

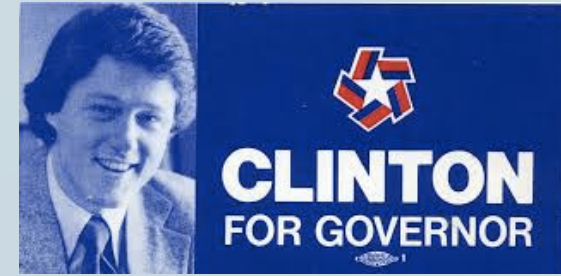
The Clinton Presidency

1992 - 2000



Bill Clinton - Democrat

- Attorney general of AR at 30 yrs. old
- 12 year Arkansas governor (nation's youngest governor at 32)
- Chaired the National Governors' Assoc. and focused on improving education & reforming welfare.
- Strong alliance with his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, when dealing with politics
- Ran for Democratic nomination in 1992
 - Pushed for middle class tax cuts and a national health care system
 - Youngest president since JFK

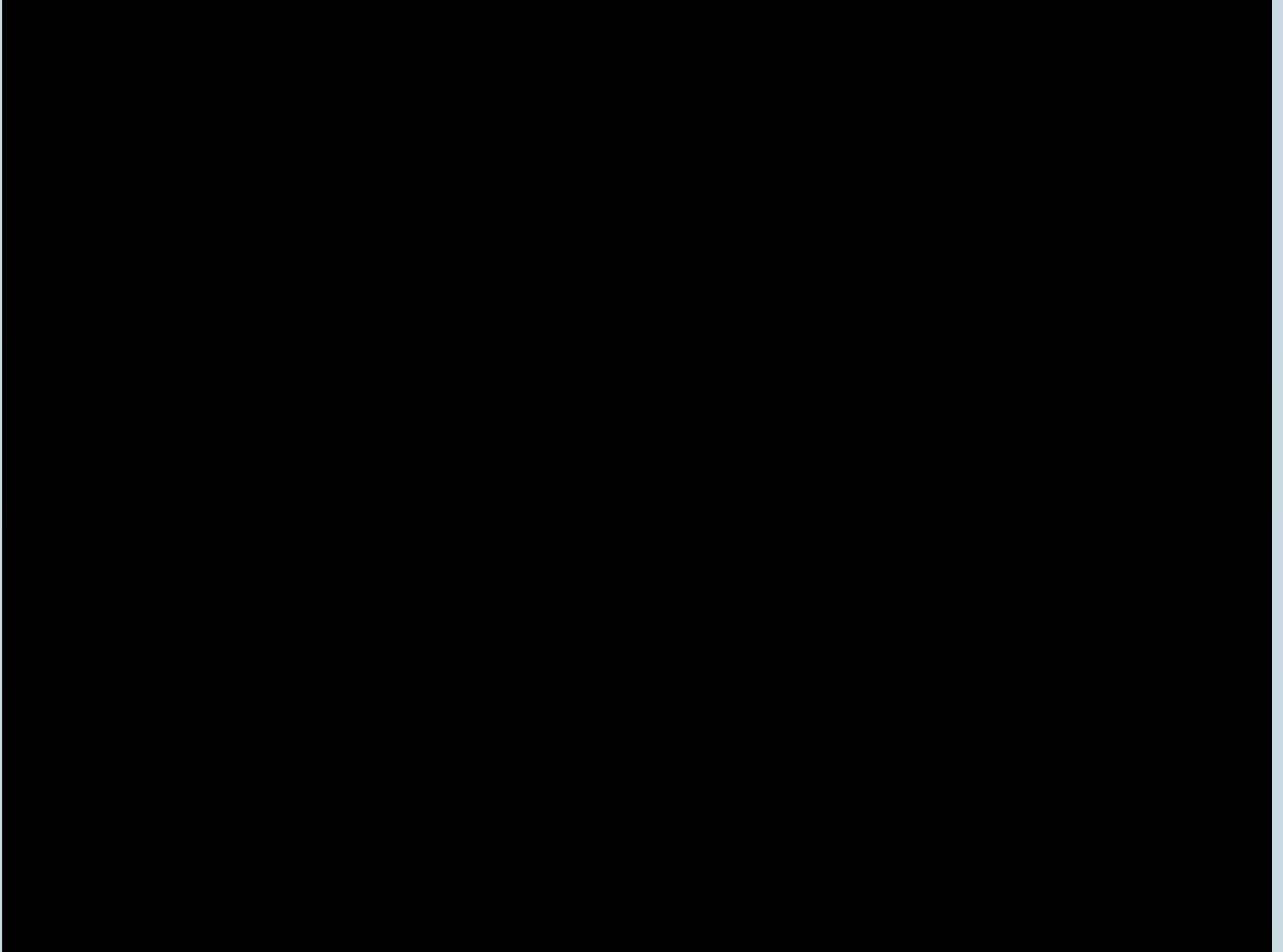


1992 Election

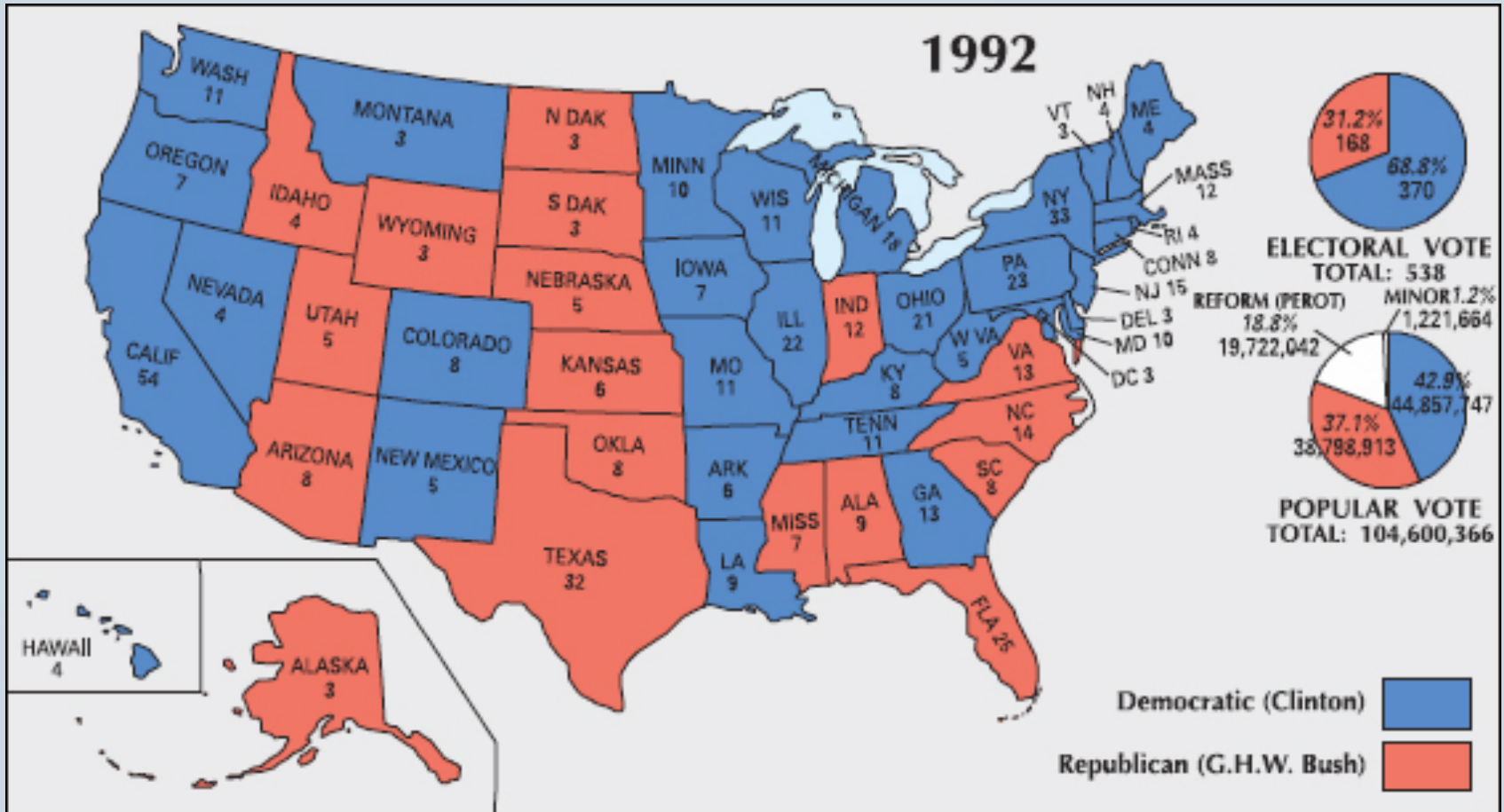
- In 1964, 75% of Americans reported that they trusted the American govt. At the start of the 1992 election, 25% reported that they trusted the American govt.
 - *Why do you think this was? REMEMBER!*
- Running mate, Senator Al Gore (a senator from Tennessee)
- Three way race:
 - Bill Clinton (Democratic nominee)
 - George H.W. Bush (Republican nominee and president)
 - H. Ross Perot (Independent, TX businessman)
- Debate clip



Debate clip



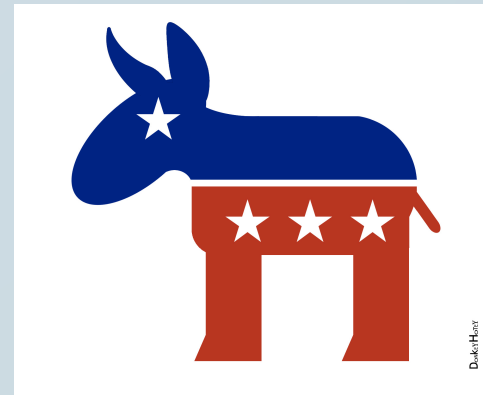
1992 Presidential Election



- Clinton won 370 electoral votes to Bush's 168, although Clinton won less than 50 percent of the popular vote.
- Perot won 19 percent of the popular vote.

Clinton's Campaign Promises

*“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured
with what is right in America.”*



- Self-described “**New Democrat**”
 - Appealed to white middle class Americans and presented himself as protector of the middle class
 - Like Nixon/Reagan, supported welfare reform and law & order
 - Like FDR/LBJ, committed to the importance of the federal govt. providing for the disadvantaged, minorities & women, regulation of business and federal involvement in the economy.
- Promised a new approach to govt.
 - “A government that is leaner; a govt that expands opportunity, not bureaucracy; a govt that understands that jobs must come from growth in a vibrant and vital system of free enterprise.”

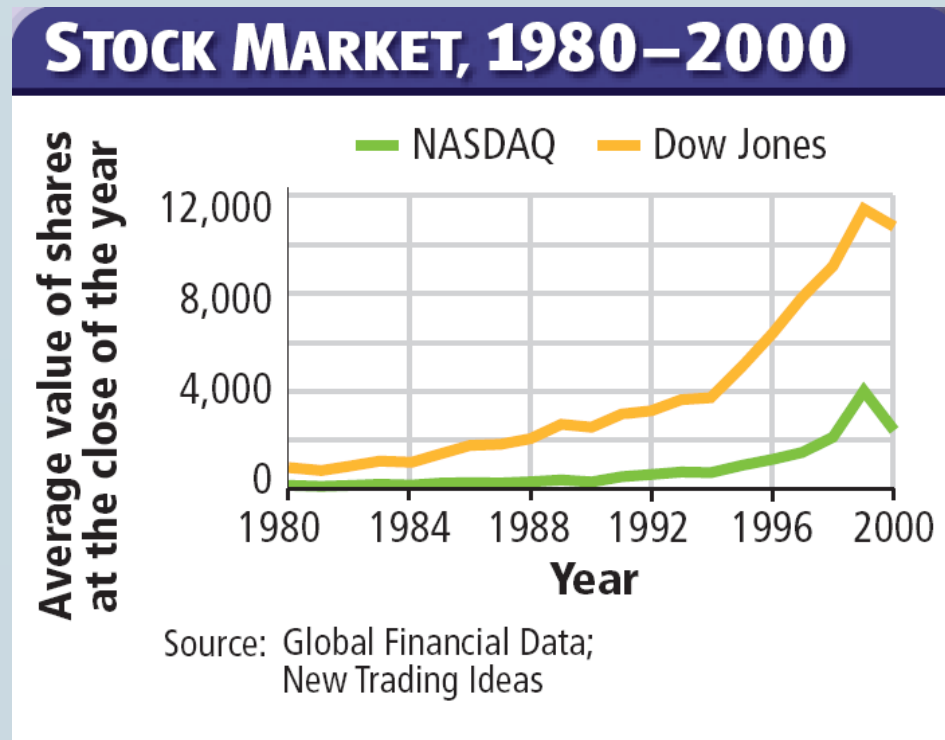
“Hollywood on the Potomac”

- Clinton’s terms earned the title because of the parade of stars who dropped by the Oval Office during stops in Washington
- Started with his playing saxophone on the *Arsenio Hall Show* before his first term.



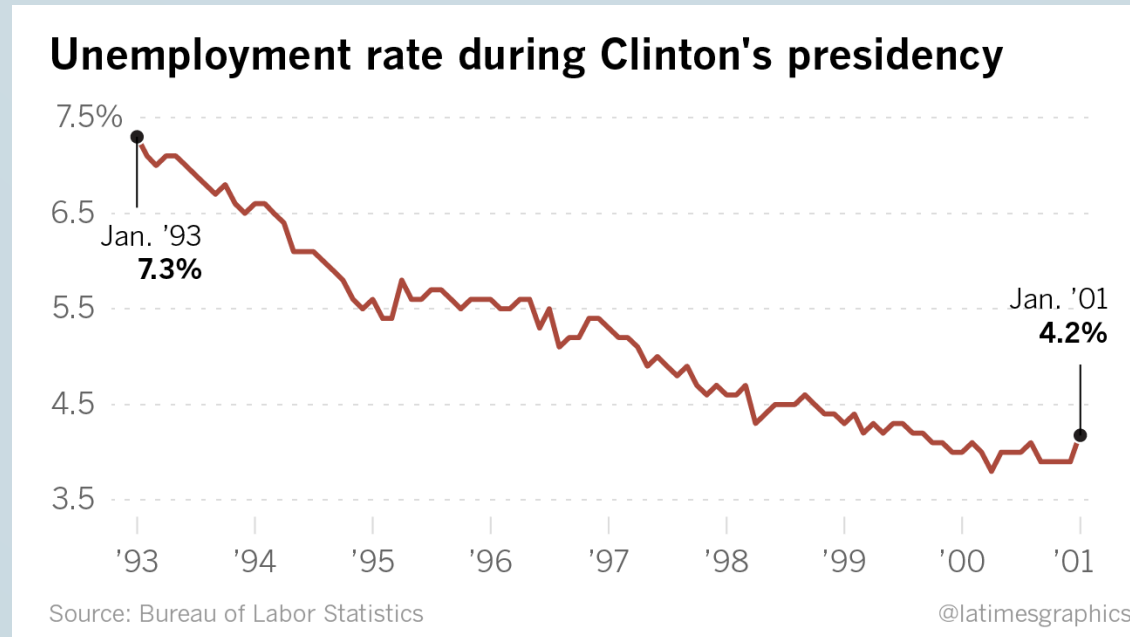
Domestic Policy – Economy

- President during the longest period of sustained economic growth in U.S. history
 - Tripling in the value of the stock market, historically high levels of home ownership, lowest unemployment rate in nearly 30 years.



Domestic Policy – Job Creation

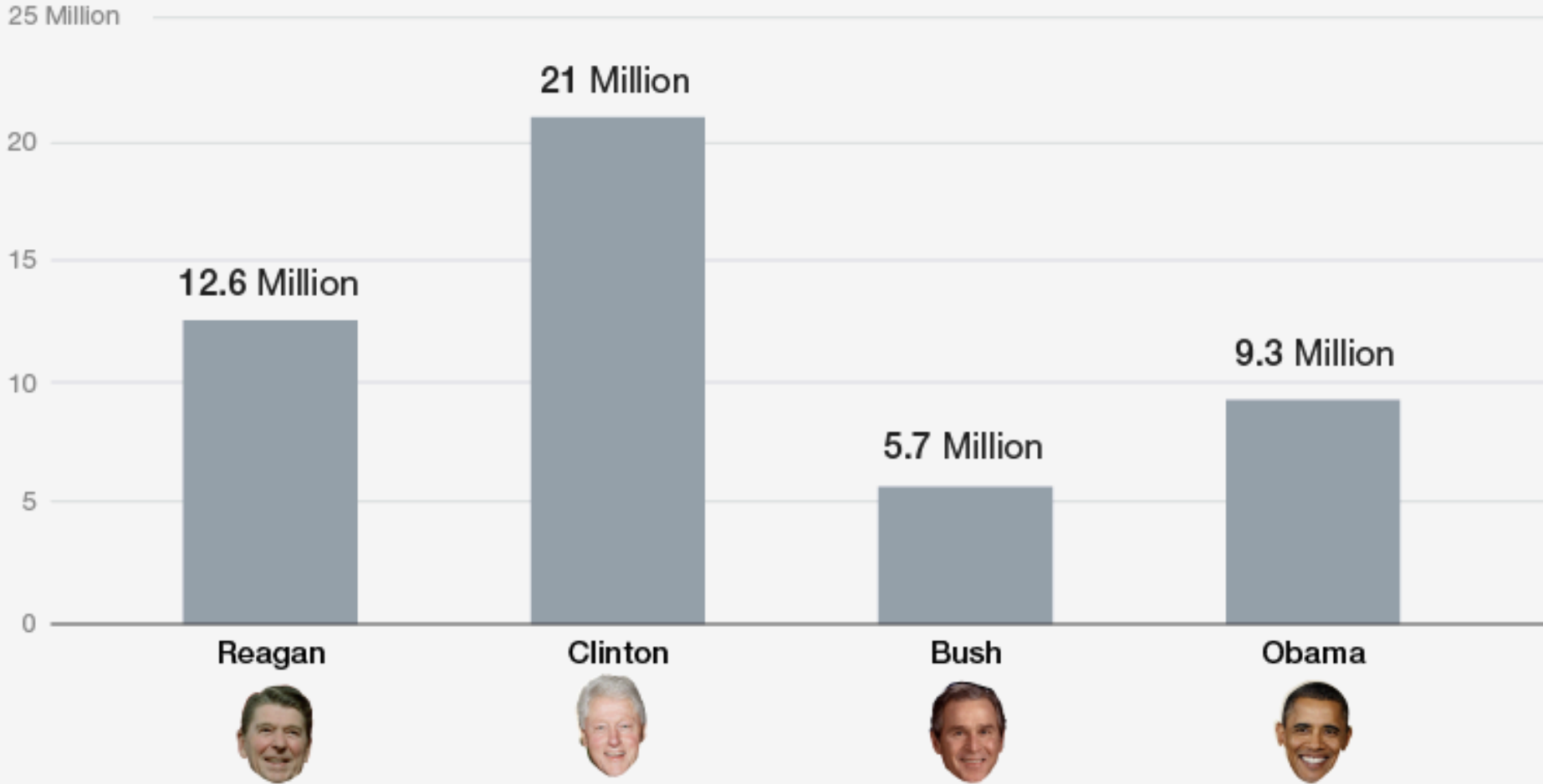
“I want American Dream growth – lots of new businesses, well-paying jobs, and American leadership in new industries, like clean energy and biotechnology.”



- Nearly 22+ million jobs were created during his time in office (as compared to the roughly 13+ million created under Reagan.)
- Unemployment rate dropped from 7.5% to 4%

Jobs added under recent U.S. presidents

7 years of presidency



SOURCE: BLS

Domestic Policy – Trade

- Persuaded the Senate to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
 - Eliminated tariffs (taxes) and trade restrictions between Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.
 - Hoped it would increase trade & fuel economic growth
- Also negotiated to reduce global trading barriers



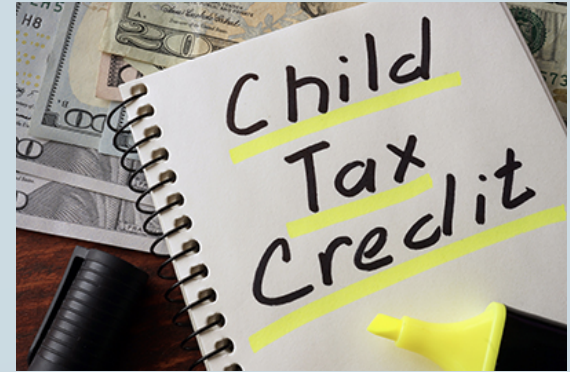
Domestic Policy – Taxes

| Yearly Income | 1983 | 1987 |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| \$20,000 | 23.7% | 22.15% |
| \$40,000 | 30.7% | 35.15% |
| \$60,000 | 38.7% | 42.15% |
| \$80,000 | 46.7% | 42.15% |
| \$100,000 | 51.7% | 42.15% |

| Income | Clinton Rates |
|--------------|---------------|
| \$0-\$17K | 15% |
| \$17-\$59K | 15% |
| \$59-\$71K | 28% |
| \$71-\$143K | 28% |
| \$143-\$218K | 31% |
| \$218-\$241K | 36% |
| \$241-\$390K | 36% |
| \$390k+ | 39.5% |

- Increased taxes
 - Raised taxes on the wealthiest Americans
 - Reagan had lowered taxes on the top bracket from 70% to 35%
 - Clinton raised taxes from 35% to 39.5%
 - Increased corporate income tax & ended many corporate tax breaks
 - Raised the tax on gas by \$0.43/gal.
- Added more tax brackets
- What about his promise to help out the middle class?
 - Clinton had promised to lower the tax burden of the middle class but because of economic stagnation, the middle class did not see a noticeable change to their taxes under Clinton. (They did however experience a growing economy, rising incomes and a growing job market.)
- Critics felt tax increases would hurt economy – it did not.

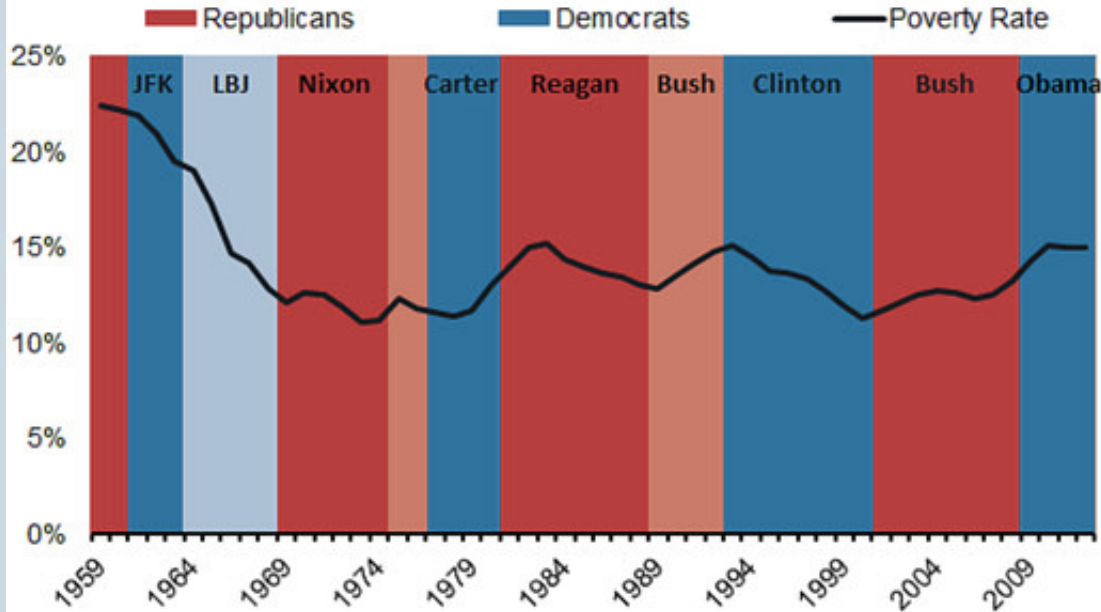
Domestic Policy – Aids to the Middle Class



- Signed the Family Medical Leave Act to aid working parents (allowed parents to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave during family emergencies)
- Also passed the child tax credit which reduced families' tax burden by giving families tax credit for dependent children

Poverty Rate in America

Percentage of Americans in poverty, by presidency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau | WSJ.com

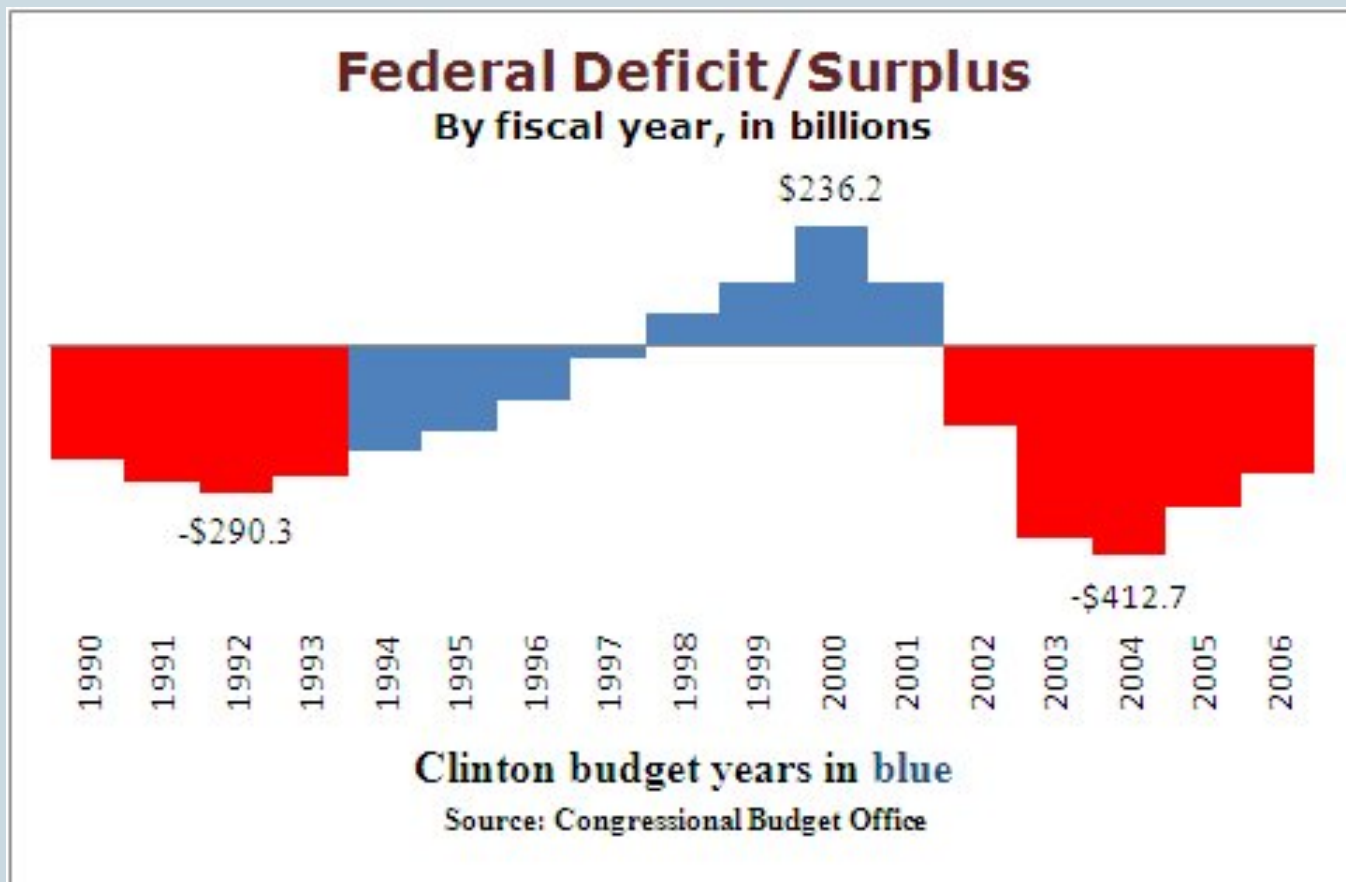
Domestic Policy – Aid to the Poor

Poverty rates dropped to 11.8%.

Welfare reform:

- Both Republicans & Democrats proposed plans to reform welfare
- Clinton's reforms included a reform which required recipients to get a job within 2 years & limited the total time they could receive benefits to 5 years.
 - As a result, the # of recipients fell by 2/3.

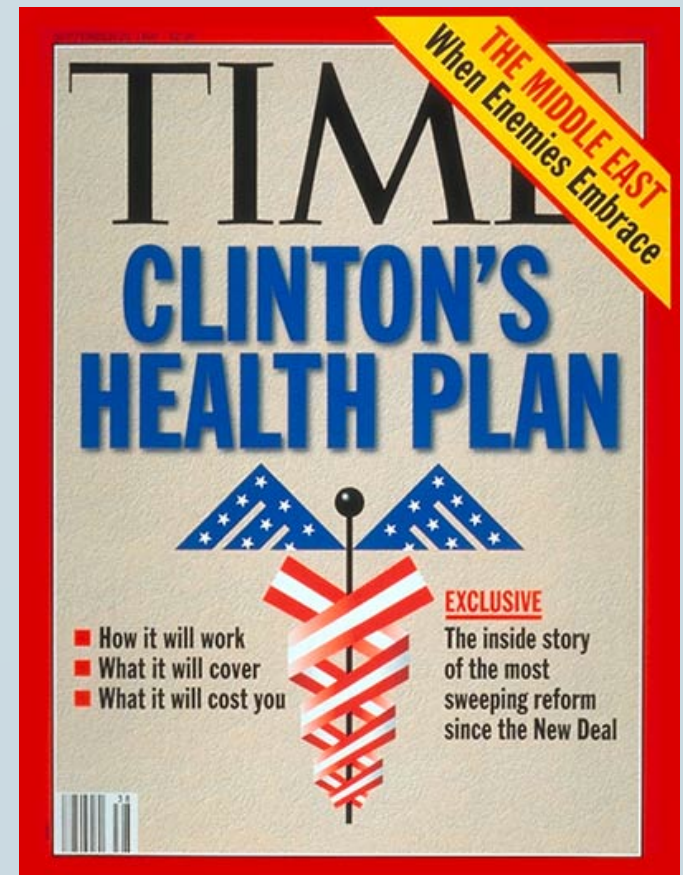
Domestic Policy – Budget Deficit



- The budget **deficit** dropped from \$290 billion to a budget **surplus** of \$128 billion.
- By 1998, the Clinton admin. oversaw the first balanced budget and budget surpluses since 1969.

Domestic Policy – Health Care

- Costs rising, tens of millions had limited to no health insurance
- Clinton promised to pass a program of universal health care coverage
 - Appt. his wife, Hillary, to head a special task force proposing a government-sponsored program of health care (criticized by Republicans for nepotism & her vocal feminism)
- Clinton's health care bill was defeated due to complexity and criticism for excessive govt involvement



Don't Ask, Don't Tell

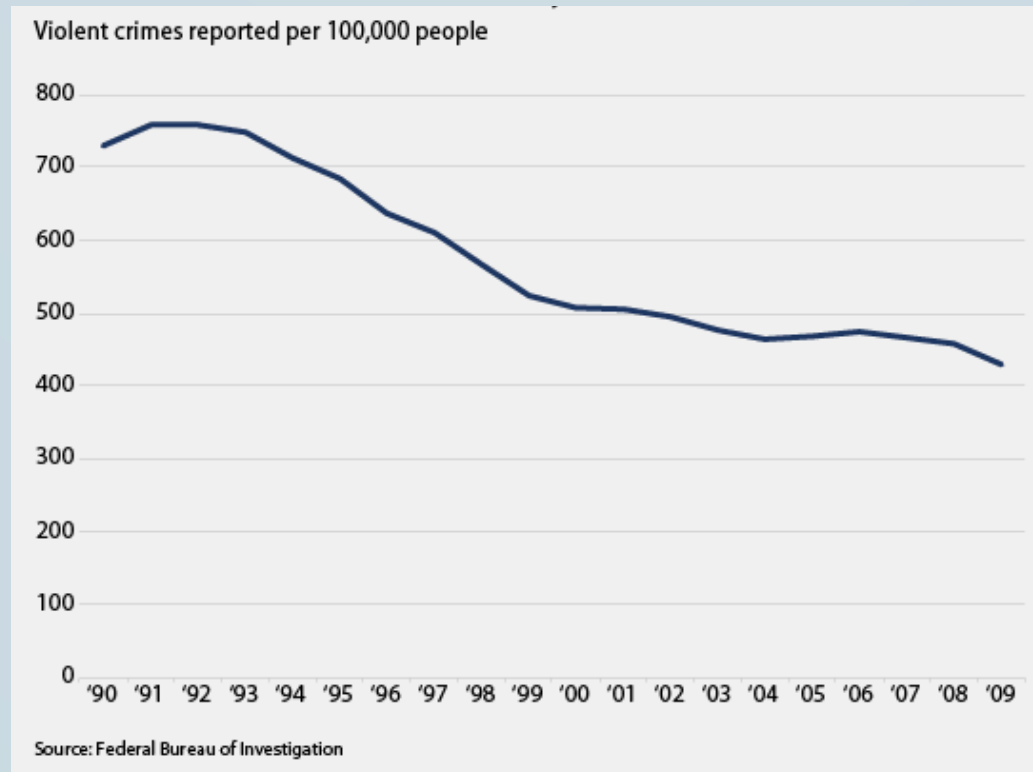
- Campaign promise to repeal military's ban on gay personnel serving in the military
 - Existing policy allowed for people to be discharged for their sexual orientation
- Faced strong criticism from conservatives and top military leaders (including Colin Powell chairman of the Jt. Chiefs)
- Clinton compromise: “Don't ask, don't tell.”
 - Compromise satisfied neither side
 - Policy failed to meet Clinton's goals of decreasing discharges for homosexuality and reducing harassment



[History of Don't Ask, Don't Tell](#)

[SNL](#)

Domestic Policy - Crime



- **Context:** In 1987, the homicide rate in the US was increasing by 5%/year, peaking in 1991 with 9.1 deaths per every 100,000 people. Robbery & assault rates exploded in the late 1960s & the crack cocaine epidemic was devastating urban areas.



Domestic Policy - Crime

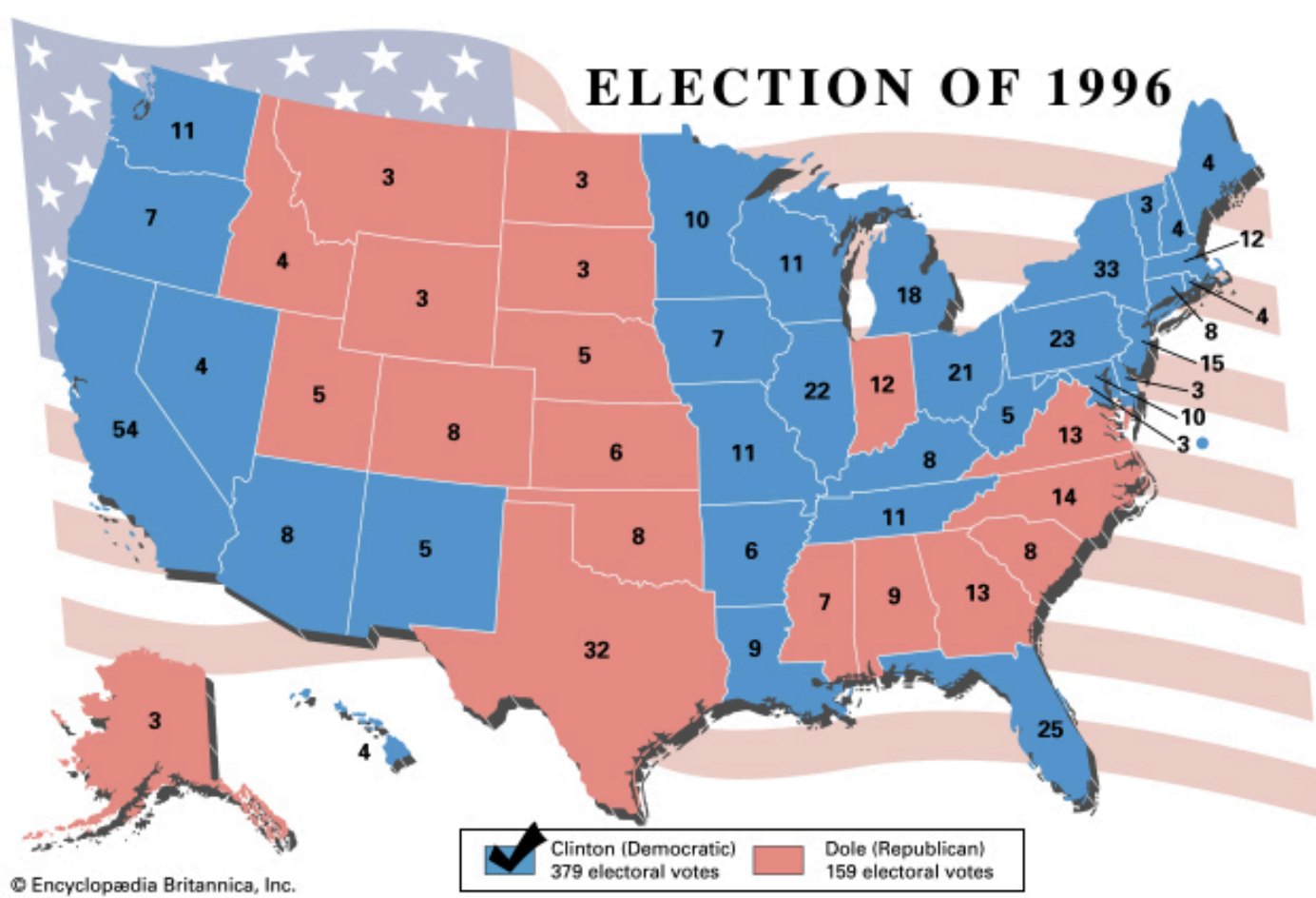
- **Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act (1994):**
 - Funded 100,000 new police officers, allocated \$9.7 billion in funding for prisons and \$6.1 billion for crime prevention programs
 - Included a Federal Assault Weapons Ban (banned the manufacturing of 19 semi-automatic weapons)
 - Expanded the federal death penalty & required states establish registries for sex offenders
- **The Brady Bill:** (named for James Brady, Reagan's press secretary who was seriously injured & wheelchair bound in an attempted assassination of Reagan in 1981.)
 - Raised the age of people allowed to own guns from 18 to 21 and required 8 hours of gun safety training.
 - Required state & local law enforcement officials to conduct background checks during the 5 day waiting period (in 1998 this provision was replaced by the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) that exists today.)
 - A 2015 study in the Journal of Public Health found that the law was associated with a 40% drop in the firearm-related homicide rate and a decrease in the firearm suicide rate by 15%.



Political challenges

- 2 years into Clinton's first term, the Republicans won control in both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.
- Some believed it was due to Clinton's failure on health care and his proposal to let openly gay personnel serve in the military
- Republican leadership in Congress challenged Clinton on a number of measures (welfare reform, more aggressive debt reduction.)
 - Party conflict led to 2 govt shutdowns due to a budget impasse between Rep. & Clinton in 1995 and 1996 (one for 22 days, the longest closure of govt operations to date)
 - Clinton won much public support for his more moderate approach

ELECTION OF 1996

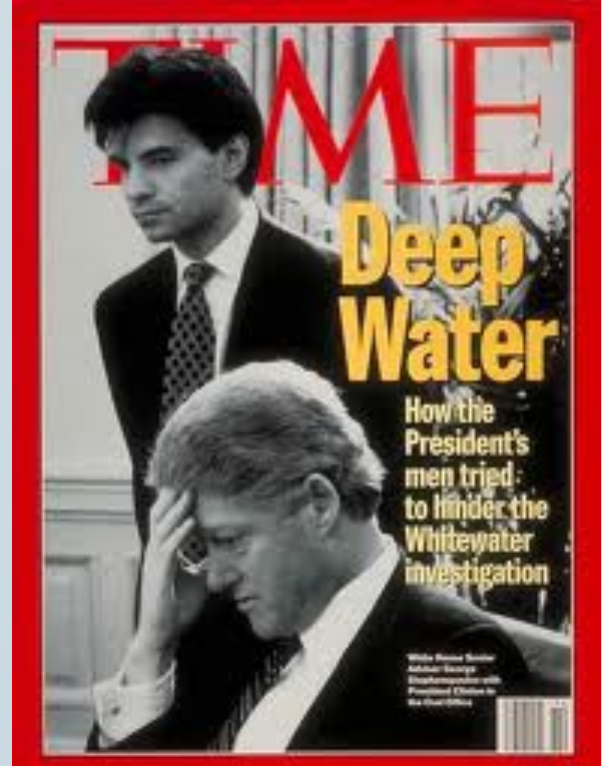


1996 Election

- Boosted by a recovering & growing economy, Clinton held a double-digit lead in the polls over Dole as the election approached.
- Clinton defeated Dole, winning 49% to Dole's 41% and Perot's 8% in the popular vote.

Scandals

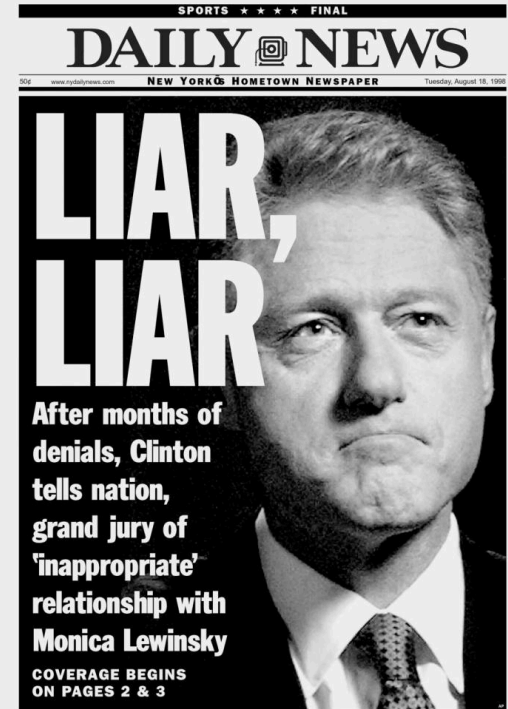
- **Whitewater** - Kenneth Starr led investigation into a failed real estate investment of Clintons in 1970s – no formal charges filed against the Clintons
- **Paula Jones sexual harassment case** – claimed to have taken place while Clinton was governor and she a state employee – case thrown out



Scandals



[CNN – What happened](#)
[CNN – Clinton acknowledges](#)



- Monica Lewinsky case – Clinton accused of lying under oath about his relationship with Lewinsky while he was president and she a White House intern
 - House approved 2 articles of impeachment (perjury & obstruction of justice)
 - Senate did not have 2/3 majority to remove Clinton from office & acquitted him of both charges



Famous Presidential Impersonators

Funny or Die: Reagan, Clinton, Ford, Bush I & II
Advise Obama