

2000s**I. George W. Bush****A. Election of 2000**

1. shift back to conservatism – disgust over lack of Clinton-era values
2. Personable – known for his nicknames of nearly everyone
3. championed local control over federal control – appealed to the West (Texas background also helped)

B. Policies

1. No Child Left Behind
 - a. goal: all kids on grade level in reading, math, & science by 2014
 - b. raises standards in schools
 - c. measures growth by test scores
2. Cut taxes for nearly everyone
 - a. economic growth
 - b. enormous deficit (\$5½ trillion by the end of his presidency)
3. Expanded Medicare program to include prescriptions

C. Terrorist Attacks - September 11, 2001

1. excuses for the attack
 - a. build Muslim-centered governments throughout Middle East
 - b. eliminate Western influence in the Middle East
2. reorganization of federal government
 - a. add Department of Homeland Security

D. War**1. Afghanistan**

- a. Problem: Al Qaeda trains operatives in Afghanistan (originated in Afghanistan); Bin Laden (leader of Al Qaeda) there
- b. Afghanistan ruled by Taliban – religious fanatics (Buddhist status example)
- c. U.S. invasion
- d. Becomes a civil war
 - a. Factions: Taliban; current government; warlords
- e. Problems:
 - a. “Collateral damage” (civilian deaths) moves locals to anger against U.S.
 - b. need locals to help us identify Taliban officials

2. Iraq

- a. Problem: nut-job leader (Hussein) may have weapons of mass destruction
- b. Bush builds international coalition to invade
 - a. Very popular choice
- c. Invasion successful – Saddam toppled/captured/executed by Iraqi authorities
 - a. Tail hook landing – “Mission Accomplished!”
- d. Some terrorists moved into Iraq to fight U.S.

E. Economic crash of 2008

1. Causes
2. Reactions – “stimulus”

II. Barack Obama

- A. election of 2008
 - 1. run a reaction to Bush unpopularity
 - 2. international reaction
- B. international relations
 - 1. Iraq
 - 2. Afghanistan
 - a. & Pakistan
 - a. Killing of Osama bin Laden
 - 3. Middle East revolutions
- C. Health Care
 - 1. Problem
 - 2. Opposition
- D. Economy
 - 1. Debt issues