

# America as Hyperpower

*Contemporary United States  
(1968–Present)*



Policing and terrorism

The 1990s and globalization

**21<sup>st</sup>-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 2000s:

- The election debate of 2000
- President Bush's domestic policies
- The election of 2008
- President Obama's policies.



# 2000 election controversy



In the 2000 election, Democrats nominated Vice President **Al Gore**. Republicans nominated Texas Governor and son of former President Bush, George W. Bush.

What followed was the closest race in U.S. history. Gore won the popular vote by over 500,000 votes. However, the electoral vote was unclear, with crucial swing state Florida deemed too close to call.

A recount declared Bush the winner of Florida by 500 votes. Gore's campaign requested a manual recount.





# President George W. Bush



The Supreme Court ruled the manual recount unconstitutional.

In a 5–4 vote, they upheld the previous findings of the recount, making George W. Bush the 43<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States.



President Bush declared his aims to privatize Social Security and cut taxes by over one trillion dollars. However, his domestic goals were soon put on hold by the September 11 attacks and the War on Terror.





# Bush's domestic policies



Much of President Bush's foreign policy was defined by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, his administration made many changes to domestic policies at home.

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

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





# Hurricane Katrina



At 6AM on August 29, 2005,  
**Hurricane Katrina** struck  
New Orleans. The category 5 storm  
ripped up trees and buildings and  
flooded much of the city. 80% of  
residents were evacuated. 1,800 died.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





By the 2008 election, many Americans were frustrated with President Bush's leadership and the ongoing wars.

After a close primary race between Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama, the Democrats nominated Obama as their candidate.

Republicans nominated Senator **John McCain.**







The worsening recession damaged McCain's campaign, as more Americans came to feel new leadership was needed. In November, Americans elected Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the U.S. He became the first black president in the nation's history.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





# Think about it



As the U.S. moves into the future, it faces many challenges. Based on what you've learned, discuss the following opinions and drag the marker to indicate how much you agree or disagree, justifying your answers.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Test your understanding of contemporary America by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

