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Launching the Clinton Presidency

- Many mistakes in first months
 - Failed to end ban on LGBT entering mmil.
 - Suicide of pres.'s longtime friend
 - Escalating inquiry in pres.'s banking and real estate called **Whitewater**
- Significant achievements
 - New budget
 - Tax increase on wealthy
 - Expansion of tax credit to low income people
- Was an advocate for **globalism**
 - Support of free trade agreements
 - Won approval of **NAFTA**
 - Eliminated many trade barriers between US, Canada and Mex.
 - Won approval of **GATT**
- Large failure: health-care reform
 - 1993 appointed task force lead by Hilary
 - Reform posed to provide low cost coverage to EVERY American
 - Opposition, people thought the gov. Would be taking too much power, ended the plan
- Foreign Policy
 - Bosnia was in civil war between Muslims and Serbian Christians
 - US negotiator brought parties together 1995 and created pact

Republican Resurgence

- Clinton's legacy damaging to Dem. party
 - Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress
- Elec 1994
 - Newt Gingrich, Rep., started **Contract with America**
 - Set of promises signed by Rep.s in the house
 - Called for tax reductions and changes in fed. Spending etc.

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- Clinton claimed era of big gov was over
 - Rep.s posing to take over many areas of gov:
 - Clinton announed new plan to cut taxes and balance budget
- 1995 & 1996 Fed. gov shut down for days bc Dem executive branch and Rep legislative branch could not agree on taxes and budget
 - Public opinion shifted to negative for the Rep party

Election of 1996

- Pres. Clinton in position to win
- Rep. candidate: Robert Dole

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- Clinton in lead mostly bc of success during pres. In economy and reduction of federal deficit

- As election approached, congress hadn't passed much
 - Spring and Summer '96 passed many important bills rushedly
 - Raised min. Wage
 - Welfare reform bill**
- Clinton won

Clinton Triumphant and Embattled

- Clinton's second term
 - Faced Republican congress
 - Proposed modest tax agenda
 - Negotiated w them on federal budget passed 1997
 - Faced scandals
 - Charges of corruption on cabinet members
 - Accusations of illegal spending during campaign
 - Suit for sexual harassment by former employee Paula Jones
 - Biggest scandal: **Monica Lewinsky**

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- 1988 Jones case lead police (Kenneth Starr) to believe Clinton had sexually harassed Lewinsky
- Kenneth Starr
 - Had investigated Whitewater w/out results
 - Accused Clinton of having lied under oath during Jones investigation
 - Clinton denied and the public supported in him large numbers
 - Case lost attention and ended
 - Case regained attention 1998 when Lewinsky testified
 - Starr subpoenaed Clinton who finally admitted their affair

Impeachment, Acquittal, and Resurgence

- Republicans wanted to pursue case
 - House Judiciary Committee and then the Full House approved two counts of impeachment: lying to a jury, obstructing justice
 - Moved to the senate
 - Decided to acquit the pres. charges
- Last years uneventful
 - Was active overseas
 - 1998 Conflict w Iraq pres. Saddam Hussein
 - Had disregarded agreements from end of the Gulf War and refused to permit international inspectors to mil. Bases in his country
 - Clinton sent series of bomb strikes
 - 1999 Conflict w Balkans
 - Involved province of Yugoslavia called Kosovo

- Serbian gov. Of Yugo. And Kosovo separatist Albanian Muslims started civil war 1998
- 1999 NATO began bomb strikes against Serbians
 - Led Slobodan Milosevic to cease fire
 - Serbian troops withdrew, were replaced with NATO troops

Election of 2000

- Controversy over results of elec.
 - George W. Bush v. Al Gore
 - Voters found both boring/bland
 - Very tight race
 - House of reps. Stayed Republican, senate split 50/50
 - Gore won pop. vote by 0.05%
 - Both candidates short 270 needed on election night

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- No one could determine who won Florida
- After recount Bush led Gore in the state by fewer than 300 votes
- Technology of voting was in dispute
 - In FL votes were cast by widely inaccurate punch card ballots
 - Counted by machines
 - People did not punch the right holes or punch them correctly
- Bush feared recount
 - Went to court
 - Through rep. Secretary of state Katherine Harris
 - Florida supreme court required Harris to permit hand recounts and accept results after the deadline
 - Recounts in 2/3 counties, claimed they could not finish the 3rd county in time
 - Bush declared winner of Florida

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- Gore contested the results in court
 - FL supreme court offered hand recounts of all uncounted ballots
- Bush appealed to US Supreme court
 - Voted to overrule FL Court's order for a recount
 - Bush won

Second Bush Presidency

- Came in surrounded by controversy, pop. belief he was unready
- Principal campaign: he would provide major tax reductions
 - Critics of his plan believed these tax cuts would only help the wealthy
 - Rep.s believed cuts would improve economy
 - Tax cuts passed
 - Bc Rep.s dominated both houses of Cong.

Election of 2004

- Bush vs. John Kerry (dem.)

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- Party members were passionate about nominees
- Close election, Bush won
- Bush's new agenda
 - Reconstruction of Social Sec. and pension system
 - Proposed the creation of private accounts where people could invest some of their money to Social Security
 - Those opposed thought private accounts would worsen the financial system of Soc. Sec.

From "Stagflation" to Growth

- Economic growth '80s & '90s
 - Because of the troubled years of the '70s
 - US not long-time prosperous
 - Inflation
 - Businesses made important changes to combat this
 - Helped economy but furthered inequality
 - Invested into new technology
 - Considered mergers
 - Were more energy efficient
 - Reduced labor costs
 - Took a harder line against unions
 - Nonunion comps. Prevented unions from beginning
 - Union comps. Were successful in getting what they wanted in exchange for staying in the comp.
 - Some comps. Moved to areas with less unions (South and West), some even to Mexico and China

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- Technology Industries
 - Growth of digital technology led to new products that became central to Amer. life
 - Computers, internet, cell phones etc.
 - New Consumer needs
 - Employed many
 - Had their own stock exchange
- Growth of gross national product
- Economic boom was long lasting

Downturn

- 1999 Alan Greenspan, chairman of Fed. Reserve, warned of "**irrational exuberance**"
- Amer.s pursuing profits in the stock market
- 2001 sudden collapse of "dot.com" sector of stock market
 - Made up of start up companies, founded using the internet
 - Stock prices of these comp.s rose rapidly
 - Sudden sell off of technology stocks

- Caused stock market decline, lasted almost a year
- Whole economy slipped into a recession
- Began to recover early 2002
 - 4 years later stock market values were where they were before

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- Was also a corporate collapse
 - Enron Corp. in Texas- energy trading comp.
 - Announced they were filing for bankruptcy
 - Occupied media coverage
 - Because of their illegal practices
 - Manipulated energy prices in CA to create artificial crisis
 - Helped lead rep. Arnold Shwartz. To be elected
 - Scandals like Enron called for new regulations on accounting, auditing

Two Tiered Economy

- After recovery, benefits of econ. Were less widely shared
 - Rewards for education, specifically science
 - Increased financial value of higher education
- Changes in US relation to world econ.
 - Began in 1970s
 - Loss of cheap and easy raw materials
 - Penetration of US market by foreign competitors
- Poverty had been on the decline since end of WW2
 - Decline did not continue, 1980s

Globalization

- Important econ. Change: **globalization**

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- 1950s US had been insulated from foreign markets
- End of 1970s this was not the case
 - Most US products now faced foreign competition
- Many benefits for US consumers
 - New, varied products
 - Lower prices
 - Was good for the econ.
- **NAFTA and GATT** lowered trade barriers
- Global. Had downsides
 - Bad for industrial workers
 - Less jobs as US companies lost shares to foreign ones

Personal Computer

- Growth as comp.s as part of everyday life
 - 80's and 90's most Amer.s doing banking online, business transactions, were used for record keeping
- First microprocessor, 1971, by Intel
 - Miniaturized central processing unit of a comp.

- Required new technological innovation
- 1977 Apple launched Apple II personal com.
 - IBM years later came up with the PC 1981
 - Had gotten microsoft to design its operating system **MS-DOS**
 - Apple then introduced **Macintosh**
 - PCs remained dominant due to marketing
- Created new businesses

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- Comp. Manufacturers
- Makers of chips
- Hardware manufacturers
- Makers of software
 - Microsoft 1990s

The Internet

- Began 1963 US gov.'s **Adv. Research Projects Agency**
 - Did mostly defense projects
 - 1960s head of Info. Processing Technique Off. JCR Licklider was working on project called Libraries of the Future
 - 1963 Launched programs to link computers from far distances called **Arpanet**
 - Expanded because
 - Syst. developed by RAND corp. Of US and National Physical Laboratory of England
 - Called Store and forward packet switching
 - Made possible transmission of large quantities of data between comp.s
 - Interface Message Processor
 - Comp.s could handle traffic over the network
 - 1971 Arpanet linked 23 computers
 - 1980s Defense Dept. withdrew from arp. For security reasons

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- Amount of info on internet increased, invention of new software
 - **World Wide Web**
 - Tim Berners-Lee invented

Breakthroughs in Genetics

- Growth in the sciences, esp. Genetics
 - Scientists recognizing specific genes and traits
 - Identification of genes was slow

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- Gov granted money to **National Center for the Human Genome** project
- DNA research getting public attention
 - 1997 Scottish researchers cloned a sheep named Dolly
- DNA used for identifying people
 - First time publicly was in OJ Simpson case then in Lewinsky case

- Identified Jefferson as father of Sally Hemings' child
- Caused controversy
 - Fear of giving scientists too much power
 - Religious reasons
 - Parental reasons
 - Stem cell research in undeveloped fetuses
 - Vitro fertilization
 - Anti-abortion advocates disliked this
 - Became a political issue under George W Bush

Graying of America

- Aging of US population
 - Birth rate in decline
 - Rise in life expectancy

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- Increasing consciousness of Social Sec.
- Impacted the nature of work force

New Patterns of Immigration and Ethnicity

- US allowing more imm.s into the country
 - Imm. reform act 1965

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- Many from Mex. and Euro
- Two important groups: Asians and Latinos
 - Unprecedented growth 1965
 - Mexicans spec. From the Latino comm.
 - 1980's and 90s More Asian imm.s

Black Middle Class

- Civil Rights Movement 1960s
 - Inc. opp. For advancement for those who could take advantage of them
 - Government services dwindled as industrial economy declined
- Black education not improving
- Few areas of life where blacks were entirely excluded

Poor and Working Class African Americans

- Rise of black middle class isolated lower class blacks
 - Sometimes called the "**underclass**"
- The black family structure suffered
 - More single parents

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- Impatience for affirm. Action and welfare programs
 - Decline in number of unskilled jobs
- Widespread anger and despair
 - Bystander videotaped police beating black man Rodney King in LA
 - Had captured him after auto chase

- Started widespread looting and arson in central Los Angeles poor neighborhoods
- Race Relations grew sour
 - Evident in OJ Simpson trial
 - Media sensation
 - Opinions about Simpson's guilt were often intertwined with his race
 - Was acquitted after defense painted him as a victim of police racism

Modern Plagues: Drugs and Aids

- New imm. Meant with two deadly epidemics
 - Dramatic increase in drug use
 - Spec. crack cocaine

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- Profitable
- Sparked **War on Drugs**
- **AIDs** epidemic
 - Related to drug epidemic

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- Economics
 - Halt of prosperity
 - Inflation
 - Gradual decline of manufacturing
 - Export trade deficit
 - Dollar linked to gold
 - Nixon took US off gold standard so they'd have cheaper products
 - US comp.s closing down
 - Northern industrial cities becoming abandoned
- Oil Shocks
 - Middle eastern states stop sending oil
 - Increase in prices for oil for cars and increase in prices for everything
- Stagflation
- Ford excused Nixon
 - Unpopular
 - Caused inflation to drop but unemployment to rise
- Carter
 - Criticized people in a speech
 - Invested in nuclear power
 - Focused on combatting 3rd world poverty
 - Cut off aid to Arg.
 - Camp David Accords brokered by Carter
 - Supported Shah of Iran who was unpopular
 - Iranian hostage crisis
 - Amer. hostages taken

- USSR invaded Afgan. 1973

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- OG George Bush elected 1988
 - Pop. for heroic missions, lived eventful life career wise
 - Episcopalian
 - Chose Dan Quayle as VP
 - Election featured negative campaign ads
 - One featured Willie Horton, Dukakis looked at as a liberal who was weak on crime
 - Focused on foreign policy
 - Cold War ended
 - Failure of USSR
 - Reduction of Nuclear weapons, Stark 1 and 2 treaties
 - Foreign policy then became messier
 - Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait
 - UN demanded he left then attacked when he didn't
 - Iraqi army defeated
 - Gulf war lifted approval rating
 - Was thought to going to win
 - Dem controlled congress
 - Enacted Amer. with Disabilities Act
 - Rodney King
 - 3 of four policemen found not guilty after being videotaped having beaten a man
 - Riots in LA
 - Bush did little to comfort members of the comm.
 - Econ messed up