

**20.2**

**George W. Bush Presidency**

## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- **Assess the outcome of the 2000 presidential election.**
- **Explain the goals and achievements of George W. Bush's domestic policy.**
- **Explain the significance of terrorist attacks on the United States and U.S. involvement in world affairs.**
- **Summarize the important issues of Bush's second term.**
- **Understand the causes and effects of the 2008 financial crisis and economic recession..**

# **Controversy in the 2000 Election**

**During the 2000 election, the Democrats ran Vice President Al Gore & Senator Joseph Liberman to run**

**The Republicans chose George W. Bush, the son of George H.W. Bush, to run**

**Ralph Nader ran under a third party ticket for the Green party, Democrats were worried he would take votes away from Gore**

**Bush favored tax cuts while Gore wanted to strengthen Social Security & pay down national debt**





# **A Close Call**

**America voted along party lines leading to a razor thin voting margin with no clear winner**

**Both parties began to watch Florida, due to its 25 electoral college votes, due to a recount**

**Bush barely wins the votes by 500, but Nader received 97,000 votes that Democrats thought would have gone to Gore**

**Democrats demanded a recount & Republicans sued to stop it. The Supreme Court stepped in & stopped the recount**



# Bush Agenda

**Bush barely wins Presidency with 271 electoral college votes (270 needed to win) & Gore concedes**

**2001 Bush passes a 1.3 trillion tax cut to the wealthy to try & put money in consumers hands**

**2002- *No Child Left Behind*- Bill that penalized schools that did not reach federal performance standards**

**2003- Extended Medicare to cover prescription drugs for senior citizens, bill was expensive & confusing**



A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The flag is draped and appears to be part of a memorial or commemorative display.

# **September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 A.M. on September 11, 2001 American Airlines Flight 11 slammed into the North tower of the World trade Center in New York**

**Shortly afterwards, a second plane crashed into the towers, showing it was no accident**

**The towers would collapse trapping & killing thousands of people & spiling debris into the streets**

**A third plane crashed into the pentagon while a 4<sup>th</sup> plane headed towards the White House**



# **Terrorist Attacks**

**The passengers on the 4<sup>th</sup> plane, hearing about the attacks via cellphones stormed the cockpit...**

**Crashing the plane into a field near Pittsburgh, killing all on board**

**Soon afterwards, it was confirmed that the Al Qaeda Islamist terrorist groups led the attacks**

**3,000 people died from the attacks & the deaths are still being reported due to health concerns**





# Al Qaeda

Al Qaeda was led by **Osama Bin Laden** who was committed to ending all American involvement in the Middle East

**1993- Al Qaeda set off a bomb at the World Trade Center killing 6 people**

**1998- Al Qaeda sets off car bombs at various American Embassy's**

**2000- Bombed an American ship off the coast of Yemen**



# **Legacy of 9/11**

The background of the slide features a close-up of the American flag's stars and stripes, partially visible in the upper right corner, resting on a light-colored wooden surface with visible grain and some minor stains.

**Americans, shocked by 9/11, rallied around the nation donating blood, services, & supplies**

**200- Someone was sending Anthrax, a biological bacteria weapon, through the mail**

**After 9/11 the airlines industries fell & spending decreased due to fear**

**The attacks cost the economy 1 million jobs & countries output dropped 3%**



# War on Terror

**The events of 9/11 happened in the first year of Bush's presidency & his office focused on prosecution of those who organized attack**

**The War of Terror was the governments protocol to eliminate terrorist activities worldwide**

**Taliban-** Terrorist organization working with various groups to train terrorists

**U.S. & Britain invade Afghanistan overthrowing the Taliban, capturing some Al Qaeda leaders, but missing Bin Laden**



# National Security



**USA PATRIOT Act-** Law enforcement gained broader powers to monitor suspected terrorists

**Department of Homeland Security-** Cabinet agency that oversaw security matters among federal, state, & local agencies

**Terrorist prisoners were sent to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Many without formal charges**

**Habeas Corpus-** Constitutional guarantee that no one can be held in prison without charges being filed





# Controversy

**Supreme Court began to examine Bush administrations policy of military tribunals to prosecute enemy troops**

***Hamdan V. Rumsfeld*-** Court ruled that military courts violated the Geneva Convention & U.S. federal law

**Bush administration moved war to Iraq believing that Saddam Hussein was building advanced weapons**

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)-** Nuclear, biological, & chemical weapons

# Bush's Second Term

**Bush runs for President against Sen John Kerry with the help of [Lionel Sosa](#) to build up Latino votes**

**Wins a second term & sets his sights on new issues**

**2005-2006 Iraq begins building a democratic government & Saddam Hussein is captured & executed**

**Three major groups begin to fight for control, The Sunni & Shi'a Muslims & The Kurds**

**2008- Senate Intelligence Committee finds no credible evidence of WMDS in Iraq**





# Issues at Home

**2005- Hurricane Katrina destroyed a large portion of New Orleans & government support was slow**

**1997- Kyoto Treaty was signed by 140 nations to curb carbon dioxide & other greenhouse gasses**

**Bush Administration announces it would not abide by treaty claiming it could harm U.S. economy**

**2008- Housing market crashes & the U.S. slides into a recession creating the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression**