

THIRTY-TWO THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Objectives

A thorough study of Chapter Thirty-Four should enable the student to understand:

1. The accomplishments and challenges of the Clinton administration.
2. The reasons behind the Clinton impeachment and subsequent acquittal.
3. How George W. Bush won the most controversial presidential election in American history.
4. The reasons for the economic boom of the 1990s and the recession of 2001-2002.
5. The impact of the PC and the Internet on the American economy and culture.
6. The fundamental changes in the American and world economy after 1970.
7. The profound demographic changes that the nation experienced from the 1970s into the 1990s.
8. The widening gulf between economically successful African Americans and the urban black underclass.
9. The troublesome issues of drugs, AIDS, homelessness, abortion, and environment threats.
10. The tense and fragmented culture issues that impacted on politics and social relations.
11. That the threat of widespread terrorism has become a fact of American life.

Main Themes

1. How Bill Clinton won the presidency by focusing on the economy and was able to keep the economy strong despite the failure of some major initiatives and persistent attacks on his personal life.
2. That fundamental changes in the economy led to a two-tiered economy in which the affluent and educated of all races prospered while the lower classes got further behind.
3. That America was becoming more diverse due to the changes in immigration after 1965 and the higher birth rates among many immigrant groups, especially Hispanics.
4. That the civil rights movement, affirmative action, and other liberal reforms had left a legacy of improved opportunities for educated middle-class blacks but that the urban African American "underclass" seemed even worse off than before.
5. That the nation, despite its prosperity, continued to face seemingly intractable social problems including violent crime, drug addiction, homelessness, AIDS, environmental hazards, and a deprived underclass.
6. How globalism has transformed economic relationships among nations.
7. That the events of September 11, 2001, awakened America to a new wariness and a new unity.

Glossary

1. "crack" cocaine: Cocaine in a concentrated form that is smoked rather than "snorted," as is typical for cocaine powder. "Crack" was more typical among central-city black addicts, while the powder form was more likely to be used by suburban abusers.

Pertinent Questions

A RESURGENCE OF PARTISANSHIP (920-926)

1. What obstacles to effective leadership did Clinton face upon taking office? How did the administration's own actions compound its problems?
2. What major domestic legislation did the Clinton administration manage to push through in its first two years? Why did the health care initiative fail?
3. What role did the United States play in the Bosnian civil war that emerged from the break up of Yugoslavia?
4. Why were the Republicans able to win control of Congress in 1994? What were the Congressional Republicans able to accomplish? How did President Clinton react?
5. What strategy did Clinton adopt for the 1996 election? What happened in the Congressional elections?
6. What political and economic factors combined to make substantial reductions in the federal budget deficit during President Clinton's second term?
7. Explain the series of financial, political, and sexual scandals that plagued Bill Clinton. Why did the Republicans push for impeachment? Why was Clinton acquitted?
8. What was the result of America's involvement in the NATO intervention in the Yugoslavian province of Kosovo?
9. Describe how the razor thin electoral margin in Florida was resolved in favor of George W. Bush. Even though the Supreme Court ultimately decided the election in a controversial and apparently partisan ruling, why can it be said that it was actually consumer advocate Ralph Nader who cost Al Gore the presidency?

THE ECONOMIC BOOM (926-929)

10. What new approaches to conducting business helped lead the American economy out of the doldrums of the 1970s and early 1980s? Specifically, what did businesses do to control labor costs?
11. What were the hallmarks of the economic boom of the 90s? What caused the sudden downturn in the first years of the 21st Century?
12. What is meant by the "two-tiered economy"? What factors contributed to this characteristic of the 1990s? What happened to the poverty rate over the post-World War II era?
13. Explain how "globalization" transformed the American economy? In what economic sector were U. S. workers most affected?

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEW ECONOMY (929-933)

14. What technological advances made possible the personal computer? How did the PC change business processes and even household activities?
15. Describe the rapid rise of the computer and software industry. How did Microsoft come to be so large and dominant?
16. What technological developments made the Internet and the World Wide Web possible? In what ways was the Internet a creature of government and well as private development?
17. What impact did the new medium of communications have on American life?
18. Describe the rise of genetic engineering and the biotechnology industry. What are the future possibilities and controversies in this new field?

A CHANGING SOCIETY (933-940)

19. What factors led to the increase in the average age of Americans? What are the social, political, and economic consequences of this demographic change?
20. Describe the significant change in the nature and extent of immigration to the United States after 1965. What two groups had the most impact?
21. As Asian immigration swelled, what tensions developed? What helps explain why some Asian groups prospered?
22. Compare and contrast post-1960s accomplishments of the African American middle class with those of the underclass. What explains the stark disparity?
23. What precipitated the 1992 Los Angeles riot that was the largest racial disturbance of the twentieth century? What underlying problems did the outbreak represent?
24. How did illegal drug use in the 1990s vary between the middle class and poor urban neighborhoods?
25. What are possible reasons that the crime rate fell in the 1990s reversing an upward trend since the end of World War II?

A CONTESTED CULTURE (940-945)

26. What were the key arguments on which the "right-to-life" movement rested its opposition to abortion? What gains did the movement make? How did the "pro-choice" forces respond?
 27. What was accomplished in the struggle against sexual harassment in the workplace?
 28. Describe the shift of the political left to emphasis on environmental and ecological concerns. What incidents and issues attracted the most attention?
 29. How did environmental concerns blend with globalism issues? Why did the U.S. refuse to ratify the Kyoto Treaty?
 30. Compare and contrast the forces of mass culture with the emerging more targeted or fragmented tendencies. How did new media technologies facilitate segmentation?
 31. What is "multiculturalism" and why did some people resist it? What anniversary highlighted the controversy?
- #### THE PERILS OF GLOBALIZATION (945-950)
32. Describe the differing perspectives of those who tended to resist globalization. What common concerns did they have?
 33. Why did Islamic fundamentalism manifest itself in hatred against the West, especially the United States?
 34. What encounters with terrorism did the United States experience prior to September 11, 2001?
 35. Describe how the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks combined with the anthrax scare thrust concern about terrorism to the forefront of American consciousness. How did the Bush administration respond?
 36. In what ways did the national reaction to the terrorism of September 11 bring out the best in the American people?
- #### PATTERNS OF POPULAR CULTURE: RAP (938-939)
37. How does rap differ from earlier forms of African American music? Why can it be called "almost as much a form of language as a form of music?"

WHERE HISTORIANS DISAGREE: WOMEN'S HISTORY (941)

38. What revived interest in women's history in the 1960s and 1970s?

39. What is meant by the "contributorist" and "victimization" focus that characterized most women's history up to the 1990s?
40. How and why did gender studies shift from emphasis on the artificiality of gender distinction to a focus on the notion of gender as a source of social and culture difference?

Identification

Identify each of the following and explain why it is important within the context of the chapter.

1. *Jihad*
2. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
3. Hillary Rodham Clinton
4. Newt Gingrich
5. Robert Dole
6. welfare reform
7. Saddam Hussein
8. Monica Lewinsky
9. Kenneth Starr
10. Richard Cheney
11. NASDAQ
12. "dot-coms" and the "tech bubble"
13. Euron Corporation/Arthur Anderson
14. Apple
15. IBM
16. Microsoft
17. Silicon Valley
18. Human Genome Project
19. stem cell research
20. the "underclass"
21. O. J. Simpson trial
22. AIDS epidemic
23. "unsafe sex"
24. caregiver leave
25. Clarence Thomas
26. Three Mile Island
27. global warming
28. VCR/DVD
29. "political correctness"
30. World Trade Organization
31. Timothy McVeigh
32. Osama Bin Laden/Al Qaeda

Summary

Following some early accomplishments, the Clinton administration found itself mired in often contentious political struggle with Republicans in Congress, culminating in the impeachment trial of the President himself. Internationally, America took the lead in NATO response to trouble in the Balkan region of Europe. The Middle East continued to present seemingly intractable challenges despite some apparent but transitory diplomatic agreements. The American economy, in an increasingly global context, boomed as never before with much of the growth arising from new computer and biotech developments. As the new century began, however, the economic miracle seemed to be sputtering, especially in the light of the burst of the "tech bubble." Although American had witnessed terrorism on many occasions, the magnitude of the attacks of September 11, 2001, focused America on this insidious challenge as never before.

Review Questions

These questions are to be answered with essays. This will allow you to explore relationships between individuals, events, and attitudes of the period under review.

1. Explain the fundamental changes in the nature of the American economy that were evident by the mid 1990s. What caused such transformation? What are the long term social implications of a "two-tiered" economy in a global setting?
2. How had the computer already transformed many aspects of American life by the early 1990s? What does the Internet promise for the future?
3. What groups failed to share fully in the economic boom of the 1990s? Why?
4. Does the new century portend a new world order of terror? What grievances do the terrorists seem to have against America and the West?

Chapter Self Test

After you have read the chapter in the text and done the exercises in the Study Guide, take the following self test to see if you understand the material you have covered. Answers appear at the end of the Study Guide.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. Which of the following was *not* an episode that tarnished President Clinton's early popularity?
 - a. His effort to end the ban on homosexuals serving in the military.
 - b. His controversial appointments to major government positions in the Justice Department and elsewhere.
 - c. His wholesale replacement of the Federal Reserve Board with liberals.
 - d. His clumsy handling of the investigation into his banking and real estate ventures.
2. What major domestic initiative of the first two years of the Clinton administration was a political failure?
 - a. mental health
 - b. child welfare
 - c. educational improvements
 - d. health care reform
3. The Clinton administration involved the U.S. militarily in the Civil War in

- a. Afghanistan
 - b. Belarus
 - c. Turkey
 - d. Bosnia
4. During Clinton's second term, the federal budget deficit
- a. declined significantly due mainly to economic growth
 - b. increased significantly due to increased social spending
 - c. fluctuated widely due to the series of short military interventions
 - d. remained at the approximate levels of the first Bush administration despite tax cuts
5. The "two tiered" economy referred to a situation characterized by
- a. a prosperous industrial north and a lagging Sunbelt dependent on a service economy
 - b. the U.S. leading the world and other nations being noticeably behind in GNP and other measures of prosperity
 - c. the increasingly wide and seemingly intractable gap between the educated American middle class and above compared with the so-called underclass
 - d. the contrast between the consumer economy and the investment economy as manifested in a volatile stock market
6. The American economy in the period of the late 1980s and early 1990s was characterized by all of the following *except*:
- a. the lowest rate of poverty in the post-World War II era.
 - b. a decline in the relative importance of heavy manufacturing.
 - c. an increase in the number of families needing more than one income to maintain their desired standard of living.
 - d. an unequal distribution of wealth and income, with the middle 40 percent experiencing a decline in wealth.
7. From 1985 to the early 1990s there was significant relative and actual increase in immigration by all of the following groups *except*:
- a. Asians.
 - b. Mexicans.
 - c. Puerto Ricans.
 - d. Europeans.
8. Which of the following best represents the economic status of African Americans by the 1980s?
- a. Despite the efforts of the 1960s, all classes of blacks were falling further behind whites.
 - b. The black middle class made significant gains, but the gap between the black middle class and underclass was accentuated.
 - c. Working-class blacks made significant strides but white-collar options remained closed, so middle-class blacks made little gain.
 - d. Except in the South, average family income for blacks matched that of whites by the 1990 census.

9. What technological advance ushered in the personal computer (PC) revolution?
- microprocessor
 - transistors
 - vacuum tubes
 - circuit breakers
10. What entity undertook the original research and development that led to the creation of the Internet?
- the New York Stock Exchange to keep track of stocks
 - the railroad industry to monitor rolling stock and loads
 - the telephone industry to facilitate long distance calling
 - the Department of Defense to provide rapid military communication and command
11. In the early stages of the AIDS epidemic, which of the following groups showed the greatest incidence?
- homosexual men
 - homosexual women
 - heterosexual men
 - heterosexual women
12. The forces opposed to legalized abortion were generally known as the _____ movement
- "abstinence"
 - "birthright"
 - "baby alive"
 - "right-to-life"
13. The Three Mile Island accident involved:
- the biggest automobile accident and traffic tie up in U. S. history on the New York City suburban freeways.
 - the release of DDT into irrigation canals in California.
 - an oil tanker running aground along the inner passage of Alaska.
 - a nuclear power plant episode in Pennsylvania.
14. "Political correctness" refers to
- the litmus test issues that Newt Gingrich tried to enforce on Republican members of Congress.
 - the central positions that President Clinton adopted after the Democratic setbacks in 1994.
 - the attempt by some radical feminists and others to limit public discourse that they regarded as contrary to their views of women and minorities
 - the tendency of the upper middle class to avoid political involvement altogether as long as their privileged economic interests are not threatened.

404

15. Activists who protested against globalism focused their attention on the meetings of
- the World Trade Organization
 - the United Nations
 - the U.S. Congress
 - the Pan American Union
16. Which TWO of the following structures were attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001?
- White House
 - Capitol
 - Pentagon
 - World Trade Center
17. Hillary Rodham Clinton went from first lady to politics in her own right by becoming
- Governor of Arkansas
 - U.S. Senator from New York
 - Secretary of Energy
 - Secretary of Defense
18. The combative Republican congressman who became Speaker of the House in the early 1990s and helped lead his party to control of Congress was
- Bob Dole
 - Newt Gingrich
 - Arthur Anderson
 - Dick Cheney
19. The White House intern whose sexual involvement with President Clinton led to his impeachment was
- Jennifer Flowers
 - Paula Jones
 - Janet Reno
 - Monica Lewinski
20. The nickname given to a region of northern California known as a center for computer development is
- Silicon Valley
 - Research Triangle
 - Dot-com Row
 - PC Village
- True-False Questions
- Read each statement carefully. Mark true statements "T" and false statements "F."
- Although the investigation widened considerably, the "Whitewater affair" originally involved allegations that President Clinton had been sexually involved with a woman that he met on a fishing trip through the Grand Canyon.
 - Despite persistent effort by Republicans in the House of Representatives, President Clinton was never impeached.

405

MODERN TIMES

With this last chapter, we believe this is the time to review the purpose of studying history, and speculate on broad definitions. Ask students to describe the American dream, the American personality, and American culture. Timelines may be helpful as students gather information from their memories to form their visions of the country.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Contrast George Bush's success in foreign policy with his failure in domestic policy.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Clinton presidency in terms of economic policies, social and environmental concerns, and foreign affairs.
3. How has technology changed the social, political, artistic, and cultural life of America?
4. Given the demographic changes of the last ten years, can Americanism be defined? Furthermore, is there such as thing as "American Culture?"

TERMS, CONCEPTS, NAMES

Glasnost	North American Free Trade Agreement	"Graying" of America
Perestroika	Hillary Rodham Clinton	"War on drugs"
Tiananmen Square	Bosnia	AIDS
"Apartheid"	"Contract with America"	"Right-To-Life"
Savings and Loan Scandal	Welfare Reform Bill	"Pro-Choice"
Iran-Contra Scandal	Silicon Valley	Sexual harassment
Michael Dukakis	Biotechnology	Rachel Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i>
Americans with Disabilities Act	"Cloning"	Environmental Protection Agency
Gulf War	Bill Gates	"Political correctness"
Desert Storm	"Globalization"	
Ross Perot	GATT	
Whitewater Affair		

CONTROVERSY AND DEBATE

- Resolved:* With the end of the Cold War, the world has become a safer place.
- Resolved:* The Gulf War was fought to stop tyranny.
- Resolved:* National Health Care program is needed now.
- Resolved:* The media has the obligation to report on the personal lives of public officials.
- Resolved:* Jobs should not be sacrificed for environmental concerns.
- Resolved:* President Clinton abandoned his liberal ideas and allies.

