



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 810 RECENT AND REVIEW (1990-??)

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RECENT AND REVIEW

The first part of this LIFE PAC® will deal with recent developments in American history since 1990. It is very difficult to analyze this part of history because it happened too recently. History can only fully be understood in perspective, or in the context of what happened before and after it. The most recent events in America do not yet have that perspective, but they can be reported pending the passage of time.

The last two sections of this LIFE PAC are a

review of the year's material done in an outline form. This form deals only with major concepts and is the essence of what you should have learned this year.

Carefully study the major events of each presidency, war, and the development of any conflicts. These should be reviews for you. If any concept is not clear, look it up in the appropriate LIFE PAC or elsewhere. Do not leave yourself uncertain of any concept or event.



THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IN 1990

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. List the major political events, domestic and foreign, of the 1990s.
2. Describe the technical advances at the end of the 1990s.
3. Describe the moral decline in America and list Christian organizations that are trying to fight it.
4. Describe how America was settled and became an independent nation.
5. Match the presidents with the events of their administration.
6. Describe the wars and major events of U.S. history.
7. Describe important trends in ideas and conflicts in U.S. history.
8. Describe how and when America acquired new territories.
9. Place major American historical events in chronological order.

I. RECENT AMERICA

This section is the most recent history of the United States, covering the politics of the 1990s. This part of history is your history. Your parents lived and voted during these events. If you wish, you can ask them their opinions and ideas about what living during these times were like. Do not be surprised if some of their opinions are very strong. This is living history which is still being made. It has strong effects on the people who live through it.

This section is a snapshot of the last decade of the second **millennium** after the birth of Christ. Changes in American society include changes in technology, ideas, and morals. Some of these changes are good and some are not. Whether or not these changes are good is based solely on one thing, whether or not they agree with the Word of God. As Christians, we affirm that it is our only standard.



GEORGE BUSH



BILL CLINTON

President:

George W. Bush

William J. Clinton

Served:

1989-1993

1993-2001

Party:

Republican

Democratic

Population:

1990: 248,718,301

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List the major political events, domestic and foreign of the 1990s.
2. Describe the technical advances at the end of the 1990s.
3. Describe the moral decline in America and list Christian organizations that are trying to fight it.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

line-item veto (līn ít' əm vēt' ō). A government executive's power to refuse to enact a single line of or portion of a law.

millennium (mə len' ē əm). A period of a thousand years.

modem (mō' dem). An electronic device that enables a computer to send or receive information by telephone lines.

paranoid (par' ə noid). Characterized by excessive or irrational suspiciousness and distrustfulness of others.

perjury (pər' jə rē). The violation of an oath or vow by swearing to what is untrue.

software (sôft' wâr). Written or printed data, such as programs, routines, and symbolic languages, essential to the operation of computers.

trajectory (trə jek' tə rē). The path of a moving particle or body, especially in three dimensions.

POLITICS IN THE 1990s

Bush Administration. In 1989 the U.S. signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada. It allowed nations to sell their goods in the other NAFTA countries without any tariffs or restrictions. Late in 1992, the pact was expanded to include Mexico. It was ratified by the Senate in 1993, and took effect in January of 1994. Many of the provisions were introduced gradually, and its effects are still uncertain.

The African nation of Somalia collapsed into clan warfare in 1992. A drought devastated crops, and fighting made it impossible for relief agencies to distribute food. With the threat of millions starving to death, Bush ordered the U.S. military to lead a U.N. effort to protect relief workers. The troops came in unopposed, but several soldiers died in street fighting while they were there. U.S. forces remained until 1994.

The collapse of communism caused a chain reaction all over the world. Dictators lost support since their communist backers were gone, or the U.S. no longer had reason to keep them as allies. Free elections were held in many new places in the 1990s, such as South Africa, Nicaragua, Taiwan, and Uganda. Some of those elections led to greater freedoms, but some were only brief breaks between dictators. Regardless, the early 1990s were a time of hope for the expansion of democracy all over the world. Only

time would tell if the expansion would continue.

Communism did not collapse completely. In 1999 three prominent nations were still communist: North Korea, Cuba, and China. The economies of North Korea and Cuba suffered deeply from the loss of their powerful protector, the U.S.S.R., but the entrenched communist leadership refused to allow reforms.

China had begun economic reforms before 1990. It no longer had a communist economic system, but was rapidly becoming more like the West with private ownership and control of business, but in 1989, demonstrations for political freedom were crushed by the government. Students occupying Tiananmen Square (in the Chinese capital of Beijing) who demanded free elections were attacked by the army. The student leaders were executed. In a lie by communist leaders, the government announced that students had attacked and killed soldiers in the square. Chinese leaders denied the event, although millions of people saw the demonstration and the army's attack on international television.

Election of 1992. President Bush's popularity soared during the Persian Gulf War and he was easily renominated by the Republicans. Bush's popular support convinced many Democratic leaders not to run in 1992. The Democratic nomination was therefore taken by a

previously unknown governor of Arkansas, William Jefferson Clinton. Billionaire Ross Perot ran an independent campaign that focused mainly on the growing national debt.

In 1990 the nation slipped into a recession that lasted until the 1992 election, which deeply hurt Bush's popularity. Clinton ran an intense, well-organized campaign. He won with 43% of the popular vote, in spite of evidence that he evaded military service during the Vietnam War and was unfaithful in his marriage. Bush drew 38% and Perot took 19% of the popular vote, illustrating how concerned many people were about the country's huge debt.

William Jefferson Clinton. (1946-) Bill Clinton is only the second president impeached in office. He is a "Baby Boomer," a member of the large group of children born after World War II who led the social revolts of the 1960s. Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe IV in Arkansas in 1946. His father died when he was a baby. His mother remarried when he was four and he took his stepfather's name of Clinton. Bill attended public and private schools, showing an early interest in politics. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1968 and then studied at Oxford University in England for two years as a Rhodes Scholar. He received his law degree from Yale in 1973.

Clinton quickly turned to politics after graduation, losing in a race for the U.S. House in 1974. He served as attorney general from 1976 until he was elected governor of Arkansas in 1978. Clinton lost the governorship in 1980, but regained it two years later. He held that office until he became president in 1993.

Deficits and Debts. The end of the Cold War drew national attention back to domestic problems. The budget deficit and the national debt were two primary ones. In 1992 the deficit was \$290,000,000,000. That means the government spent 290 billion more dollars in a year than it made! The national debt reached \$4,064,000,000,000 that year, which was \$15,846 per American citizen. One reason Bush had been so helpless in the recession of 1990, was that the deficit made it difficult for the government to increase spending to help the economy.

Increased emphasis on spending controls, and a soaring taxable income, slowly reduced the deficit in the 1990s. By the end of 1996 the deficit had been reduced to \$107 billion. In 1998

the thriving U.S. economy almost eliminated the deficit. If the money taken for Social Security taxes was included, there was no deficit in 1998. However, the huge national debt still reached \$5.6 trillion by the end of 1998.

Clinton Administration. Bill Clinton created an uproar by putting his wife, Hillary, in charge of a committee to propose a national health care program in 1993. The plan developed by the First Lady's group would have given low out-of-pocket cost health care to most Americans, but at a very high cost to taxpayers. Congress rejected it as too expensive.

Under the leadership of Newt Gingrich, a Republican Congressman, the Republican Party made a major push for control of Congress in 1994. They published a list of conservative proposals called the "Contract with America." They proposed a list of laws, including a **line-item veto**, an amendment to balance the budget, tax reforms, and term limits, to Congress within 100 days if the Republicans were given control. Many Republican candidates signed the contract, and it worked. The Congress elected in 1994 was Republican for the first time in forty years. Gingrich became Speaker of the House. The contract terms were brought before Congress, but several did not pass in the Senate.

The Republican Congress and the Democratic president did not work well together. Conflicts over just how the budget should be cut led to brief shutdowns of the government in 1995 and 1996. Hostility increased as a number of scandals broke, including an old real estate investment of the Clintons' called Whitewater, and evidence of illegal fundraising by the Democratic Party.

The worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history took place in April of 1995. A bomb exploded in front of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The blast destroyed the front of the building and killed 168 people. Included among the dead were many small children from a daycare center inside. Timothy McVeigh, an ex-soldier with a **paranoid** fear of the federal government, was convicted of the bombing and condemned to death.

Foreign Affairs. In 1994 Clinton ended the American Cold War policy of allowing any Cuban who escaped the island to come to the U.S. Castro, in response to the rapid disintegration of the Cuban economy, had given his people permission to leave. Thousands took advantage