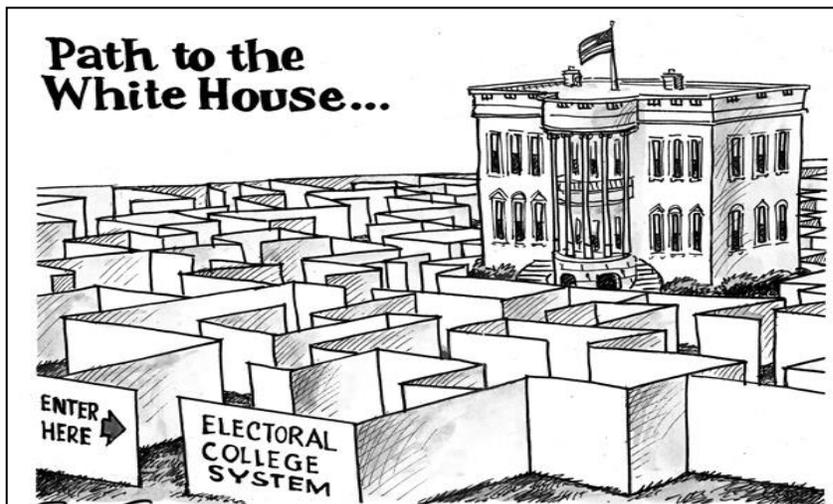
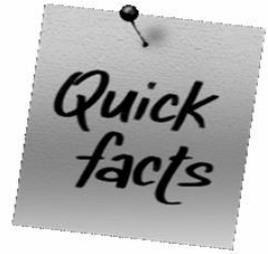
As a result, several independent recounts were conducted by newspapers.

Some found that had the recount continued, Gore would've won by **107-115** PVs.

Others found Bush would have still won, but only by **110**.

As a result, Bush faced a divided U.S. – and took office with a **46%** approval rating.

However, a massive **terrorist attack** on September 11th would take the country's attention off the Election of 2000 and unify Americans in a way not seen since World War II.



9/11 Terrorist Attacks

On the sunny Tuesday morning of **September 11**, 2001, 19 terrorists, working in teams of 4 or 5, hijacked 4 commercial jetliners and turned them toward targets chosen for destruction.

What were their targets?

Two of the planes, Boeing 767s, loaded with fuel and passengers, were flown at speeds between 470-590mph into the **Twin Towers** of the World Trade Center in NYC.

The buildings burst into flames and then collapsed, killing thousands.

A third terrorist crew smashed their plane into **The Pentagon**, headquarters of the U.S. military in Arlington, Virginia.

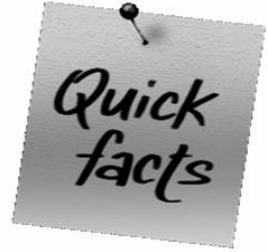
The hijackers of the fourth airliner intended to hit another target in the Washington, D.C. area (like the **White House** or the Capitol Building), but passengers on the plane fought back. This airplane crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania.

The men who carried out the hijackings came from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Arab states. They worked for **al-Qaeda**, a radical Islamic group led by **Osama bin Laden**. The targets they chose symbolized U.S. financial, political, and military power.

The FBI concluded that 19 men were involved, some as pilots and some as accomplices. Several had taken flight lessons in the U.S. They needed only basic training to accomplish their mission.

Because they planned to hijack planes already in flight, they did not have to learn **takeoff** procedures, and since they intended to crash, they did not need to know how to **land**.

Preparations for the mission seem to have been extensive.



FBI agents later concluded that the ringleader for the entire September 11th operation was an Egyptian named **Mohamed Atta**. He was at the controls of American Airlines Flight 11 that hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

The hijackers selected transcontinental flights from the East Coast to the West Coast, which meant the aircraft would be carrying extra **fuel**.

They chose flights on a **midweek** day that would be less likely to have a full load of passengers. This would reduce the chance of someone interfering with their plans.

They also targeted airlines with the words "**American**" or "**United**" as symbolic gestures of defiance.

Since airline screening makes it hard to smuggle guns aboard, they used **box cutters** as their weapons.

U.S. citizens, feeling their country under attack, rallied behind their leaders in a display of national unity, patriotism, and generosity unseen since World War II.

Instantly, the controversy concerning the Election of 2000 seemed ridiculous.

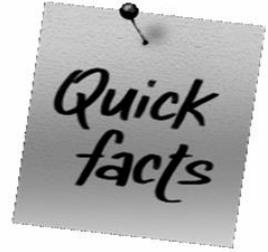
FYI...

Dr. Hartnell was 23 and in his first year teaching in Westerville.

Talk about a teachable moment!

The country celebrated the values of courage and heroism, exemplified by the New York **firefighters** and rescue workers who willingly rushed into the towers to save as many people as possible.

Before long, it was clear that September 11th would alter the course of U.S. history. President Bush quickly announced that fighting **terrorism** and preventing future attacks would be his Administration's top priority.



Just as FDR's words following the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor would be the rallying cry in WWII, Bush's words helped unite the country in the new **War on Terrorism**.

He said, "I will not forget the wound to our country and those who inflicted it. I will not yield, I will not rest, I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people."

Bush gave governments around the world an ultimatum with his **Bush Doctrine**.

In short, he told other countries that they're either "**with us**" or "**against us**".

Understandably, this did not sit well with many countries.

The Bush Doctrine would eventually land the U.S. in two major wars – one in **Afghanistan** and one in **Iraq**.

These wars, considered part of the War on Terrorism, would vastly impact Bush's approval rating as the years wore on.

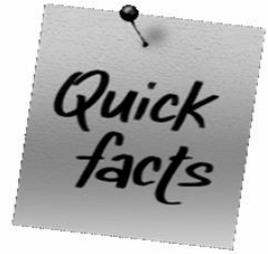
In the meantime, Bush created a new Cabinet position, the Department of **Homeland Security**.

In the post 9/11-world, Americans had to get used to new security measures that complicated their travel, work, and recreation.

Six weeks after the attacks, Congress passed the **U.S.A. P.A.T.R.I.O.T.** Act, which was an acronym for:



Uniting and
Strengthening
America by
Providing
Appropriate
Tools
Required to
Intercept and
Obstruct
Terrorism Act.



The act authorized the jailing of those suspected of being terrorists.

Concerns ranged from **wiretapping** to racial profiling to interrogation techniques.

In 2002, Homeland Security introduced a color-coded "**Advisory System**" concerning the likelihood of a terrorist attack on any given day.

The system was largely ignored...and mocked. As a result, it was scrapped in 2011.

The 9/11 attacks constituted the first major foreign assault on the Continental U.S. since 1814, when the British invaded Washington, D.C. and burned the White House during the **War of 1812**.

In all, **2,977** Americans perished on 9/11 (2,753 died in NYC; 184 died in D.C.; 40 died in Pennsylvania).

The youngest victim was a **2.5**-year-old child on Flight 175; the oldest was an **82**-year-old passenger on Flight 11.

The 9/11 death toll was the most to die on U.S. soil since the Battle of **Antietam** during the Civil War, when 4,710 Americans died on September 17, 1862.

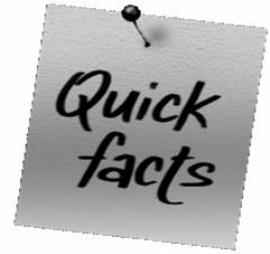
The 9/11 death toll also eclipsed the 2,403 killed during the attack on **Pearl Harbor** on December 7, 1941.

While bad, the 9/11 death toll could have been much, MUCH worse.

Turnstile counts indicate there were **14,154** people in the Twin Towers at 8:45am on 9/11 (one minute before Flight 11 hit the North Tower).

Almost immediately, however, there were **conspiracy** theories about 9/11.

Many theories came on the heels of the reports published by the 9/11 Commission Report.



The commission was established on November 27, 2002 – 442 days after the attacks – and the final report was not issued until July 22, 2004.

The commission interviewed over 1,200 people in 10 countries and reviewed over 2.5 million pages of documents, including classified national security documents.

The commission placed heavy blame on the **FBI**, **CIA**, and FAA.

After releasing the report, the commission's chair Thomas Kean declared that both Presidents Clinton and W. Bush were "not well served" by the FBI and CIA.

The report said that an attack by al-Qaeda was imminent but was roundly criticized for not giving the whole story behind the warnings the U.S. received prior, more specifically: **who** know what... **when** they knew it... and what they did with that information.

The biggest pundits of the commission's report have been the **9/11 Truth Movement**, who continue to advocate that "9/11 was an inside job".

The most damning accusation is that Bush deliberately turned a blind eye to attack warnings because he wanted to go to war in the **Middle East** for **oil**.

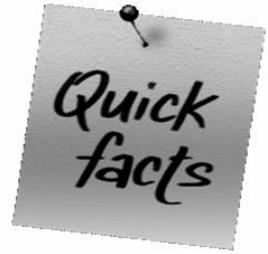
"Truthers" cite evidence that an airliner did not hit the Pentagon and that the World Trade Center could not have been brought down by airliner impacts and burning aviation fuel alone.

Many witnesses claim to have heard **explosions** below the aircraft impacts and before both the collapses and the attacks themselves.

The collapse of World Trade Center **Building 7** is often times what conspiracy theorists point to when discussing unrelated explosions.

Like with the JFK assassination and the moon landing, 9/11 conspiracies continue to take shape. Today, **40%** of Americans do not believe the "historical" version of how 9/11 unfolded.

What do you think?



In the aftermath of 9/11, Bush enjoyed a **92%** approval rating... the highest received by any U.S. President ever, eclipsing his own father's 89% that came in the wake of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Not bad for a guy who "technically" wasn't elected!

Thanks to the Bush Doctrine, U.S. foreign policy shifted after 9/11 to reflect Bush's earlier statement of "*Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.*"

On October 7, 2001, the U.S. began military operations in **Afghanistan** with the intention of dislodging the **Taliban** regime that had sheltered Osama bin Laden and other members of al-Qaeda.

Collaboration with the **Northern Alliance**, an anti-Taliban rebel force, proved effective.

By December 2001, just two months after the war began – and despite pundits suggesting that a war here would become the "next **Vietnam**" – the Taliban had been driven from power.

Hundreds of al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters were taken prisoner or killed.

Unfortunately, Osama bin Laden evaded capture for a decade, and many al-Qaeda fighters crossed into Pakistan.

In 2010, however, intelligence reports found bin Laden living in Pakistan's capital of **Islamabad**.

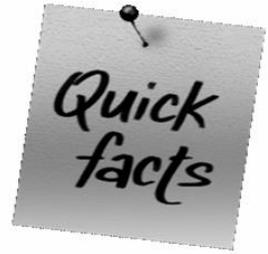
On May 2, 2011, at around 1:00am local time, 24 members of U.S. Navy SEAL Team **Six** descended on bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

After a brief fight, 5 people (including bin Laden) were killed.

After the raid, U.S. forces took the body to Afghanistan for DNA identification... then buried it at **sea**.

Why was bin Laden "buried" so quickly?

Why was bin Laden "buried" at sea?



The quick burial respected the Muslim tradition of being buried **24** hours after death.

The burial at sea kept any one location from becoming a "**gathering place**" for wannabe terrorists/douchebags.

Later that year, on Veterans Day (November 11th), Michigan State and North Carolina played a basketball game on the USS **Carl Vinson**, the aircraft carrier that dumped bin Laden's body.

UNC beat MSU 67-55.

Only in America...

By this time, Bush was no longer in office, so President **Barack Obama** announced to the nation that "*justice has been done*".

Major celebrations broke out across the U.S. as bin Laden's death gave the country a much-needed sense of closure.

Back to 2001... After the Taliban fled, the U.S. helped local Afghan leaders create a new **democratic** government.

In 2004, Afghanistan held its first nationwide democratic election, and **Hamid Karzi** became the country's first President.

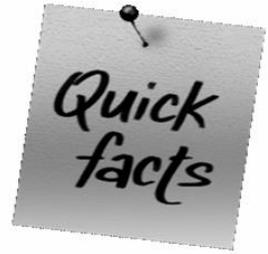
Despite these successes, some pockets of al-Qaeda prompted renewed and prolonged fighting in Afghanistan.

The U.S. military remains in Afghanistan to this day.

When the U.S. found al-Qaeda cells in over **50** countries, Bush cautioned that the War on Terrorism would be a long and costly one.

In keeping al-Qaeda on its heels, over **10** major terrorist attacks on the U.S. and Britain were thwarted from 2002-2006.

But then the Bush Doctrine got a bit over zealous...



Bush and his advisers soon became deeply concerned that terrorists might acquire Weapons of Mass Destruction (or **WMDs**). These could be nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

In his 2002 State of the Union address, Bush warned that an "**Axis of Evil**" made up of **Iraq**, **Iran**, and **North Korea** posed a grave threat to world peace.

Each of these countries had harbored terrorists in the past and were suspected of developing WMDs.

Of particular interest to Bush was Iraq.

Bush's father, of course, had been in office in 1991 when the U.S. pummeled Iraq and drove them out of Kuwait.

After the Gulf War, Iraq had to submit to UN inspections.

From 1991-1998, Iraq appeared to be hiding WMDs from UN inspectors.

When Iraq expelled the UN inspectors, Clinton launched a massive bombing attack on Iraq to destroy its ability to make such weapons.

Some say Clinton ordered the bombings to divert public attention away from the Lewinsky affair, which was unfolding at the same exact time as the attack on Iraq.

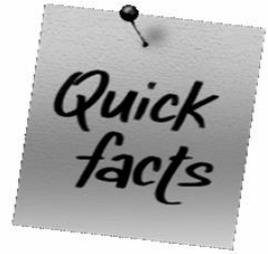
Whatever his reasons, the bombings failed.

As a result, intelligence agencies continued to believe Iraq was hiding WMDs.

In 2002, Bush asked the UN to pressure **Saddam Hussein** to give up all of Iraq's WMDs.

Iraq admitted that it did have WMDs before the first Gulf War but that it no longer had any.

Secretary of State **Colin Powell** believed Iraq was lying and lobbied the UN to permit an invasion. In addition, Bush believed Hussein had direct ties to al-Qaeda.



As the U.S. and a coalition of 30 other countries prepared for war with Iraq, the UN **refused** to authorize the use of force.

France and **Russia**, members of the UN Security Council who have the power to veto any UN action, refused to back the U.S.

Around the world, **anti-war** protestors staged rallies against the U.S. and Bush.

Soon, countries that had helped the U.S. in Afghanistan refused to help in Iraq. These included Germany, France, and **Canada**. (*Not Canada!!!*)

Saudi Arabia and **Turkey** refused to let the U.S. attack Iraq from their territories – only Kuwait permitted U.S. access.

To many outsiders, it seemed that the U.S. would do anything to get its war with Iraq.

Many said it was a “*personal vendetta*” by Bush to kill Hussein since his father had called off the dogs in 1991.

(Hussein's removal was NOT H.W. Bush's objective in 1991.)

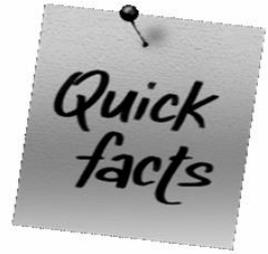
On March 20, 2003 – and without UN approval – U.S. and British forces launched “Operation Iraqi Freedom” with a powerful bombing display dubbed “**Shock and Awe**”.

Just 20 days later, U.S. troops entered the capital of Baghdad and liberated the Iraqi people.

On December 13, 2003, Hussein was captured during a raid near his hometown of Tikrit. He was found hiding in a spider hole (like a foxhole).

He was turned over to the Iraqi people, who promptly put him on trial... and **hanged** him on December 30, 2006.

On May 1, 2003, while standing in front of a giant “**Mission Accomplished**” banner, Bush declared major combat operations in Iraq “over”... and to the tune of only **139** U.S. soldiers killed (109 KIA).



It appeared that Bush had out-performed his father yet again.
The Gulf War in 1991 saw 382 die (147 KIA).

This speech... and the giant banner... would come back to
haunt Bush.

Sort of like starting to high-step at the 50-yard line...

Unlike in Afghanistan where the arrival of U.S. troops
drove away al-Qaeda... the arrival of U.S. soldiers in Iraq
attracted al-Qaeda and other radical groups who saw
this as a chance to build support in the Muslim world by
organizing resistance to the U.S.

And then the whole WMDs issue popped up again... as in...
Where are they?

Eventually, it was concluded that Iraq did **NOT** have any
WMDs... and Saddam did **NOT** any ties to al-Qaeda.

Rat fart.

With two foreign wars underway – and the nation still jittery
from 9/11 – Bush faced re-election in 2004.

The big question... was *Florida ready?*

National security and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were
the hot button issues.

Bush's challenger was **John Kerry**, the Democratic Senator from
Massachusetts.

Kerry's "flip-flopping" on key issues coupled with weak foreign
policy stances didn't sit well with the country – especially
with the nation at war.

Thankfully, the Election of 2004 didn't come down to Florida.

Unlike 2000 when he lost by 543,895 PVs, Bush beat Kerry by
3,012,171 PVs.

Popular Vote

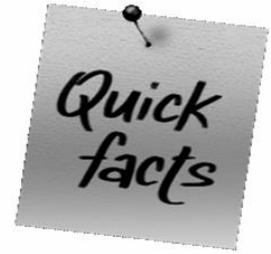
Bush: 50.7%

Kerry: 48.3%

Electoral Vote

Bush: 286

Kerry: 251



With Bush staying in office, his attention remained on Iraq.

In 2005, the Iraqi people went to the polls for the first free election in their country's history; Jalal Talabani was elected their President.

Iraq now had a functioning democratic government.

And let's be honest... Bush turned 2 countries in the Middle East into democracies.

Despite these accomplishments, violence worsened in Iraq. Of course, as casualties mounted, the U.S. public began to turn more and more against the war.

A troop "surge" from 2006-2008 was needed to restore order in Baghdad and across the country.

This sent some people into the stratosphere.

In the end, however, the surge successfully reduced violence.

In August 2010, U.S. troop totals began to drop, and, by December 15, 2011, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" ended.

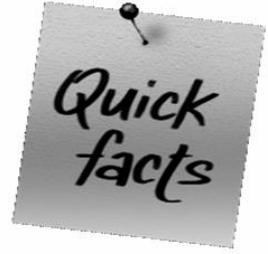
After 8 years and 8 months, the once promising casualty numbers... 139 dead and 545 wounded (May 2003)... ballooned to 4,487 dead (3,481 KIA) and 32,226 wounded.

Bush's domestic agenda remained largely ignored due to the War on Terrorism.

Keeping captured terrorist suspects at the U.S. military base in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba soon came under fire when stories of abuse and torture leaked to the press.

The U.S. Supreme Court repeatedly ruled against Bush and his belief that the prisoners were enemy combatants and not protected under U.S. court "rules".

To skirt around this, Bush established special military courts... but these were also struck down.



As part of the PATRIOT Act, the National Security Agency (NSA) began **wiretapping** domestic phone calls made to overseas locations when they believed one party in the call was a member of al-Qaeda.

Civil rights groups argued this violated the **4th** Amendment.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane **Katrina** smashed into the Gulf Coast, devastating Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama – and killing 1,836 while causing \$81.2 billion in damage.

The affected area was the size of **England**; 80% of the city of **New Orleans** flooded.

The people of New Orleans took shelter in the Superdome (home of the NFL's Saints).

Waiting for DAYS, the people had little food, clean water, or information from authorities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) was slow to act.

And with Bush's eroding popularity – as seen with Ford and Carter – the press teed off on his Administration's failure to help the people in New Orleans.

On September 2, 2005, rapper **Kanye West** effectively put the nail in the Bush coffin.

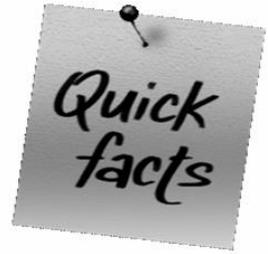
During a live telecast of a concert to raise money for the victims, he deviated from the script... and said:

"George Bush doesn't care about black people."

Bush later called the remark as *"one of the most disgusting"* moments in his Presidency.

Popularity ratings for Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress continued to drop.

The 2006 Midterm Elections saw the **Democrats** take back control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1994.



As Bush tried to run out the clock on his 2nd term, the U.S. economy went into the **Great Recession** in 2008.

The financial crisis started the year before when the once booming housing market crashed.

Two things were to blame:

1. **Buyers**: Many people were living beyond their means. In other words, people with “beer” budgets were buying “champaign” homes.
2. **Banks**: The banks took advantage of America's desire to live beyond their means by approving people for homes they couldn't afford.

When people started defaulting on their mortgage payments, the bottom dropped out.

Many well-known investment banking firms declared bankruptcy... and collapsed.

Companies started laying off workers; by 2010, **11.5%** of the country was unemployed.

The U.S. entered the Election of 2008 with the country embroiled in two foreign wars, dealing with a crippled economy and devastated housing market, and coping with rising anti-American sentiment around the globe.

America was hurting.

It would be a little-known Senator from Illinois that eased America's mind by uttering one word: “**Hope**”.

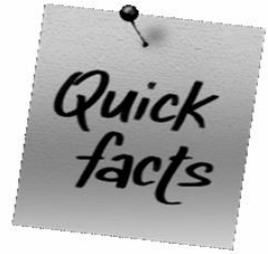
The Election of 2008 was poised to make history regardless of which candidate came out the winner.

The Republican Party was represented by Arizona Senator **John McCain** and Alaskan Governor **Sarah Palin**.

The Democrats ran Illinois Senator **Barack Obama** and Delaware Senator **Joe Biden**.

If the McCain-Palin ticket won, then the U.S. would have its first **female** Vice President.

If the Obama-Biden ticket won, then the U.S. would have its first **African-American** President.



In the end, Obama pulled off the Democrat's biggest win since the Election of 1964.

On Election night, Obama said:

*"This is our moment... to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth – that out of many, we are one; that... when we are met with... those who tell us we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: **Yes We Can!**"*

"Timeless creed"? You mean the song from *Bob the Builder*?

Can we fix it? Yes We Can!

Nevertheless, it was clear that the U.S. was ready for change.

Popular Vote

Obama: 52.9%

McCain: 45.6%

Electoral Vote

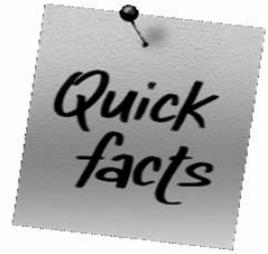
Obama: 365

McCain: 173



As for Bush, his approval rating hit **19%** – the lowest of any President... ever. (He was at 92% after 9/11.)

His legacy remains uncertain. While creating 2 democracies in the Middle East was very impressive, the manner in which it happened damaged U.S. image around the globe.



The Obama Years

Barack Hussein Obama II served as the 44th U.S. President from **2009-2017**.

Expectations were high for Obama, especially because he represented so many things to so many people: **hope, change**, progress, youthfulness, and “progressive” thinking.

Being President, however, is more than giving great speeches, which Obama soon found out as he struggled to fulfill many of his campaign promises.

Obama was instantly greeted with two foreign wars and a shaky economy.

Since the **economy** had been the most important issue in the election (more than the war in Iraq), Obama tackled the economy first.

Before leaving office, Bush and Congress passed a \$700 billion **bailout** for the nation’s banks.

This didn’t sit well with the public. Even though spend-happy home buyers were part of the problem, people’s inherent mistrust of banks drove their dissatisfaction.

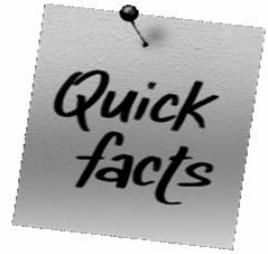
(Keep in mind that at this point, Bush could have announced he had the cure for cancer... and no one would’ve listened.)

To try to jump start the economy, Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009.

The act provided **tax cuts** to working families and small businesses.

In short, it was a bailout for the **people**... not the banks.

It allocated Federal funds for growth and investment as well as for education, health, and other programs.



By the end of 2009, it appeared that some of Obama's measures were working... but at the expense of a rising Federal **deficit**.

Some Americans were uncomfortable with the **growing** role of Obama and the Federal Government in the economy.

With too many irons in the fire, Obama had to quickly shift gears and get to another campaign promise...

Universal Health Care.

Obama announced his reform of the health care system – later dubbed “**Obamacare**”.

His hope of providing health insurance for every American looked great on paper, but it faced a huge issue: **funding**.

Obama wanted to pay for his plan by raising taxes on the **wealthy** and by reducing wasteful spending.

This touched off months of heated debates in Congress. Even though no Republicans voted for Obamacare, it still passed in March 2010.

Obama had achieved something that Clinton had tried to do in 1994 but failed.

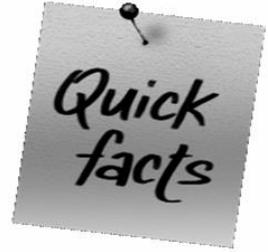
Obamacare extended coverage to **32** million Americans that could not previously afford it.

The country continues to debate the impact it will have.

Still, by the 2010 Midterm elections, Obama's approval rating slumped to its lowest in office at that time (from 76% to 44%).

Many Americans felt his stimulus and Obamacare were too **expensive** and had not strengthened the economy.

A grassroots movement called the “**Tea Party**” sprang up to protest Obama. The movement took its name from a reference to the Boston Tea Party done in protest to British taxation.



The movement opposed "**Big** Government".

As a result, **Republicans** wrested back control of the House of Representatives while Democrats kept the Senate.

Obama now had to deal with a split-Congress.

The Great Recession continued to take its toll on the country.

The 2010 Census showed that the income of the middle class had fallen by **45%**.

And when the middle class stops spending, recovery comes to a halt.

The widening gap between income groups sparked a movement called "**Occupy Wall Street!**" in September 2011.

These protestors claimed that they represented "the **99** percent" of the population against the wealthiest **1** percent.

A person needs to earn at least **\$506,000** annually to be in the Top "1%" of the income distribution in the U.S.

They began by occupying a park in NYC's financial district.

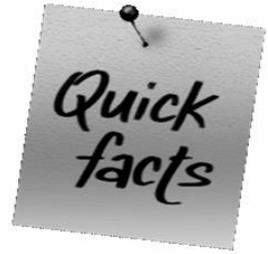
Most protestors were young and were "independents".

The protests shifted dialogue from the Federal deficit to the economic problems that ordinary Americans faced.

While the movement helped express popular anger, it suffered from a lack of leadership and petered out by February 2012.

In its 5 months, the Occupy Movement spread to **951** cities across **82** countries.

While Obama acknowledged that the movement expressed people's frustration with the financial crisis, his Administration soon returned to "*business as usual*" in D.C.



On the international front, Obama came to office determined to take a less “Yosemite Sam” approach to world affairs and tone down the Bush Doctrine that had alienated many countries.

But, he had to be careful not to go the route of **Carter**.

In August 2010, Obama began **reducing** U.S. troop totals in Iraq, leaving 50,000 to train their forces with the understanding that all U.S. soldiers would be off Iraqi soil by December 15, 2011.

“Operation Iraqi Freedom” ended on that exact date.

At the same time, Obama **expanded** the American combat role in Afghanistan.

Its mission was to fight the Taliban until Afghan forces could defend the country on their own. This had been the idea since 2001, but the war in Iraq detracted troops and attention from Afghanistan.

On May 2, 2011, U.S. Navy SEAL Team Six located... and killed **Osama bin Laden**.

Obama also approved the use of pilotless **drone** aircraft to track and eliminate other leaders of al-Qaeda in order to avoid having to send in ground troops.

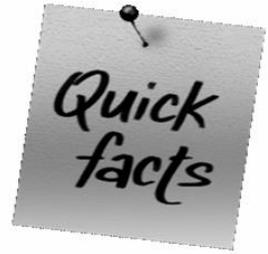
Of course, the use of drones raised protests at home when errant attacks killed civilians near specific targets.

Side note... is America EVER happy?

Obama's approach overseas won back some of the nation's alienated allies.

Still, the question remained whether or not Obama would be as assertive in countries where the U.S. did not already have troops.

The “**Arab Spring**” gave Obama his next chance to stand in the world's spotlight.



This movement in 2011 saw the overthrow of dictators in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt.

Since U.S. troops were no longer in Iraq... but still entrenched in Afghanistan... Obama was reluctant to provide the **rebels** in these countries with military support.

Instead, he defaulted to NATO to provide the air support that helped the rebels remove **Muammar Gaddafi** from power in Libya.

Gaddafi had seized control of Libya in 1969 and frequently funded international terrorism.

For those keeping score...

Obama 2, Bad Guys 0.

While overthrowing dictators is fun, it can further the instability of a region. Some governments that fell had, in fact, been security partners with the U.S. As a result, Obama had to ease up on his trigger finger!

Having been elected in 2008 by promising “hope” and “change”, Obama found his re-election jeopardized by the slow recovery of the economy.

His main challenger was former Massachusetts Governor and business executive **Mitt Romney**.

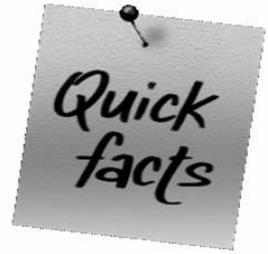
Without a doubt, the economy loomed as the biggest issue in the Election of 2012.

Romney pledged to make further cuts in taxes; Obama said the wealthy should pay a larger share of the taxes.

While many exit polls suggested Romney would defeat Obama, by the end of the night, Obama won in a convincing fashion.

This made Obama the first U.S. President to be re-elected despite the economy doing **worse** his first four years.

The breakdown of the Election of 2012 looked like this:



Popular Vote

Obama: 65,899,625 (51.0%)

Romney: 60,928,981 (47.2%)

Electoral Vote

Obama: 332 (61.7%)

Romney: 206 (38.3%)

The day after, Obama addressed a divided nation:

"I have always believed that hope is a stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting."

The Election of 2012 left the country at a crossroads.

Issues of Obamacare, Federal deficit, taxes, immigration, **Same-Sex Marriage**, legalization of **marijuana**, war in Afghanistan, and the environment were "on deck" for Obama in his second term.

Immigration:

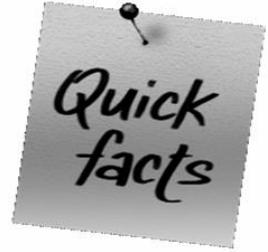
Shortly after his inauguration in January 2013, Obama gave a speech in Las Vegas calling for comprehensive immigration reform, including a **path to citizenship** for the **11 million** illegal / "undocumented" immigrants residing in U.S.

In June, the **Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013** was passed 68-32 by the Senate.

It still sits in the House of Representatives awaiting approval.

Bill would create **13-year** path to citizenship for millions of "undocumented" immigrants; add security checks before **green cards** given; add 40,000 **border-patrol agents**.

78% of the American public supports a path to citizenship.



Same-Sex Marriage:

On June 26, 2015, U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) to recognize the right to [same-sex](#) marriage nationwide, overturning previous decision [Baker v. Nelson](#) (1971) that denied it.

Prior to this case, same-sex marriage was legal in [38](#) states and D.C. – there were only 12 in 2004. ([Massachusetts](#) was first state to approve it in 2003.)

[60%](#) of the American public supports same-sex marriage.

ISIS:

[ISIS](#) (which stands for [Islamic State of Iraq and Syria](#)) is a terrorist group that burst on the scene when they captured Mosul in Northern Iraq in 2014 but had been around (to one degree or another) since the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003.

After defeating Saddam Hussein (Iraq's fifth President from 1979-2003), U.S. removed all members of Hussein's political party (the Ba'ath Party, in power since 1968) from civil and military services (a policy called [De-Ba'athification](#)).

As a result, hundreds of thousands of [Sunni](#) Muslims formerly loyal to Saddam were without a job – and mad.

[Al-Qaeda](#) (the terrorist organization formed by [Osama bin Laden](#) in 1988) chose to capitalize on their anger...

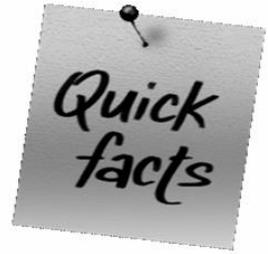
...by forming "[al-Qaeda in Iraq](#)" (or AQI) to wage an insurgency against U.S. occupation forces.

TIME OUT!

Sunni Muslim?

Much like you have [Protestants](#) and [Catholics](#) within the same [Christian](#) faith, but have [Sunni Islam](#) (Sunnis) and [Shia Islam](#) (Shiites) within the same Muslim faith.

The Sunni-Shiite split, however, is very KEY.



The divide dates back to 632 AD, when the Islamic Prophet **Muhammad** died.

A debate soon emerged about who should be his successor.

Thus, the difference is NOT religious, rather it is **political**.

Shiites felt Muhammad's successor should be someone in his bloodline.

Sunnis didn't think it had to be a blood relative – rather, a pious individual who would follow Muhammad's customs would work.

Both Sunnis and Shiites read **The Quran**, believe the Prophet Muhammad was the messenger of Allah (God), fast during **Ramadan**, pledge to make a pilgrimage to **Mecca**, pray five times a day, and give charity to the poor.

Prayer rituals differ only slightly – Shiites stand with their hands at their **sides**; Sunnis put their hands on their **stomachs**.

Both believe in **Islamic law** but have different applications for it.

The great majority (**85-90%**) of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims are Sunnis (or 1.3-1.4 billion).

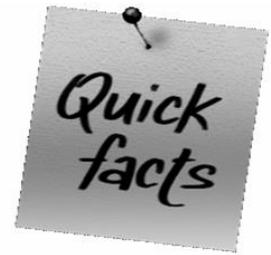
Shiites make up **10-15%** (or less than 200 million).

Sunnis can be found all over world; Shiites mostly in **Iran**, **Iraq**, **Syria**, Lebanon, Yemen.

So back to “al-Qaeda in Iraq”...

While AQI fought U.S. troops in Iraq, they also waged war against Iran-back Shiites in Iraq and neighboring Jordan. Captured AQIs were put in “**Camp Bucca**” in Iraq which allowed them to **radicalize**.

Jump to U.S. “surge” in 2007...



The U.S.-installed, **Shiite** government in Baghdad began reaching out to Sunni tribes, encouraging them to reject AQI. AQI was basically defeated and it looked like peace was on the horizon...

...the "Arab Spring" in 2011.

Despite overthrows of dictators in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt, things got messy in **Syria** with Syrian dictator **Bashar al-Assad**.

During the 2003 Iraq War, AQI went back and forth between Syria and Iraq to **re-supply**.

When Assad began shooting and gassing his own people in 2011, "Arab Spring" uprising in Syria went from peaceful to full-blown **civil war**.

AQI saw an opportunity to establish a presence in Syria, so it quickly moved in, renamed itself the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and merged with its Syrian counterpart.

This ticked off al-Qaeda headquarters, who was in the process of establishing a separate "**al-Qaeda in Syria**" (AQS).

The two groups fought a mini-war among themselves and officially went their own ways.

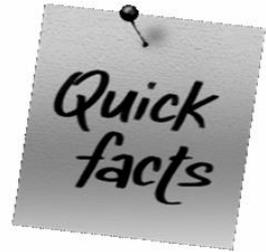
As the Syrian civil war continued, ISIS became the first rebel group to capture major cities in Syria (**Raqqa**; **Deir ez Zor**).

In summer 2014, it captured **Mosul** in Iraq and drove south to Baghdad's doorstep.

A few weeks later, it re-branded itself as the new **Worldwide Caliphate** (a one-world government) and demanded all Muslims pledge allegiance.

Groups in Nigeria, Egypt, and half a dozen other countries did so; flying black flag of ISIS.

ISIS grew in notoriety through an aggressive **social media** and **viral video** strategy to glorify violence and attract followers.



ISIS often posted the videos of its beheadings on-line, including that of execution of U.S. journalist James Foley.

When ISIS captured the Iraqi town of Sinjar, it institutionalized slavery and the rape of the Yazidi minority.

The Yazidi speak Kurdish and practice Yazidism (a blend of pre Islamic and ancient Mesopotamian religions).

When asked about what the U.S. should do about ISIS, Obama stated:

"The analogy we use around here sometimes, and I think is accurate, is if a JV team puts on Lakers uniforms that doesn't make them Kobe Bryant."

Obama's reaction was met with widespread disgust; approval rating hit a new low, 38%.

Obama later clarified his statement and said the U.S. would defeat ISIS... but left it at that.

The Election of 2016:

The Election of 2016 was a divisive, visceral, and downright nasty affair.

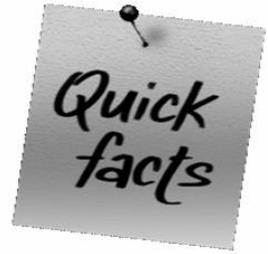
A return of disillusionment not seen since the 1970s troubled a nation sickened by unfilled promises and clamoring for something "new", "different", and NOT "politics as usual".

Democrats and media tried to push Hillary Clinton on the American people following her stint as Secretary of State under Obama.

A controversial primary against Bernie Sanders left Clinton weak and exposed – and media bias soon became a point of contention among populace.

Republicans, meanwhile, watched as their primaries turned into a reality show with business mogul Donald J. Trump emerging as nominee.

Many Americans turned to third party and write-in candidates, making the 2016 Election truly unique.



Sticking points with Trump, whose campaign was initially seen as a ratings hoax, soon centered around his **sexist** behavior and **insensitive/racist** comments, coupled with his refusal to turn over his **tax returns** and his never-ceasing use of **Twitter**.

Clinton was seen as **dishonest, fake**. People questioned funds raised by Clinton Foundation; wanted to know what happened to **33,000+ e-mails** from her time as Obama's **Secretary of State** (that contained incriminating evidence about terrorist attack in **Benghazi**, Libya).

Their **debates** were disastrous and more of a **circus act** than true a true political forum.

Both Trump and Clinton turned to petty attacks, which further entrenched their supporters, making the election a toss-up despite **polls** showing an easy Clinton win.

Popular Vote

Clinton: 65,853,516 (48.2%)

Trump: 62,984,825 (46.1%)

Johnson: 4,489,221 (3.28%)

Stein: 1,457,216 (1.07%)

Hartnell: 721 (0.001%)

Electoral Vote

Trump: 304 (56.5%)

Clinton: 227 (42.2%)

Johnson: 0 (00.0%)

Stein: 0 (00.0%)

Hartnell: 0 (00.0%)

How did Hartnell-Marshall do?

Arizona: 11 votes

Delaware: 3 votes

Illinois: 6 votes

Kentucky: 5 votes

Maryland: 24 votes

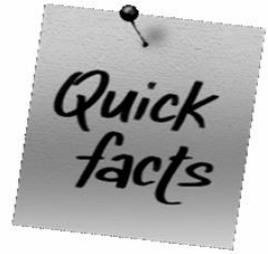
Michigan: 39 votes

Minnesota: 2 votes

New York: 41 votes

Ohio: 589 votes

West Virginia: 1 vote



Despite losing the Popular Vote, Trump won the Electoral College in one of the **biggest political upsets** in U.S. history.

In the Electoral College vote that December, there were 7 "**Faithless Electors**" (2 against Trump; 5 against Clinton – 3 more tried but were replaced.)

Here is how those 7 voted:

Former S-o-S, **Colin Powell** (3),

N.A. Activist **Spotted Eagle** (1),

Texas Represent. **Ron Paul** (1),

Ohio Gov. **John Kasich** (1), &

Vermont Sen. **Bernie Sanders** (1)

Trump's victory was immediately greeted with **mass protest** by Democrats, who took to the streets to voice their disdain for the President-Elect.

A **Women's March** held after Jan. 2017 inauguration drew 500,000 demonstrators in D.C., 3.5 million across the U.S., and 4.8 million worldwide.

Entering office with approval ratings hovering slightly above **40%**, Trump was slated to be a polarizing Chief Executive.

The Trump Years

Donald John Trump is **currently** the 45th U.S. President, having taken office in 2017.

Significant events since his inauguration have included: Russian hacking (and possible collusion), **Travel Ban**, Border Wall, attack on Syria, dropping of the **MOAB** in Afghanistan, standoff with North Korea, tax "reform", new Supreme Court Justice, and an attempted **repeal of Obamacare**.

If he is to be successful as President, the former reality star will need to mend some significant political fences – although those so vehemently against him will have to reach across the aisle.

THE END OF "THE U.S. OF AWESOME" UNIT!

