

America as Hyperpower

*Contemporary United States
(1968–Present)*



Policing and terrorism

The 1990s and globalization

21st-century America

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know the following about the U.S. in the 1990s:

- Economic reforms and the bull market
- The growth of globalization
- President Clinton's domestic policies
- Partisan politics and Clinton's impeachment
- Innovations in science and technology
- The significance of U.S. immigration.



Clinton the “New Democrat”



Following his election in 1992, one of President Clinton’s main goals was to create a new, moderate Democratic Party that promoted both liberal and conservative programs.

During his two terms in office, Clinton cut government spending and taxes while creating child welfare and health programs. He also imposed new limits on welfare benefits and put welfare in the hands of the states.



These changes coincided with a **bull market**, or rising stock market prices. Unprecedented economic expansion during this time softened the blow of welfare cuts.



Economic prosperity in the 1990s created millions of new jobs. Yet many people saw their incomes decrease as the gap between rich and poor widened.

Most new jobs were in the minimum wage service industry. The farm and manufacturing industries shrank as technological advances made millions of jobs unnecessary.

These changes lowered the spending power of average Americans. As a result, many companies were forced to **downsize**, or cut permanent staff with benefits and replace them with lower-paid, temporary workers.





Globalization is the process by which societies are integrated across a global network. In the late 20th century, technological advances created new possibilities for economic globalization.

Press **start** to learn more.

start





Globalization is a complex and divisive issue. While globalization has many benefits, it also has certain drawbacks. Decide whether each statement describes a pro or a con of globalization, then drag it to the appropriate space.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Can you think of any other pros and cons?



In the midterm elections of 1994, Republicans took control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

Speaker of the House **Newt Gingrich** led the opposition to Clinton. He and other Republicans clashed with Democrats over cuts to Social Security and Medicaid. Lack of compromise resulted in several brief closures of the federal government during 1995.

Partisan struggles rallied Clinton supporters. He won a second term in 1996, defeating Republican Bob Dole and Independent Ross Perot. However, Republicans kept control of Congress.





Clinton's domestic policies



President Clinton made many key changes to domestic policy. When he left office in 2001, he had the highest end-of-term approval rating of any president since Eisenhower.

Press the buttons to learn more about Clinton-era reform.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Impeachment



During his second term, Clinton was accused of misusing funds from the Whitewater Development Company during his 1984 gubernatorial campaign.

He was further accused of lying under oath regarding improper relations with a White House intern.

In 1998, Clinton was **impeached** on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. However, he was acquitted of all charges and remained in office.





The rapid development of new technologies during the 1990s dramatically changed the way Americans lived. Drag the following events into the correct places on the timeline. More information about each event can be found by pressing the orange information buttons.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Between 1970 and 2010, the population of the United States rose from 204 million to 308 million. Much of this growth was due to immigration.

Nearly half of these immigrants came from Mexico, Central and South America, and Asia. By 2010, Latinos had become the nation's largest ethnic minority.



Not all immigrants entered the U.S. legally. In 2001, an estimated 5–6 million illegal immigrants lived in the United States.



Most illegal immigrants take jobs that American citizens do not want. These jobs generally pay less than minimum wage and have no benefits.

Yet many Americans are concerned about the impact of illegal immigrants on the economy.



Backlash against immigration has taken many forms. In 1994, Californians passed **Proposition 187**, which cut funding for education and non-emergency health care to illegal immigrants. The Supreme Court ruled Proposition 187 unconstitutional in 1998.

How should the U.S. deal with illegal immigration?