

19-1: THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD

BIG IDEA: After the Cold War ended, the United States has taken on the role of the World's police officer, preventing genocide and maintaining international law. While Americans have been successful in some conflicts, we have also faced limitations to the extent of our power, most notably in the Middle East and with Russia.

After the end of the Cold War, many people were not sure what the United States' new role in the world should be. President George H. W. Bush helped define that role in 1991 by using the military to stop Saddam Hussein from annexing Kuwait into Iraq. He organized a coalition of nations and won United Nations approval for the First Gulf War. It was a successful operation, was hugely popular at home, and ended Vietnam Syndrome.

Presidents Carter, Clinton and Trump helped negotiate peace treaties between Israel and its Arab and Palestinian neighbors. President Clinton also guided NATO's use of the force to end genocide in the Balkans in two separate wars against Serbia.

The United States was unsuccessful in bringing peace to Somalia and refused to intervene in Rwanda to stop a genocide.

In 2010 a series of revolutions and protests in the Middle East and North Africa known as the Arab Spring produced multiple conflicts. The United States used air power in Libya to prevent Muammar Gaddafi from carrying out mass murder, but did not prepare for chaos in that nation after his fall. Americans have provided funding and weapons to rebels in Syria, but have not been fully committed to the civil war there, although Russia has. Congress voted not to participate in the war during the Obama Administration and Trump's America First policy was popular specifically because many Americans are fearful of involvement in another Middle Eastern conflict.

Russian president Vladimir Putin has caused Americans many problems. He invaded the small nation of Georgia, and invaded the much larger neighbor of Ukraine. The United States has protested and imposed sanctions, but has not used military force against this nuclear-armed enemy.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Genocide
Russian Sanctions



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Saddam Hussein
Colin Powell
Madeline Albright
Vladimir Putin



EVENTS

The First Gulf War
Arab Spring
2011 Airstrikes in Libya
Syrian Civil War



PLACES

The Balkans
Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kosovo
Somalia
Rwanda
Libya
Syria
Ukraine
Crimea



TREATIES

Oslo Accords
Dayton Accords



19-2: THE WAR ON TERROR & GUN VIOLENCE

BIG IDEA: Since 2001, the primary foreign policy concern of American presidents has been to prevent terrorist attacks. American forces have fought long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq with mixed results. Back home, Americans have had to give up some of their privacy in exchange for protection. As mass shootings have become more frequent, a debate has grown about balancing safety and Second Amendment rights.

In the 1990s, a major terrorist attack took place in Oklahoma City at a federal office building. The attackers were anti-government veterans.

The September 11 attacks were carried out by al-Qaeda, a group operating out of Afghanistan that was led by Osama bin Laden. They hijacked airplanes and crashed them into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and into the Pentagon near Washington, DC. A fourth plane crashed when the passengers tried to retake control from the hijackers. It was the worst terrorist attack in American history.

Al-Qaeda was not new. They had attacked two American embassies in Africa and a navy ship. President Clinton had ordered a missile strike on one of their bases in response.

After 9/11 President George W. Bush proposed the Bush Doctrine, arguing that America should strike first to prevent attacks. This idea justified war against Afghanistan and Iraq. The United States invaded Afghanistan in order to destroy Al-Qaeda. The war ended quickly as American forces toppled the Taliban government. Unfortunately, creating a new, stable government proved difficult, and American forces spent 20 years in Afghanistan trying to support the new government and fight Taliban insurgents.

Bush decided to invade Iraq, claiming that Saddam Hussein still had chemical and nuclear weapons. The invasion went well, but getting rid of Hussein, who had kept everyone in line, led to fighting among groups within the country and an insurgency against the American occupation. The ongoing war ruined Bush's popularity. Revelations of torture of prisoners in Iraq and the detention of terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay upset many Americans and damaged America's reputation in the world.

In order to find terrorists and stop their attacks, Congress passed laws permitting extensive surveillance of American citizens. Eventually some of this power was taken away as people learned how much privacy they were giving up in the name of security.

In recent years mass shootings have come to be a new sort of terror and political movements have started to try to limit access to guns. Students form an important anti-gun group, while the NRA serves as a well-funded pro-gun lobby. The Second Amendment guarantees Americans' right to own guns, which makes gun regulation less likely in the United States than in other nations.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Bush Doctrine
Axis of Evil
Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)
Winning Hearts and Minds



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Al-Qaeda
Osama bin Laden
Taliban
Neoconservatives
Richard "Dick" Cheney
Donald Rumsfeld
Islamic State (ISIS)
Edward Snowden
National Rifle Association (NRA)



EVENTS

Branch Davidian Raid
Bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building
1998 Embassy Bombings
USS Cole Attack
September 11, 2001
War on Terror
Invasion of Afghanistan
Iraq War
Iraqi Insurgency
The Surge
Columbine High School Shooting
2017 Las Vegas Shooting
Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting



PLACES

World Trade Center
Pentagon
Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp
Abu Ghraib Prison



LAWS

USA Patriot Act
Second Amendment



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
National Security Agency (NSA)



SPEECHES

Bush's Mission Accomplished Speech



COURT CASES

District of Columbia v. Heller

19-4: RACE IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA

BIG IDEA: During the 2010s the Black Lives Matter movement emerged as a response to police violence against African American men. The movement expanded as events brought a wide variety of problems facing minority communities to the nation's attention. Despite the election of the first African American president, the past decade shows how divided and unequal America remains.

The Even after the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, America remains a racially segregation nation. People tend to live in communities with other people of their same race. In some places such as Flint, Michigan or New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, White community leaders have been accused of harming African American neighborhoods by neglecting to provide proper services.

Barack Obama was elected in 2008 as the first African American president. In the beginning, he encouraged people to think that the nation was moving past its divided past, but later he explicitly dealt with race in speeches.

During Obama's presidency, new cell phone cameras and social media made evidence of shootings of unarmed African Americans common and the Black Lives Matter movement grew to bring attention to this ongoing problem. Protests took place after numerous shootings. Protests in Ferguson, Missouri and Baltimore, Maryland turned violent and were met with police using military equipment and tactics.

A shooting in an African American church in Charleston, South Carolina by a White nationalist led to a movement to remove symbols of the Confederacy, especially the old Confederate battle flag and statues of Confederate soldiers.

Athletes have supported these protests by kneeling during the national anthem. Beyoncé protested by using Black Power symbolism during her performance at the Super Bowl.

Other groups such as African American women and Asian and Pacific Islanders have also begun movements to address racism and violence.

President Trump was criticized by many Americans for his comments and actions related to racial conflicts. Some felt that he was encouraging White supremacists or disrespecting the right of people to assemble and protest.

The most significant racial justice protests since the 1960s happened in the summer of 2020 when marches were held in hundreds of cities to protest police violence after the murder of George Floyd. Numerous changes have been enacted as a result, including changing names and increased efforts to make sure minority groups are represented and portrayed respectfully in business and popular culture.

BLM has been criticized as anti-police and encouraging racial division. Although there has not been a decline in police shootings, police departments around the country have implemented reforms such as an increased emphasis on community policing, banning some tactics, and the use of body cameras.

The Shelby County v. Holder case invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and in many Republican-controlled states new restrictions on voting rights have been enacted.



SPEECHES, SLOGANS & SYMBOLS

2002 Democratic National Convention Keynote Speech
A More Perfect Union Speech
I Can't Breathe
Hands Up, Don't Shoot
Blue Lives Matter
Confederate Battle Flag
Thin Blue Line Flag

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

White Flight
Ferguson Effect
Community Policing
Body Cameras
Voter Suppression



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Barack Obama
Treyvon Martin
Eric Garner
Michel Brown, Jr.
Tamir Rice
Freddie Gray, Jr.
Walter Scott
Colin Kaepernick
Beyoncé
George Floyd



EVENTS

Flint Water Crisis
Black Lives Matter (BLM)
Ferguson Unrest
2015 Baltimore Protest
McKinney Pool Party
Charleston Church Shooting
University of Missouri Protests
2016 Super Bowl Halftime Show
Unite the Right
George Floyd Protests
Trump's Photo Op at St. John's Church
Blue Lives Matter
Stop AAPI Hate



LAWS

Stand-Your-Ground Laws
Voter ID Laws



COURT CASES

Shelby County v. Holder



19-6: CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

BIG IDEA: Politics in America has always been contentious and there have never been some “good old days” when everyone got along and debated respectfully. However, in the past 30 years the Great Recession, taxes, government spending, racial justice issues, immigration, mass media, the rise of social media, and the personal failings of politicians have all contributed to a shift toward more extreme division.

George H. W. Bush was the last president from his generation. He lost his bid for reelection in 1992 to Bill Clinton. Clinton was the first Baby Boomer president and was famous for his engaging personality and also for scandal. Clinton described himself as a New Democrat and embraced some conservative ideas. This helped him win in a time when conservative ideas were more popular.

Clinton signed NAFTA but failed to reform healthcare. In 1994 Republicans took back control of Congress for the first time in decades and a period of confrontation between Congress and the President ensued. Clinton’s scandals hurt him in his second term. Investigations of his business deals morphed into an investigation of an affair he had while he was president. He was impeached by the House but not convicted in the Senate. In the end, however, his political talents and a robust economy saved him, and he was the most popular outgoing president ever.

The 2000 presidential election was very close. It all came down to Florida where Al Gore asked for a recount. The procedures ended up being debated in the courts and in the case of Bush v. Gore the Supreme Court handed the election to George W. Bush. It was a rare case when the winner of the popular vote did not become president.

Bush implemented tax cuts for all Americans, especially the wealthy in keeping with traditional Republican ideas about how to support the economy. During his presidency there was a growing divide between the very rich and most other Americans. He also signed the NCLB education law. Later he concentrated on the War on Terror. The War in Iraq and the government’s botched response to Hurricane Katrina ruined his popularity during his second term.

Deregulation and speculation led to problems in the financial markets. A real estate bubble grew during Bush’s tenure that included the creation of mortgage backed securities and credit default swaps. In 2007 everything came crashing down and the Great Recession started. Bush and Obama responded by bailing out banks and the auto industry. Later, Obama passed a stimulus bill to pump tax money into the economy.

CONTINUED...

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Perjury
Impeachment
Charter Schools
School Vouchers
Preexisting Conditions
The 99%
Prosecutorial Discretion



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Bill Clinton
New Democrats
Hillary Clinton
Newt Gingrich
Kenneth Starr
Monica Lewinsky
George W. Bush
Ted Cruz
Dreamers
Donald Trump



EVENTS

Republican Revolution
Hurricane Katrina
Real Estate Market Crash
Great Recession
Occupy Wall Street
Tea Party
#MeToo
Coronavirus Pandemic
First Impeachment of Donald Trump
The Big Lie
2021 Storming of the Capitol
Second Impeachment of Donald Trump



ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

Mortgage Backed Securities
Subprime Mortgage
Credit Rating Agency
Credit Default Swap



President Obama and Democrats passed healthcare reform in 2009. The government's response to the Great Recession and Obamacare were unpopular with voters on both the right and the left. Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party grew as a result. Republicans in Congress formed fierce opposition to Obama. He responded by using executive orders to make significant changes to environmental and immigration policy.

Beginning in the 1990s the United States has grown increasingly politically polarized. Republicans and Democrats work together less, are more divided geographically, are less likely to vote for someone from the other party or even to have friends from the other party. Extreme partisanship is fueled by media outlets and amplified by social media where algorithms are designed to help you find like-minded people, thus isolating people from dissenting opinions. More and more voters are likely to describe the other party as hating America and trying to ruin the country.

Donald Trump won in 2016 by capitalizing on various political trends, such as anti-globalization, anti-environmentalism, fatigue of wars, Clinton scandals, and anti-feminism. President Trump broke with tradition in many ways, which was part of why his supporters liked him. Although most presidents stretch the truth, Trump told an unprecedented number of lies during his four years in office. His willingness to lie and attacks on his political opponents led to him being impeached twice, once for asking the President of Ukraine to help him find information that would hurt then-candidate Biden and a second time for encouraging his supporters to attack the Capitol Building.

Over the past few decades an intense political debate has emerged around questions related to immigration. As a result of immigration reform in the 1960s, large numbers of immigrants have arrived from Asia and Latin America. Some believe it is time to start to reduce the number of arrivals. Others view these new residents as a benefit to America. Since most non-White Americans vote Democratic, the debate over immigration has become intensely politicized. Fights over the fate of children brought to the country illegally and criticism of President Trump's proposed border wall and ban on Muslim immigrants made immigration a major political issue in the 2010s.

In response to Trump's accusations of sexual abuse, the #MeToo movement rose to expose abusers and assert women's power in American politics.

VOCABULARY CONTINUED



LAWS, POLICIES & PROGRAMS

Health Security Act
Contract with America
Welfare Reform
Bush Tax Cuts
No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)
The Stimulus
Obamacare
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
DREAM Act
Border Wall
Family Separation



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



QUOTES

"Read my lips: no new taxes"
"I did not have sexual relations with that woman"



COURT CASES

Bush v. Gore