

CRASH COURSE: U.S. History

EPISODE 45: THE CLINTON YEARS, OR THE 1990S

TRUE OR FALSE:

- _____ 1. Bill Clinton, who attended an Ivy League University and served as governor of Arkansas, came from a broken home in the South.
- _____ 2. The 1993 Oslo Accords were an agreement between Iran and Iraq in which both nations pledged to end their longstanding war.
- _____ 3. Clinton's efforts in the African nation of Rwanda helped to stop the genocide there, but he did absolutely nothing to stop the slaughter of Muslims in Yugoslavia.
- _____ 4. There were several terrorist attacks during the Clinton administration; the most terrible one of all, the Oklahoma City bombing, involved Americans attacking their fellow Americans.
- _____ 5. Clinton won the presidency by running as a liberal Democrat in the tradition of FDR and LBJ.
- _____ 6. Clinton changed the U.S. armed forces by allowing homosexuals to openly serve.
- _____ 7. Thanks to the efforts of Hillary Clinton, the United States in the 1990s finally adopted a policy of providing free, universal healthcare for all its citizens.
- _____ 8. In the middle of Clinton's first term, his party lost control of both the House and the Senate to the Republicans, whose powerful speaker, Newt Gingrich, was determined to cut taxes and regulation as well as reform welfare.
- _____ 9. The 1995 government shutdown made Americans furious with Clinton and seriously damaged his prospects for re-election.
- _____ 10. Clinton enacted major reform to the nation's main welfare program. After 1996, welfare benefits had strict time limits as well as work requirements, making it a much more conservative approach to the program.
- _____ 11. Clinton's popularity had a lot to do with a strong economy – one that featured falling unemployment coupled with both low inflation and low fuel prices.
- _____ 12. The most significant tech development during Clinton's administration was the invention of the DVD player.
- _____ 13. The tech boom under Clinton was good for companies and resulted in lower prices for Americans as well as job creation in developing nations, but it caused job losses in the United States.
- _____ 14. The free flow of capital resulting from financial deregulation under Clinton made economic crashes more likely; during the crash of 2000, the NASDAQ stock exchange lost 80% of its value.
- _____ 15. During the Clinton years, the "wage gap" begun over a decade earlier continued, with the poor doing worse while the rich got richer.
- _____ 16. The Clinton years were part of an era during which more than 20 million immigrants came to the U.S., with about a third coming from Asia and about half from the Latin America / Caribbean region.
- _____ 17. Rates of death by AIDS as well as imprisonment sharply declined during the Clinton years.
- _____ 18. Clinton was sued for sexual harassment during his presidency, but the claim stemmed back from his time as governor of Arkansas.
- _____ 19. Clinton was impeached for lying under oath and in early 1999, was found guilty by the Senate and removed from the presidency – the first president ever to be removed from office.

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EPISODE 46: TERRORISM, WAR, AND BUSH 43

1. In 2000, Republican George W. Bush ran against Al Gore, who had served as VP under _____.
2. In the U.S., presidential elections are decided by the _____, not the popular vote.
3. In 2000, whoever won the state of _____ would win the election. After the governor (Bush's own brother) declared that Bush had won the state, Gore sued and the election was decided by the _____, which ordered state to stop re-counting the votes.
4. Early actions taken by President Bush included barring federal spending on _____ research and saying the U.S. would not reduce _____ emissions as required by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.
5. Bush's main education reform, the No Child Left Behind Act, required schools to do a great deal of _____; he also enacted a huge _____, the largest in U.S. history.
6. The attacks on 9/11/2001 involved four airliners highjacked by the terrorist group _____. Two were crashed into the World Trade Center and one into the _____, while the fourth was re-taken by passengers and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.
7. According to Bush, the attack happened because the terrorists hated the _____ that Americans love.
8. The Bush Doctrine said that America would _____ to fight terrorists -- and the nations that assisted them.
9. The first nation attacked under the Bush Doctrine was _____ due to its protection of al-Qaeda's leader, _____.
10. Bush called Iran, Iraq, and North Korea an "_____" and accused them of harboring terrorists.
11. In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, claiming that it was hiding chemical and biological weapons of _____.
12. The Iraq war cost \$200 billion, more than 3,000 American lives, and _____ of Iraqi lives and in the end, arguably resulted in more _____.
13. The federal government gained new, controversial powers to fight terrorism in the 2001 _____ Act, which allowed it to spy on U.S. citizens.
14. Hundreds of accused terrorists were sent to a prison camp at the Guantanamo Bay, a U.S. naval base located in _____.
15. Bush administration policies were reined in by the Supreme Court, which ruled that enemy combatants retain some _____, and by Congress, which banned _____ as an interrogation tactic.
16. Bush won re-election in 2004 even though the economy was terrible; he was the first president since 1932 to have an overall decline in _____ during his time in office.
17. The federal government showed itself ill-prepared to help the mainly poor and African American victims of Hurricane _____, which struck New Orleans in 2005.
18. In the 2006 mid-term elections, Democrats gained majorities in both the Senate and House, where California's _____ became the Speaker -- the first woman to hold the post.
19. By 2008 the economy was in even worse shape thanks to the collapse of the _____ market and the near-collapse of much of the _____ system.

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EPISODE 47: OBAMANATION

1. What was the U.S. economy facing as the George W. Bush presidency came to an end?

2. What did the Federal Reserve do from 2001 through 2008, a policy which encouraged short-term thinking and speculation? _____
3. Why were NINJA loans and why were they a problem? _____
4. How did banks react when all these housing loans became “toxic assets?” _____
5. How much did the Dow Jones drop in reaction to the credit freeze, and how much economic value did that drop represent? _____
6. Why were 2.5 million jobs lost by December, 2008? _____
7. Who got the \$700 billion provided in TARP, The Troubled Assets Relief Program passed shortly before the 2008 presidential election? _____
8. Based on his economic policies and their results, George W. Bush can best be compared to which earlier president? _____
9. To which two groups of people did Barack Obama strongly appeal? _____
10. What “first” in presidential elections did Barack Obama achieve? _____
11. What did Obama want to be the basis of foreign policy? _____
12. What things did Obama want to end? _____
13. What did the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act do? _____
14. What “first” did Sonia Sotomayor, nominated by Obama to the Supreme Court, represent? _____
15. Which terrorist leader was killed by a U.S. military operation in 2001? _____
16. What did Barack Obama fail to close despite his promise to do so? _____
17. How did Obama’s policies on the War on Terror match and differ from those of Bush? _____
18. What advantage did Obama enjoy during his first term? _____
19. What were the main positive and negative results of the \$787 billion stimulus package enacted by Obama? _____
20. What was the primary goal of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare? _____
21. How did Republicans in Congress react to Obamacare? _____
22. What was the Tea Party? _____
23. How productive was 111th Congress? _____