

<b>The Clinton Presidency 1992-2000</b>
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I. Background on **Bill Clinton** (Democrat)

- A. Arkansas: 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.
- B. Chaired the National Governors' Assoc. and focused on improving education & reforming welfare.
- C. Strong alliance with his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, when dealing with politics
- D. Ran for Democratic nomination in 1992
  - a. What did he push for as part of his nomination (list):

b. Youngest president since JFK

II. **1992 Election**

- A. 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?*

B. Running mate, Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (a senator from Tennessee)

C. Three way race between (as you watch the video, jot down what each promises):

- 1. Bill Clinton (Democratic nominee)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Republican nominee and president)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Independent, TX businessman)

D. Bill Clinton wins (370 electoral votes and 42.9% of popular vote)

### III. **Clinton Campaign Promises**

A. Self-described “\_\_\_\_\_”

1. Appealed to white middle class Americans and presented himself as protector of the middle class
2. Like Nixon/Reagan, he supported what?

3. Like FDR/LBJ, he was committed to (LIST):

B. Promised a new approach to govt.

### IV. **Hollywood on the Potomac**

A. Why did Clinton's term earn that title?

### V. **Domestic Policies**

A. Economy

1. President during the longest period of sustained economic growth in U.S. history - what evidence can you provide to support this?

B. **Job creation**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ million jobs were created during his time in office (as compared to the \_\_\_\_\_ million created under Reagan.)
2. Unemployment rate dropped from \_\_\_\_\_% to \_\_\_\_\_%

C. Trade

1. Persuaded the Senate to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**)  
What did this do?
2. Also negotiated to reduce global trading barriers

#### D. Taxes

1. Increased taxes
  - a) Raised taxes on the wealthiest Americans
    - (1) Reagan had lowered taxes on the top bracket from \_\_\_\_% to \_\_\_\_%
    - (2) Clinton raised taxes from \_\_\_\_% to \_\_\_\_%
  - b) Increased corporate income tax & ended many corporate tax breaks
  - c) Raised the tax on gas by \$0.\_\_\_\_/gal.
  - d) Added more tax brackets
  - e) What about his promise to help out the middle class?
  
  - f) Critics felt tax increases would hurt economy – it did not.

#### E. Aids to the Middle Class

1. Signed the **Family Medical Leave Act** which did what?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Also passed the **child tax credit** which did what?

#### F. Aids to the Poor

1. Under Clinton, what happened to the poverty rates?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **Welfare reform** - what did Clinton do to reform welfare?

#### G. Budget Deficit

1. As a result of his tax and spending policies, what happened to the deficit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. As a result, he was president during what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## H. Health Care

1. Costs rising, millions had no health insurance
2. Promised to pass a program of universal health care coverage
  - a) Hillary Clinton's headed a special task force proposing a government-sponsored program of health care
3. What happened to his health care bill?

## I. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

1. Campaign promise to repeal military's ban on gay personnel serving in the military
  - a) Existing policy allowed for people to be discharged for their sexual orientation
2. Faced strong criticism from conservatives and top military leaders
3. Clinton compromise: "Don't ask, don't tell."
  - a) Compromise satisfied neither side - WHY?

## J. Crime

1. Crime rates were rising in the late 1980s and early 1990s. (Support this with 2 examples.)

2. What did the **Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act** do? (LIST)

3. **The Brady Bill**: required state & local law enforcement officials to conduct \_\_\_\_\_ during the 5 day waiting period

VI. Political Challenges

- A. 2 years into Clinton's first term, the Republicans won control in both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.
- B. Republican leadership in Congress challenged Clinton on a number of measures (welfare reform, more aggressive debt reduction.)
  - 1. What happened in 1995 and again in 1996 as a result of conflict between Republicans and Democrats?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2. Clinton won public support for his more moderate approach

VII. 1996 Election

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

VIII. Scandals

- A. **Whitewater** - Kenneth Starr led investigation into a failed real estate investment of Clintons in 1970s – no formal charges of the Clintons
- B. **Paula Jones Sexual Harassment case** – claimed to have taken place while Clinton was governor and she a state employee – case thrown out
- C. **Monica Lewinsky case** – Clinton accused of lying under oath about his relationship with Lewinsky while he was president and she a White House intern
  - 1. House approved 2 articles of impeachment for what?

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  - 2. Why wasn't Clinton impeached?