

**CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE: BUILDING A NEW WORLD ORDER:
THE UNITED STATES, 1989–2009**

READING AND STUDY GUIDE

- I. “A Moment Rich with Promise”
 - A. The Election of 1988
 - B. Popular Revolts against Communism
 - C. Domestic Policy in the Bush Administration
 - D. Panama and the Persian Gulf War

- II. Contested Visions of Government
 - A. Clinton’s New Democrats
 - B. The Disputed Election of 2000
 - C. Compassionate Conservatism

- III. Transforming Daily Life
 - A. The Computer Age
 - B. The Changing Face of Families
 - C. A Wave of Immigration
 - D. Climate Change

- IV. New Threats in the Post-Cold War World
 - A. Ethnic Cleansing and Terrorism
 - B. 9/11
 - C. The Iraq War
 - D. The Election of 2008

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen young Arab men boarded four planes on the East Coast. All belonged to the Islamic extremist organization known as al-Qaeda. Within a half an hour after takeoff, they stormed the cockpits of their respective planes with box cutters and mace, killed the American pilots, and installed their own pilots (who had each received flight instruction in private American aviation schools) to fly the planes into predetermined targets.

At 8:46 a.m. the first plane plowed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, an internationally recognized landmark that symbolized American dominance over the world economy. Seventeen minutes later a second plane hit the South Tower. The nation now understood that what had first looked like an unfortunate and tragic accident was actually a coordinated attack against the United States. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, in Virginia, the building most closely associated with U.S. military might in the eyes of the world. Meanwhile, passengers in the fourth hijacked plane reached the cockpit and prevented the terrorists from flying the plane into the Capitol, a worldwide symbol of democratic government. This plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

The blazing World Trade Center towers quickly crumbled, burying the office workers and firefighters still inside the buildings as onlookers ran for cover. The skeletal ruins and mountains of debris became the burial site for thousands. One onlooker echoed this sense of disbelief: “This is America. How can it happen in America? How?”

The 9/11 attacks, as they came to be known, reshaped the ongoing debate about America’s role in the world and the best way to protect American citizens. Only twenty years earlier Americans had savored their victory in the Cold War as communist governments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union collapsed. When the Cold War ended, Americans believed that their nation should take the lead in creating a new world order even as they disputed how best to spread democracy, protect the U.S. economy, and flex the nation’s military muscle. Enjoying prosperous times for most of the 1990s, the country paid little attention to the new threat that loomed before the world’s sole remaining superpower—terrorist strikes by anti-American Islamist extremists, such as al-Qaeda. Political debate instead centered on whether the liberal or conservative vision of government would prevail at home.

After 9/11, President George W. Bush moved with resolve to restore the image of America as a powerful and triumphant nation. He led the country into two wars: the first in Afghanistan; the second, far more controversial, in Iraq. In 2008, Americans provided a different sort of history-making moment by electing the first African-American president of the United States. By then, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression posed an additional challenge for the nation.

Learning Objectives

After a careful examination of Chapter 29, students should be able to do the following:

1. Identify Mikhail Gorbachev and explain the meanings of the terms *glasnost* and *perestroika*.
2. Briefly describe the major events surrounding the final collapse of the Soviet Union.
3. Identify the factors used by the federal government to justify American military involvement in the Persian Gulf.
4. Explain the generational issues involved in the presidential election of 1992.
5. Identify the major candidates and key issues involved in the presidential election of 1992.
6. Explain Slobodan Milosevic’s policies in Kosovo.
7. Explain how NATO redefined itself during the 1990s.
8. Define the term *neoliberalism* and explain its significance to the policies of the Clinton administration.
9. Discuss Hillary Rodham Clinton’s roles—both official and symbolic—in Bill Clinton’s presidency.

10. Identify Newt Gingrich and discuss the effectiveness of the Republican challenge to the Clinton administration in 1995.
11. Identify and analyze examples of frightening violence that sparked interest in gun control during the 1990s.
12. Explain the impact of the war on drugs on the increase of prison population during the 1990s.
13. Explain the circumstances surrounding the Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky scandals during the Clinton administration, and explain the circumstances surrounding the impeachment of Bill Clinton.
14. Describe the characteristics of the “New Economy” that emerged in the United States during the 1990s.
15. Discuss the range of jobs in the service sector and their increasing importance to the economy as a whole.
16. Identify Silicon Valley and provide a general chronology of important innovations that fueled the electronics boom.
17. Describe three examples of what the authors describe as *the instant society* of modern America.
18. Identify NAFTA and explain the significance of its approval to American economic policy.
19. Explain why there were worldwide protests against the World Trade Organization.
20. Explain how California’s Proposition 187 reflected growing nationwide concerns regarding illegal immigration.
21. Understand the challenges that have been presented to affirmative action as well as the potential impact of abandoning this policy.
22. Explain the events and controversies of the election of 2000.
23. Discuss the impact of September 11, 2001 on American domestic policy.
24. Explain the rationale for, and results of, U.S. military actions in Afghanistan.
25. Explain the rationale for, and results of, U.S. military actions in Iraq.
26. Analyze the significance of “moral values” in the 2004 election.

27. Discuss the aftermath of hurricane Katrina as a symbol of continuing inequalities in America.

Key Terms & Definitions:

American with Disabilities Act A 1990 civil rights law that prohibited discrimination against the disabled in employment, public accommodations, and telecommunications. (880)

Powell Doctrine General Colin Powell's assertion that the nation should go to war only as a last resort when the president had full support from the nation and the international community, could employ overwhelming military force to win without serious loss of American life, and had a clear exit strategy. (882)

Operation Desert Storm A massive U.S. ground assault during the Persian Gulf War that soundly defeated the Iraqi army within four days. (883)

“Don't Ask, Don't Tell” The policy instituted during the Clinton era that allowed closeted homosexuals and lesbians, gays who kept their sexual preferences hidden, to serve in the military. (884)

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) A 1992 treaty that lifted trade barriers between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. (885)

“The Contract with Americas” A 1994 Republican manifesto that envisioned reducing the size of government, less regulation, term limits for members of congress, welfare reform, and adding a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. (885)

“compassionate conservatism” A philosophical approach to governing that emphasized using private industry, charities, and religious institutions, rather than the government, to provide community services. (887)

World Wide Web A system for organizing electronic information transmitted through the Internet. (888)

global warming The scientific theory that widespread burning of fossil fuels emitted greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that caused average global temperatures to rise. (892)

al-Qaeda A fundamentalist Islamic terrorist organization led by Saudi exile Osama bin Laden. (895)

“ethnic cleansing” The intentional mass killing of one ethnic group by another. (895)

9/11 September 11, 2001, was the day of al-Qaeda attacks on the United States; terrorists hijacked four planes and flew two into the World Trade Center towers and one into the Pentagon; one crashed on a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. (896)

Patriot Act A controversial 2001 law that greatly expanded the government's investigative and police powers. (897)

preemptive war The notion that the United States should remove hostile regimes with force before they could pose a serious threat. (898)

Bush Doctrine Established the unilateral right to attack nations that harbored terrorists, to launch preemptive military strikes to prevent future attack on the United States, and to replace autocratic governments with democratically elected ones. (898)

Study Questions:

What meaning did Americans attach to photographs of 9/11? (874)

How did George H.W. Bush prevail in the 1988 presidential election? (876)

What role did ordinary citizens play in ending communism in East Germany and the Soviet Union? (877)

What symbolic importance did the Berlin Wall have during the Cold War? (878)

Why did popular uprisings against communism in Europe and China have different outcomes? (879)

Which gender and racial issues dominated the headlines in the early 1990s? (880)

What problems did the United States face in the Middle East from 1980-2003? (881)

How did the Powell Doctrine influence Bush's preparations for war against Iraq in 1991? (882)

What vision of American world leadership did neoconservatives promote? (883)

How did Clinton's centrist vision affect his policy decisions? (884)

How does Clinton's sex scandal compare to the Reagan-era Iran-Contra scandal (see Chapter 28)? (885)

Why was the 2000 presidential election so controversial? (886)

How did George W. Bush reshape the conservative vision of governing? (887)

Which technological innovations of the twentieth century had the greatest impact on daily life? (888)

What changes in family structure do these graphs illustrate? (889)

What competing visions emerged over same-sex marriage? (890)

Are contemporary concerns about immigration similar or different from objections made earlier in the twentieth century? (891)

What core arguments support and refute the theory of global warming? (892)

What accounts for the disparity in carbon dioxide emissions on this map? (893)

How did media coverage influence American views of Africa? (894)

What motivated foreign and domestic terrorists to attack Americans? (895)

How did the nation and government respond to the 9/11 attacks? (896)

Were governmental efforts to prevent internal enemy attacks after 9/11 similar to the steps during World War I and II? (897)

What debates occurred within the Bush administration over going to war against Iraq in 2003? (898)

What justifications and criticisms did the doctrine of preventative war arouse? (899)

What accomplishments and setbacks did the United States experience in the Iraq War? (900)

What factors led to the economic downturn in 2008? (901)

How did past civil rights activism help make Obama's election possible? (902)