

America under President Bill Clinton

I. America in the 1980s & Early 1990s

A. America experienced new changes in the 1980s:

1. _____ television was introduced with new shows such as _____ & CNN; TV shows like *Roseanne* & _____ had non-traditional lead roles
2. New technologies included cassette players, home _____, personal _____, & portable phones
3. '80s society focused on wealth & _____
4. Politically, the end of stagflation and the Cold War made _____ a popular leader

B. Republican control of the presidency continued after Reagan under _____

1. After defeating _____ in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, Bush's _____ was high
2. But, large government _____ due to years of _____ & increased _____ spending led to a recession in 1992
3. After promising " _____ " in 1988, Bush worked with Congress to raise taxes in order to decrease deficit spending

C. In the 1992 election, George Bush lost to _____ Bill Clinton

II. Bill Clinton's Domestic Policies (1993-2001)

A. Clinton defined himself a " _____ " by embracing both liberal & conservative policies

1. Social Services: Health Care & Welfare

- a. Clinton proposed a plan to guarantee affordable _____ for all Americans; Republicans in Congress defeated Clinton's " _____ " health care reform
- b. Clinton worked with Republicans to reform the _____ system; The law put _____ on how long people could receive benefits & allowed _____ to decide how welfare money would be spent

2. Balanced Budget & Federal Deficits

- a. Clinton worked with Congress to reduce the federal deficit & _____ the federal _____; In 1997, Clinton cut government spending & _____
- b. For the 1st time in 30 years, the government had a _____ which Clinton used to pay down the nation's _____

3. Clinton's deficit reduction coincided with a boom in the _____ industry; This led to the _____ sustained era of economic _____ in U.S. history

B. Newt Gingrich & the "Contract with America"

1. Many of Clinton's conservative policies were in response to _____ control of Congress

2. In 1994, Republicans took control of the House of Representatives for the 1st time since _____ & named _____ Congressman Newt Gingrich as _____ of the House
3. Gingrich pushed for a " _____ " that would have created a balanced budget amendment, _____, welfare reform, & tougher _____ laws
4. The clash between Clinton & Gingrich led to a _____ in 1995

Viewpoints: Clinton and Gingrich

President Clinton's Weekly Radio Address

I have proposed a balanced budget that secures Medicare into the future, that increases our investment in education and technology, that protects the environment, that keeps our country the strongest in the world. Because working people do deserve a tax break, it includes a tax cut targeted at education and child rearing. My balanced budget reflects our national values. . . . But this week the Republican Congress voted to enact an extreme budget that violates our values and, I believe, is bad for our long-term interests. All Americans believe in honoring our parents and keeping our pledge that they'll live out their last years in dignity. But the Republican budget cuts \$450 billion out of the health care system, doubles premiums for senior citizens. . . . They have said they won't pass a bill letting the government pay its bills unless I accept their extreme and misguided budget priorities. . . . By making it more expensive for the government to raise money, it would expand the deficit, unsettle financial markets, and increase interest rates. . . .

**Source: President Bill Clinton,
Weekly Radio Address, Oct. 28, 1995**

Republican Weekly Radio Broadcast

President Clinton says there's a right way and a wrong way to balance the budget. The truth is he's proposed no way. This week, the President used a chart boasting that the deficit was dropping. What he didn't show you is what happens next year. Under his plan, the deficit goes right back up and stays up, saddling America with \$200 billion deficits. . . . Republicans rein in the federal government by slowing its rate of growth. Under our plan, federal spending actually goes up by over \$350 billion over the next seven years. The same goes for Medicare. Under our plan, Medicare spending goes up from \$4,800 per senior citizen in 1995 to \$6,700 per senior citizen in 2002. The bottom line is the Republican budget continues to meet our obligation to the elderly, the poor, and those in need. . . . We won't retreat from balancing the budget. We won't retreat from lowering taxes for America's families. We won't retreat from transforming our failed welfare system. We won't retreat from saving Medicare from bankruptcy.

**Source: Newt Gingrich,
Republican Weekly Radio Address, Oct. 28, 1995**

What specific government program do both men mention?	
According to Gingrich, what are his complaints about Clinton's proposal?	
Analyze Credibility Which of the two speakers do you think is more believable? Explain your response.	

C. Clinton used the rivalry with Republicans to win _____ in 1996

D. While president, Clinton faced numerous scandals

1. While still governor of Arkansas, Clinton was connected to an improper land deal (_____)
2. Clinton was accused of numerous improper _____, including intern Monica Lewinsky
3. When Clinton _____ under oath about his relationship with Lewinsky, Republicans in Congress voted to _____ him
4. Clinton became only the 2nd president to be impeached, but he was _____ from office

Compare the scandals of various presidents to each other. Which scandal do you think was the most serious? Rank them in order of importance.

The first two have been done for you, but make sure to read them so you can put them in your ranking.

Presidential Scandal	What happened?	Rank Order
Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877) <i>Crédit Mobilier</i>	<i>Members of the President's Cabinet and Congress were given illegal kickbacks in exchange for giving land grants and construction contracts to railroad companies. The President was not involved in the scheme, but was accused of allowing it to happen and ignoring the corruption of the people involved.</i>	
Warren Harding (1921-1923) <i>Teapot Dome</i>	<i>Members of the President's Cabinet took illegal bribes from oil companies in exchange for cheap land leases so they could drill for oil on federal property. Several cabinet officials went to prison, and the President was accused of allowing it to occur and ignoring the corruption of his cronies.</i>	
Richard Nixon (1969-1974) <i>Watergate</i>		
Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) <i>Iran-Contra Affair</i>		
Bill Clinton (1993-2001) <i>Monica Lewinski</i>		