

# George W. Bush's Presidency

## 33-2

### The Main Idea

Following a troubled election, Republican George W. Bush won the White House and strongly promoted his agenda.

### Reading Focus

- What were the unusual circumstances of the election of 2000?
- What were key components of George W. Bush's domestic policy?
- What were the key components and figures in Bush's foreign policy?



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# What were the unusual circumstances of the election of 2000?

## The Democrats

- The economy prospered and the government had a budget surplus, but some Democrats were uncomfortable with Clinton's image.
- Al Gore was the Democratic nominee and he chose Joe Lieberman as his running mate.

## The Republicans

- Republicans chose George W. Bush whose running mate was Dick Cheney of Wyoming.

## A Troubled Election

- Election-night results showed that the race was hinged on the outcome in a single state—Florida.
- The returns in Florida were so close that news reports changed their minds three times.



# The Election of 2000

## Recounts and Legal Wrangling

- A Florida recount gave Bush 300 more votes than Gore.
- Democrats questioned the Florida balloting.
- Thousands of ballots had gone uncounted; many ballots were rejected by the machines because voters had made mistakes.
- Democrats wanted a hand recount of the ballots.
- Republicans opposed a hand recount because of human error and individual judgment.
- Both sides filed lawsuits aimed at forcing or preventing recounts.

## *Bush v. Gore*

- The Florida Supreme Court ordered recounts in certain Florida counties.
- Bush appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court ruled that a recount was unconstitutional.
- After the Court's ruling, Gore conceded the presidency.
- Bush became president despite of having received fewer popular votes than his opponent.



## George W. Bush's domestic policy

- As Bush took office the economy began to slow.
  - **Dot.com** profits failed to appear.
  - Stock prices were hurt by dishonest accounting practice scandals.
- Bush pushed tax cuts to fulfill campaign promises and to spur the slumping economy.
  - New laws cut taxes, reduced the marriage penalty, and lowered the estate tax.
  - The economy did not improve, it went into a recession.
  - Tax cuts in 2003 eliminated the tax on **dividends**.



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# Bush's Domestic Policy

## Education

- Bush announced the No Child Left Behind Act to improve education.
- States were required to develop academic standards and test students annually to ensure that the standards were being met.



## Health Care

- In 2003 Bush updated the Medicare program.
- Included a benefit to help Medicare recipients pay for prescription medicine.



## Other Issues

- Established the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to help religious community-service organizations develop greater access to federal funding.



## Bush's Second Term

Bush ran against Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts and won re-election in another close contest.



Bush announced his plan to reform Social Security. By late 2005, Congress had still not acted on Bush's idea to privatize Social Security.



Bush also filled vacancies on the Supreme Court. John Roberts was confirmed as Chief Justice. Bush named Harriet Miers to replace Sandra Day O'Connor but she withdrew her name from contention. Bush nominated conservative judge Samuel Alito to replace O'Connor in 2005.



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# Bush's Foreign Policy

## The People

- Colin Powell—Secretary of state
- Condoleezza Rice—National security advisor
- After the 2004 election, Powell resigned and Rice took over as Secretary of state
- Donald Rumsfeld—Secretary of defense

## The Policy

- Cancelled the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty
- This caused friction between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and the U.S. and China.
- Bush helped promote the so-called Middle East road map to peace.
- Most important foreign-policy event was the terrorist attack of 9/11



## HISTORY CLOSE-UP

# The Attacks of September 11, 2001

Firefighters in New York City grapple with the devastation of the terrorist attacks on September 11 (center). That same day a trio of firefighters raise an American flag at the site of the World Trade Center (far right). On September 12, firefighters and rescue workers hang a huge flag on the damaged Pentagon (bottom).



American Airlines Flight 77, bound from Virginia to Los Angeles, flew into the Pentagon in Arlington, VA.



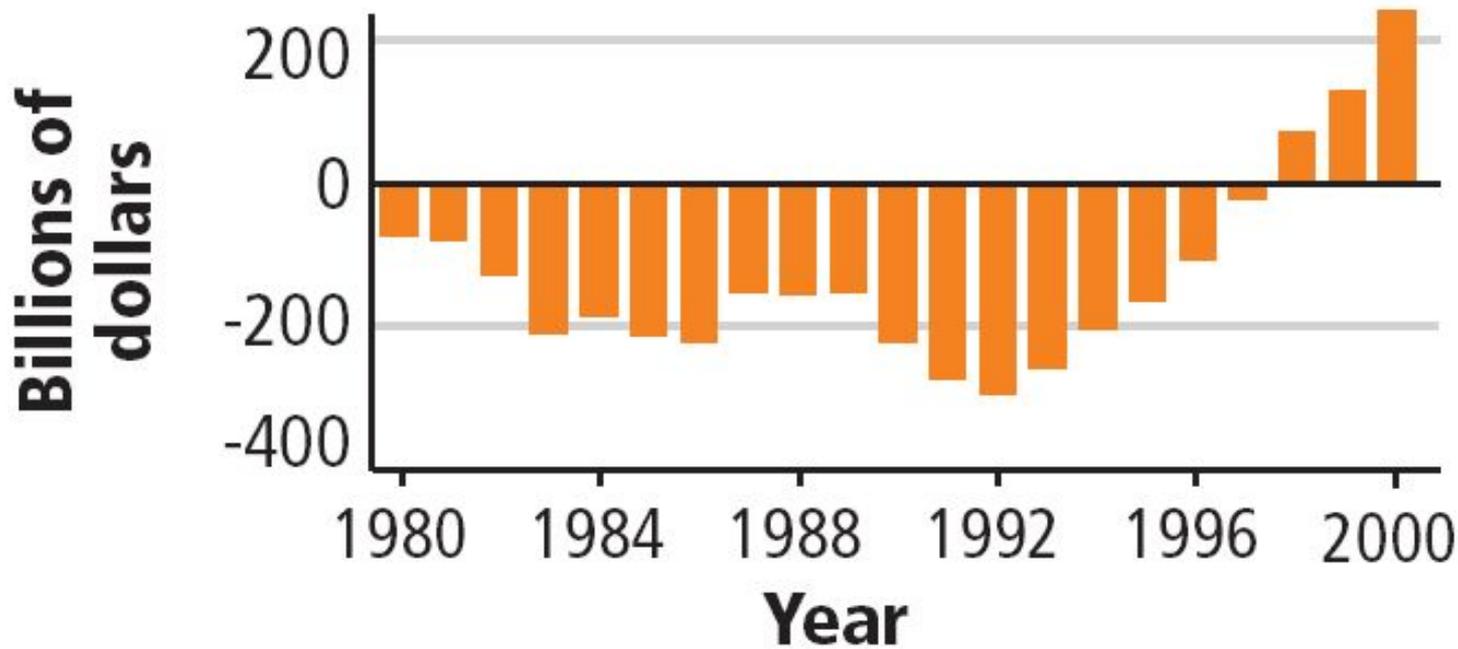
Skills Focus

### INTERPRETING INFOGRAPHICS

- 1. Making Inferences** Based on these pictures, what was a common emotional reaction to the 9/11 attacks?
  - 2. Drawing Conclusions** How do you explain this reaction?
- See **Skills Handbook**, p. H18



# FEDERAL DEFICITS AND SURPLUSES, 1980–2000



Source: *Budget of the United States Government, 2005*



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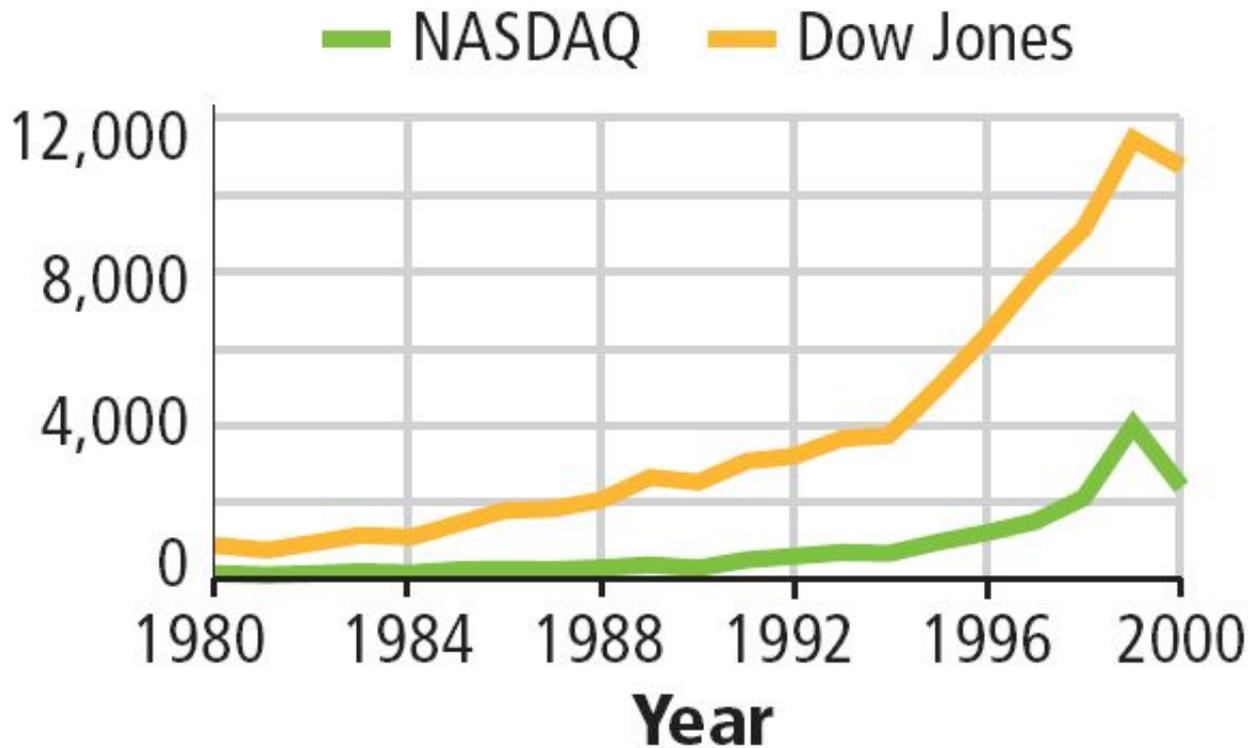
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# STOCK MARKET, 1980–2000

Average value of shares  
at the close of the year



Source: Global Financial Data;  
New Trading Ideas



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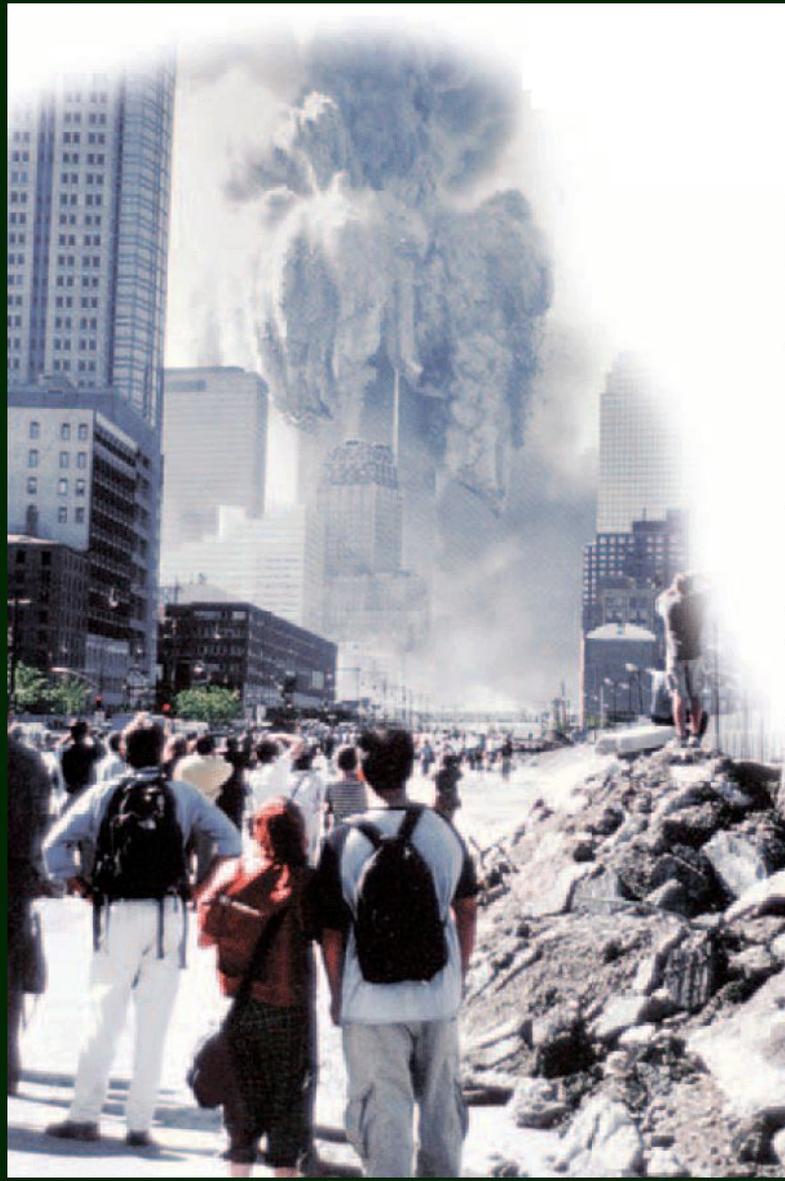
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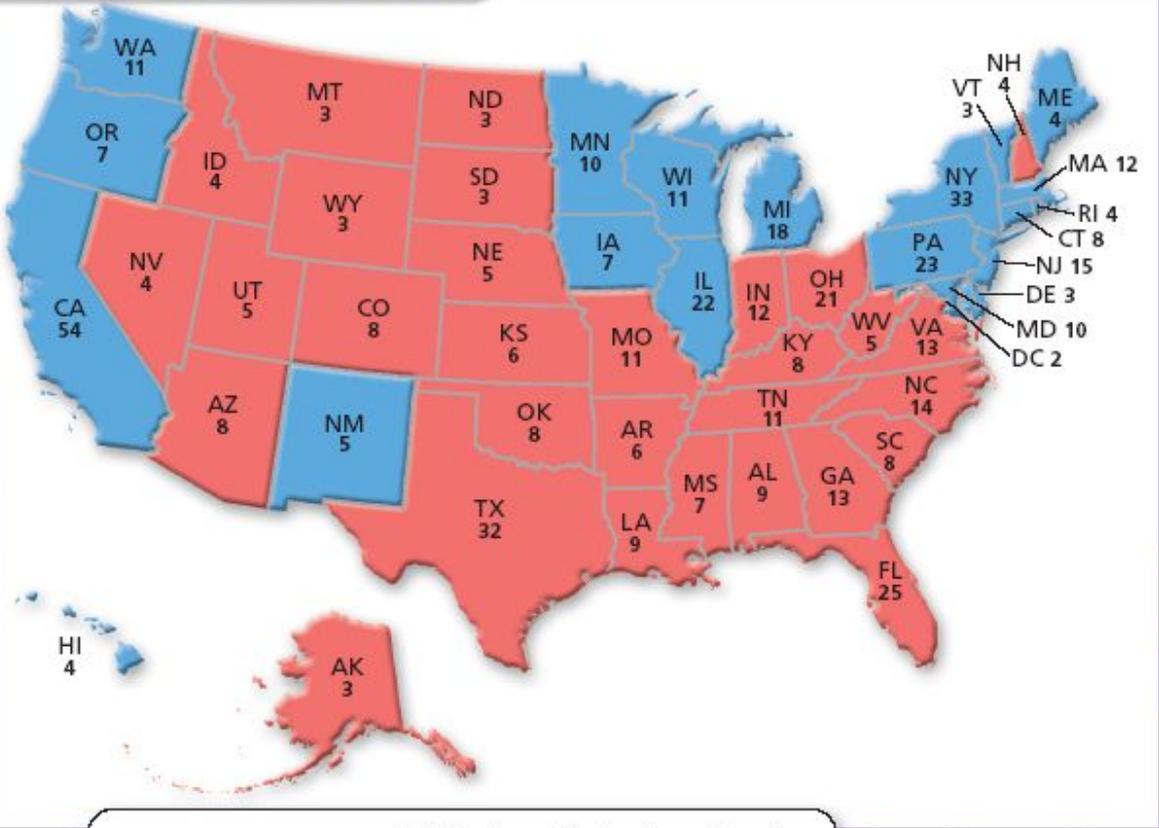


*"The last step says to dismantle the whole thing  
and ship all the jobs overseas."*



**Interactive Map**

# THE ELECTION OF 2000



Candidate	Political Affiliation	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
 George W. Bush	Republican	271	50,459,211
 Albert A. Gore	Democratic	266	51,003,894
TOTAL		537	105,323,464

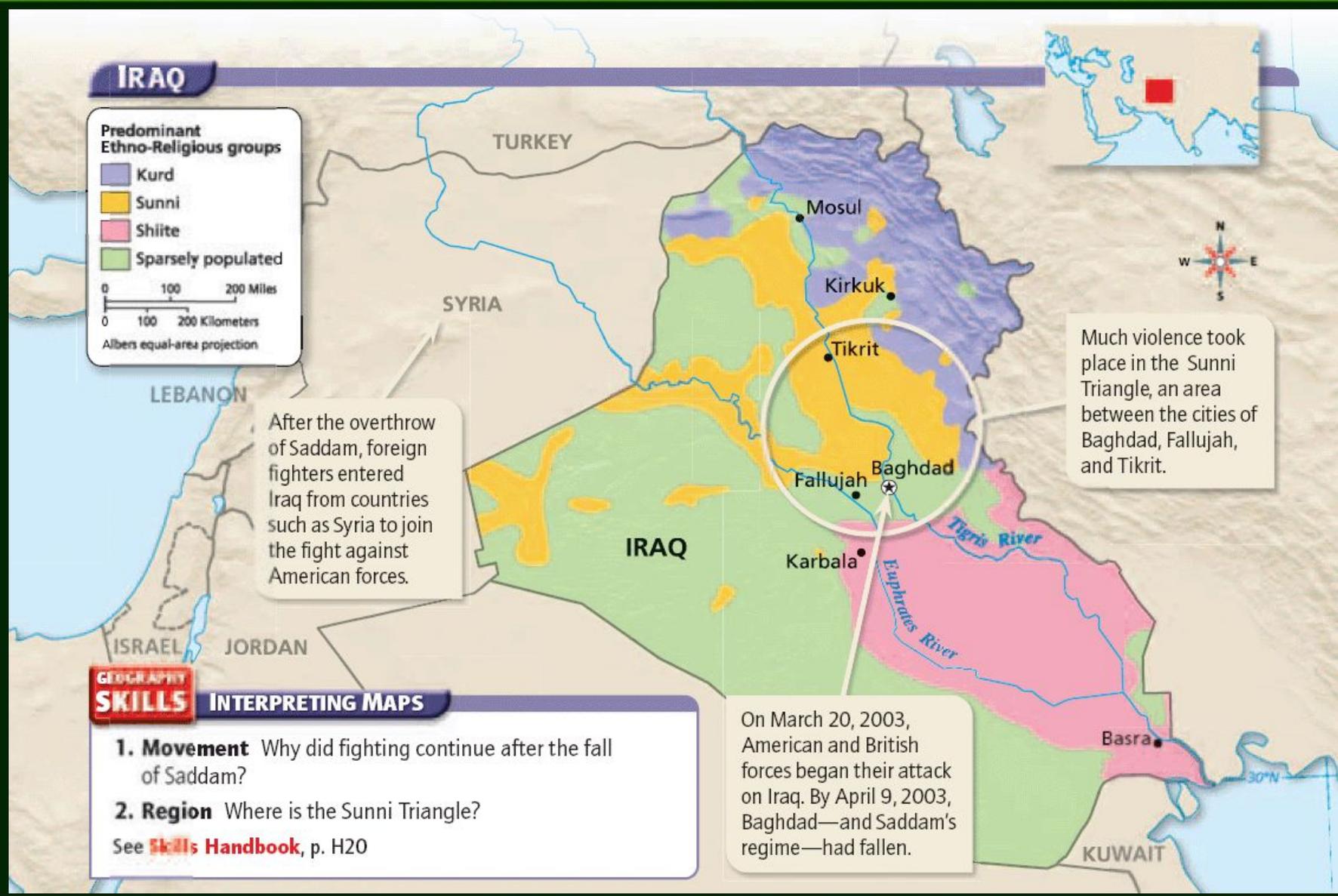


# IRAQ

## Predominant Ethno-Religious groups

- Kurd
- Sunni
- Shiite
- Sparsely populated

0 100 200 Miles  
0 100 200 Kilometers  
Albers equal-area projection



After the overthrow of Saddam, foreign fighters entered Iraq from countries such as Syria to join the fight against American forces.

Much violence took place in the Sunni Triangle, an area between the cities of Baghdad, Fallujah, and Tikrit.

On March 20, 2003, American and British forces began their attack on Iraq. By April 9, 2003, Baghdad—and Saddam's regime—had fallen.

## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Movement** Why did fighting continue after the fall of Saddam?
- 2. Region** Where is the Sunni Triangle?  
See **Skills Handbook**, p. H20

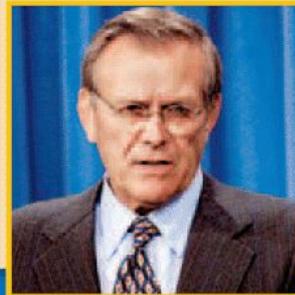


## Bush's Foreign Policy Team

QUICK  
FACTS

### Colin Powell

Colin Powell, a retired four-star general, served as secretary of state during George W. Bush's first term. Powell was the first African American to hold this position.



### Donald Rumsfeld

As Bush's secretary of defense, Rumsfeld's main challenge was to direct response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

### Condoleezza Rice

Rice served as Bush's national security adviser during his first term. She replaced Colin Powell as secretary of state during Bush's second term.



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## Visual Summary: Into the Twenty-first Century

### The Clinton Administration

- Welfare reform was achieved, but health-care reform was not.
- The nation became drawn into conflicts in Somalia, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia.
- Despite impeachment, President Clinton completed his two terms.

### The Bush Administration

- President Bush won a controversial election in 2000 and re-election in 2004.
- His domestic policy focused on tax cuts, education, and Medicare reform.
- His foreign policy was dominated by response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

### Terrorism and War

- The attacks of September 11, 2001, shifted national focus to terrorism.
- In the war on terror, the United States attacked Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The United States created the Department of Homeland Security and passed new laws to fight terrorism.

### The 1990s and Beyond

### Looking Ahead

The twenty-first century should bring:

- demographic changes—greater diversity and an aging population.
- technological changes in communication, medicine, agriculture, and space exploration.
- challenges in health care, energy, and the environment.



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