

CHAPTER 26 Section 1 (pages 846–852)

The Clinton Presidency

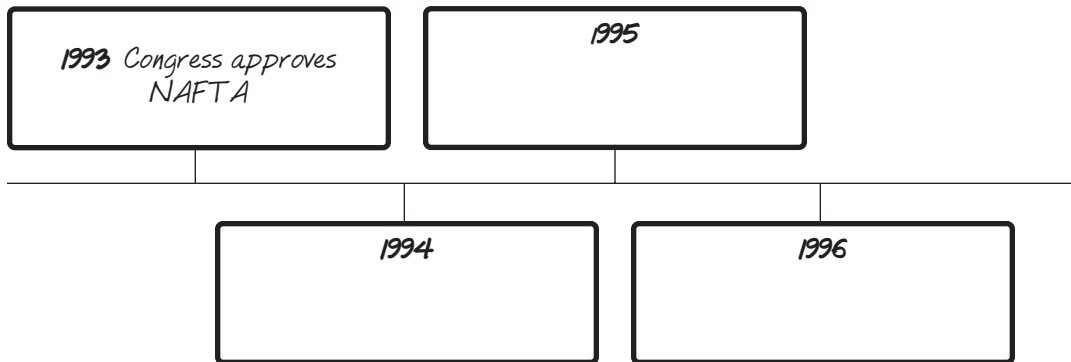
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about American foreign policy at the end of the Cold War.

In this section, you will read about Bill Clinton's presidency.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes about the major events of Clinton's first term.



TERMS AND NAMES

Bill Clinton 42nd president

Twenty-seventh Amendment Prevents Congress from getting a pay raise until after an election has occurred

Hillary Rodham Clinton Wife of Bill Clinton

NAFTA Trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States

Newt Gingrich Speaker of the House of Representatives

Contract with America Republican plan for political reform

Clinton Wins the Presidency

(pages 846–847)

Why did Clinton win the 1992 election?

President George Bush was very popular after the Persian Gulf War. But his support dropped when the economy weakened. The Democrats nominated Arkansas governor **Bill Clinton** to face Bush in the 1992 presidential election.

There was great concern over the economy. This created an opening for a third-party candidate—Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot. He won support from voters who were unhappy with politicians.

In fact, people's distrust of government led to the passage of the **Twenty-seventh Amendment**. This amendment prevented Congress from getting a pay raise until after an election occurred.

Clinton faced *ethical* problems during the race.

Some people criticized his efforts to avoid military service in Vietnam. They also questioned his actions in a real-estate deal called Whitewater.

Clinton won the election anyway. He took 43 percent of the popular vote and won easily in the electoral college.

1. What was the major issue in the 1992 presidential election?

The Clinton Record

 (pages 847–849)

What issues did Clinton face?

Clinton took steps to simplify the federal *bureaucracy*. He also appointed many women and minorities to his cabinet.

But Clinton's most important goal was to strengthen the economy. This included changing the *health-care system*. The system needed change because nearly 40 million Americans did not have health insurance.

Clinton named his wife, **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, to lead a task force on health care. It developed a plan to offer health insurance for all Americans. Conservatives criticized the plan, and it never got a vote in Congress.

The economy grew during Clinton's presidency. Low interest rates, low inflation, low unemployment, and small budget deficits contributed to the growth. Clinton raised taxes on wealthy Americans. He also slowed growth in federal spending. The Clinton plan cut the federal budget deficit in half between 1992 and 1996.

In 1993, Congress approved **NAFTA** (North American Free Trade Agreement). This treaty with Canada and Mexico made trade easier between the three countries. Some people said the treaty would cost American workers their jobs.

Clinton tried to shape a new foreign policy after the Cold War. Warfare broke out in many regions, including the former Yugoslavia. The United States, NATO, and the United Nations tried to bring peace to these regions. Many Americans did not want to send troops to dangerous places.

2. What were four reasons why the economy improved during the Clinton administration?

The Republican Congress

(pages 849–851)

What did the Republicans in Congress want to do?

In 1994, Clinton faced several problems. He still faced questions about Whitewater. He was also hurt by the failure of his health plan.

Newt Gingrich, a Republican congressman from Georgia, took advantage of Clinton's troubles. Behind Gingrich's leadership, the Republicans won control of both Houses of Congress in the 1994 elections.

Gingrich was elected Speaker of the House. He

and the Republicans tried to pass the **Contract with America**. The contract promised to reform Congress, reform welfare, and pass tougher crime laws.

Some of these bills did not pass the House or the Senate. Clinton vetoed others. Clinton and the Republicans disagreed on many issues. When Clinton refused to accept a Republican budget, the federal government shut down three times.

During 1996, Clinton and Congress worked together better. Congress passed and Clinton signed a bill that changed the nation's welfare system. A modest health-insurance reform bill also became law.

3. What issues were addressed in Gingrich's Contract with America?

The Election of 1996; Clinton's Second Term

(pages 851–852)

What issues did Clinton face in his second term?

In the 1996 presidential campaign, Clinton held a large lead in public opinion polls. Clinton won reelection against Republican Bob Dole and Ross Perot. Clinton won 49 percent of the popular vote. But Republicans kept control of Congress.

During Clinton's second term, Democrats and Republicans continued to attack each other. Congress investigated the fundraising activities of both political parties. Some representatives and senators came up with plans to reform campaign *financing*.

Clinton and Congress continued to try to balance the budget. In August 1997, they agreed on a bill that achieved a balanced budget. It also included tax cuts.

4. Describe two issues Clinton faced in his second term.

Chapter 26: The United States in Today's World (pages 844–875)

Section 1: The Clinton Presidency (pages 846–852)

1. The economy was the major issue.
2. Low interest rates, low inflation, low unemployment, and small budget deficits helped the economy improve.
3. The Contract with America addressed tougher crime legislation and reforms of Congress and welfare.
4. Two issues Clinton faced were campaign finance reform and balancing the budget. The Democrats and Republicans attacked each other on campaign finance reform. Clinton and Congress agreed on a balanced budget bill that included tax cuts.