

THE
Clinton
Years



1: Culture of 1990s

Culture

- Technology in Toys = Gameboy, gaming systems
- 1995—Ebay created
- 1997—1st Harry Potter Book
- 1997—Dolly—1st cloned sheep
- 1998—Google created
- 1999—Napster created (file sharing)
- More people owning mobile phones

Events

- 1991—15 police officers beat Rodney King, a black man that they pulled over after a high speed pursuit
 - The beating was caught on home video & broadcast on news
- 1992—LA Riots after a jury acquitted the 4 officers who beat Rodney King (riots, lootings, & arson—\$1 billion in damages)
- 1994—OJ Simpson Trial: Simpson was accused of killing his ex-wife & her friend
 - 11 month trial broadcast on CourtTV
 - Simpson was acquitted of the murders

Technology

- Internet emerged as major means of communication & commerce
- Concerns about inappropriate material on Internet
- Clinton attempted to pass law limiting sexually explicit material (Supreme Court ruled that it violated freedom of speech)

2: Background on Bill Clinton



Governor of Arkansas at 32—youngest in national history

Chaired the Democratic Leadership Council—organization of centerists

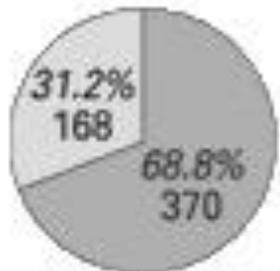
3rd youngest president ever at age 46 (1st “babyboomer” president)

3: 1992 Election

There were three major candidates:

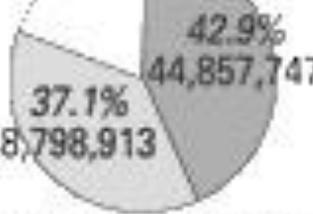
- **Incumbent Republican President George H. W. Bush**
 - President HW Bush had alienated much of his conservative base by breaking his 1988 campaign pledge against raising taxes. The economy was in recession, and Bush's perceived greatest strength, foreign policy, was regarded as much less important following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the relatively peaceful climate in the Middle East after the defeat of Iraq in the Gulf War.
- **Democratic Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton**
 - Clinton presented himself as the protector of the middle class.
 - Allegations during campaign: that Clinton had dodged the draft during the Vietnam War and had used marijuana, which Clinton claimed he had pretended to smoke, but "didn't inhale." He was also accused of have an affair.
 - Clinton won a wide Electoral College margin (370 vs. 168) yet won only 43% of the popular vote. The election was a significant realigning election after three consecutive Republican landslides. Northeastern, Upper Midwest, and West Coast states which had previously been competitive began voting reliably Democratic.
- **Independent Texas businessman Ross Perot**
 - In the spring of 1992, polls showed Ross Perot leading the race, followed by President Bush and Clinton in third place after a grueling nomination process.
 - Perot's campaign took 19% of the vote, finishing second in Maine and Utah. This was noted for being the highest vote share of a third-party candidate since 1912, though he did not obtain any electoral votes.

1992 Election



ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 538

ROSS PEROT 18.8%
19,722,042



POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 104,600,366

Democratic (Clinton) 
 Republican (G.H.W. Bush) 

4: Clinton's Domestic Policies

Budget

- Cut spending—billions of dollars—on programs, lowered taxes
- 1998—federal budget had a surplus (1st time in 30 years)
 - Booming economy also helped the budget

Healthcare

- Campaigned that he would create affordable health care
- Appointed First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton to head the team to create the plan.
- Congress never voted on the bill.

Military

- 1994—“Don’t ask, Don’t tell” policy
- Official US policy on military service of gays, bisexuals, and lesbians
 - Prohibited military personnel from discriminating against or harassing closeted homosexual or bisexual service members or applicants
 - barring openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons from military service.

5: Clinton's Foreign Policies

Oslo Accords
1993

- Peace agreement b/w Israel and Palestinians (1st face-to-face agreement)
- Agreed to self-rule for Palestinians (meaning they could have their own government)
- Palestinians agreed to recognize Israel's right to be a nation
 - Background: In 1948, the UN created 2 nations: Israel and Palestine. Immediately, all of Israel's Arab nations declared war on Israel (believing it should not exist). Israel won the war in 1948 and took over Palestinian territory. Officially, Palestine has never existed as an independent nation.)

NAFTA
1994

- U.S., Mexico, and Canada became free-trade zones
- Critics thought NAFTA would cost Americans to lose their jobs (because companies would move to Mexico for cheaper sources of labor)
- Supporters thought it would increase trade → helping the U.S. economy

World Trade Organization
1995

- An intergovernmental organization which regulates international trade
- To promote trade & economic development
- Some Americans protested that the WTO made decisions that were harmful to poorer nations, the environment, and workers.

Former Yugoslavia
1990s

- 1991—The nation of Yugoslavia broke apart (there were several nationalities in Yugoslavia, and they all wanted their own nation).
- Violence raged between the new nations created from the former Yugoslavia
- Clinton helped to broker end of fighting and urged NATO to act against Serbia
 - Serbian army was enforcing "ethnic cleansing" of Albanians from Serbia

6: Scandal

Whitewater Investigation (often referred to as “Whitewater-gate”)

- 1970s—Clinton involved in land deal w/ Whitewater Development Co. in Arkansas
- Clinton accused of improperly using some of the land money to fund his 1984 gubernatorial re-election campaign (in the end, neither Bill or Hillary Clinton were prosecuted)
- 1994—Kenneth Starr appointed to investigate



Clinton & Monica
Lewinsky

Lewinsky Scandal

- During Whitewater investigation, Starr probed into matters unrelated to Whitewater
- Starr questioned Clinton about an improper relationship with a young White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.
- Under oath, Clinton lied about the affair with Lewinsky
 - Clinton denied lying under oath or attempting to obstruct the investigation

Impeachment

- 1998—House of Rep. voted to impeach Clinton (was majority Republican) (for perjury & obstruction of justice)
- 1999—Senate opened a trial of Clinton
 - Senate did NOT vote to convict Clinton