

Clinton, Bush (43), and Obama

Clinton's Early Years

Bill Clinton meets JFK as a 16-year-old delegate of Boy's Nation
on 6 June 1963



A REALISTIC APPROACH
TO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT



BILL CLINTON

CANDIDATE

PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

MAR. 8 1967

Bill Clinton runs
for Student
Council
President at
Georgetown
University



Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham
at Yale Law School, January 1972

- Georgetown University, Oxford University, Yale Law School
- Attorney General of Arkansas at 30
- Youngest governor of Arkansas at 32

1992 Election

-Pushed for middle-class tax cuts and a national healthcare system

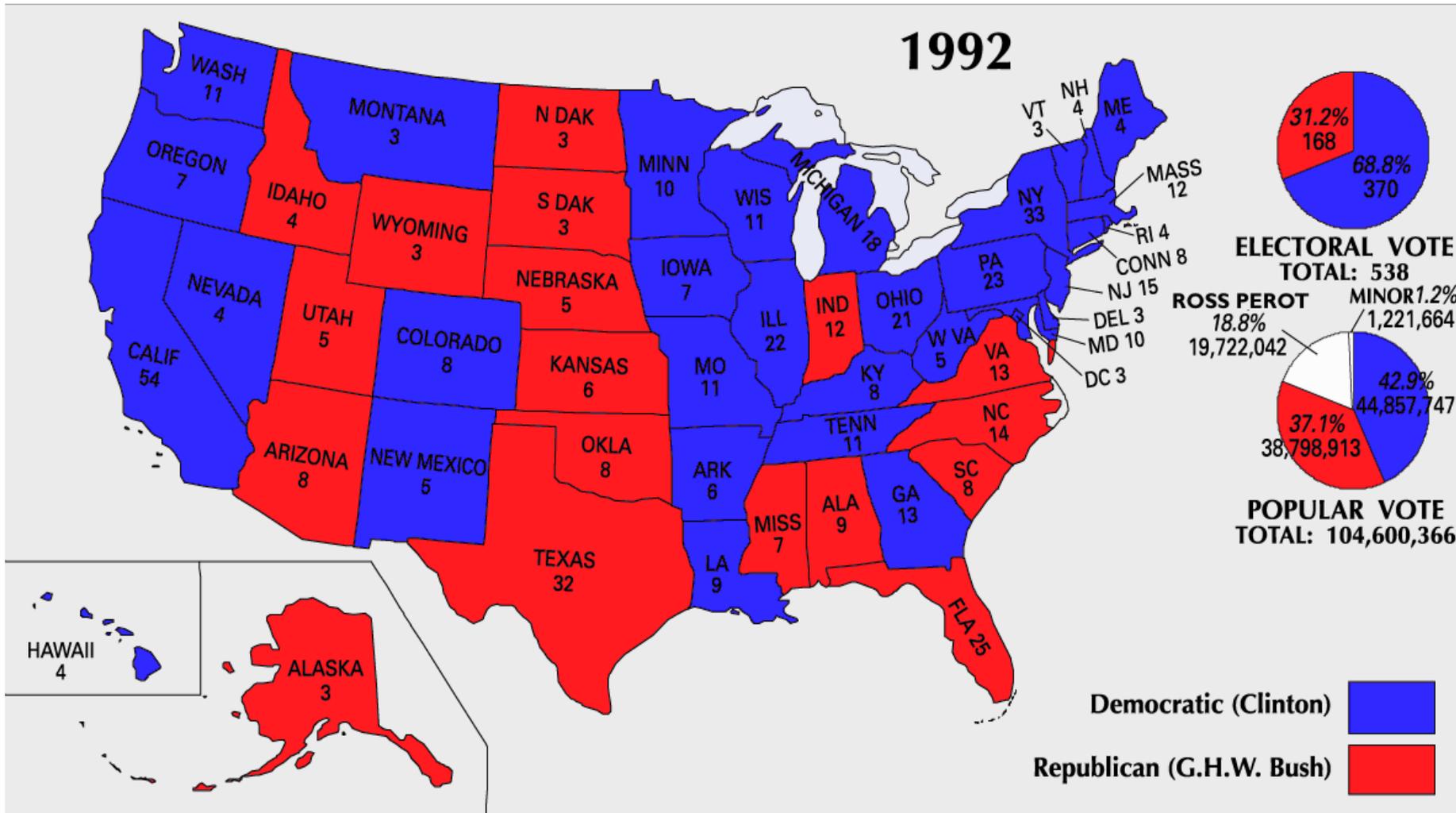
-Relied heavily on his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, a successful lawyer

-Clinton presented himself as the protector of the middle class

-Clinton won 370 electoral votes to Bush's 168, although Clinton won less than 50% of the popular vote

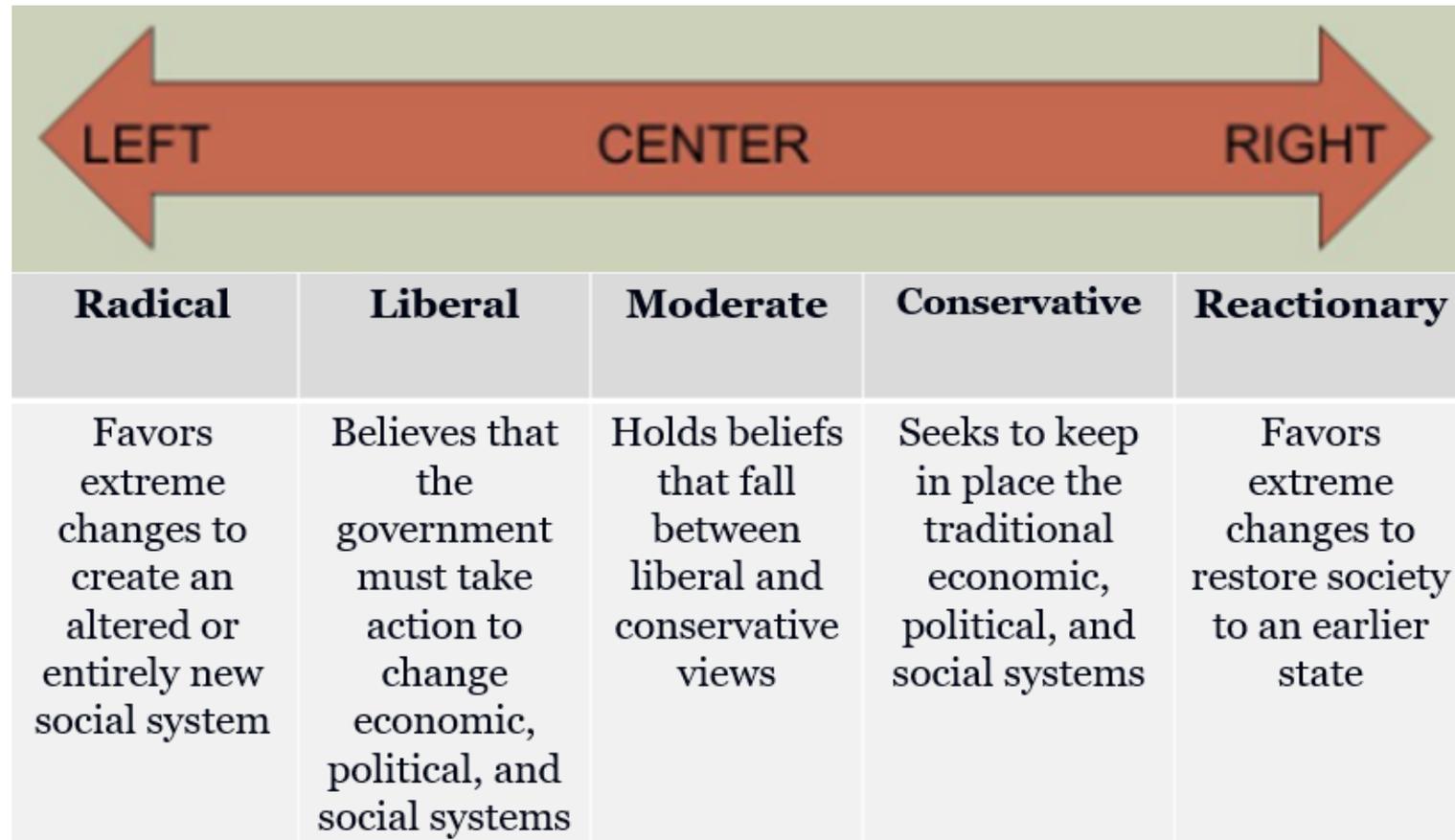


1992 Election Results



After the '88 election, the “New Democrat” emerged:

- Fiscally **conservative** and pulled the Dems away from the anti-business, anti-war, “common man” roots
- Pushed towards strong defense and anti-crime
- Socially **moderate**: promised reforms to welfare and healthcare systems



1994 “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

- Meant to represent a compromise between those who wanted to end the longstanding ban on gays serving in the U.S. military and those who felt having openly gay troops would hurt morale and cause problems within military ranks
- Under the new policy, gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans could serve their country, as long as they kept their sexual identity under wraps



20 YEARS BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS

20 YEARS AGO, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS PASSED A LAW

THAT LAW HAS STOPPED

2 MILLION

GUNS FROM FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS

BUT UNRESTRICTED GUN SALES ON THE INTERNET AND AT GUN SHOWS ARE ON THE RISE



40%

OF GUNS ARE PURCHASED EVERY YEAR WITH NO BACKGROUND CHECK

6 MILLION GUNS

IN STATES THAT EXPANDED BACKGROUND CHECKS



39%

FEWER POLICE OFFICERS MURDERED BY HANDGUNS



38%

FEWER WOMEN MURDERED BY THEIR PARTNERS

THAT'S WHY



90%

OF AMERICANS AND A MAJORITY OF GUN OWNERS WHO SUPPORT EXPANDING BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS

1994: Brady Bill Passes

- 30 November 1993: officially known as the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, it amended the Gun Control Act of 1968
- Imposed as an interim measure a waiting period of 5 days before a licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer may sell, deliver, or transfer a handgun to an unlicensed individual
- The waiting period applies only in states without an acceptable alternate system of conducting background checks on handgun purchasers
- Proposed after the assassination attempt on President Reagan left his Press Secretary James Brady permanently paralyzed; Jim and Sarah lobbied Congress for years for its passage – all three presidents supported the bill wholeheartedly

Clinton - Domestic Issues

Budget Deficit:

-Campaigned on promise to reduce taxes for the middle class → raised taxes

Healthcare:

-Healthcare costs were rising, and tens of millions of Americans had little or no health insurance

-Hillary headed a special task force which proposed a government-sponsored program of healthcare

-The plan was defeated after months of Congressional debate



NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)

-1 January 1994

-Eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico

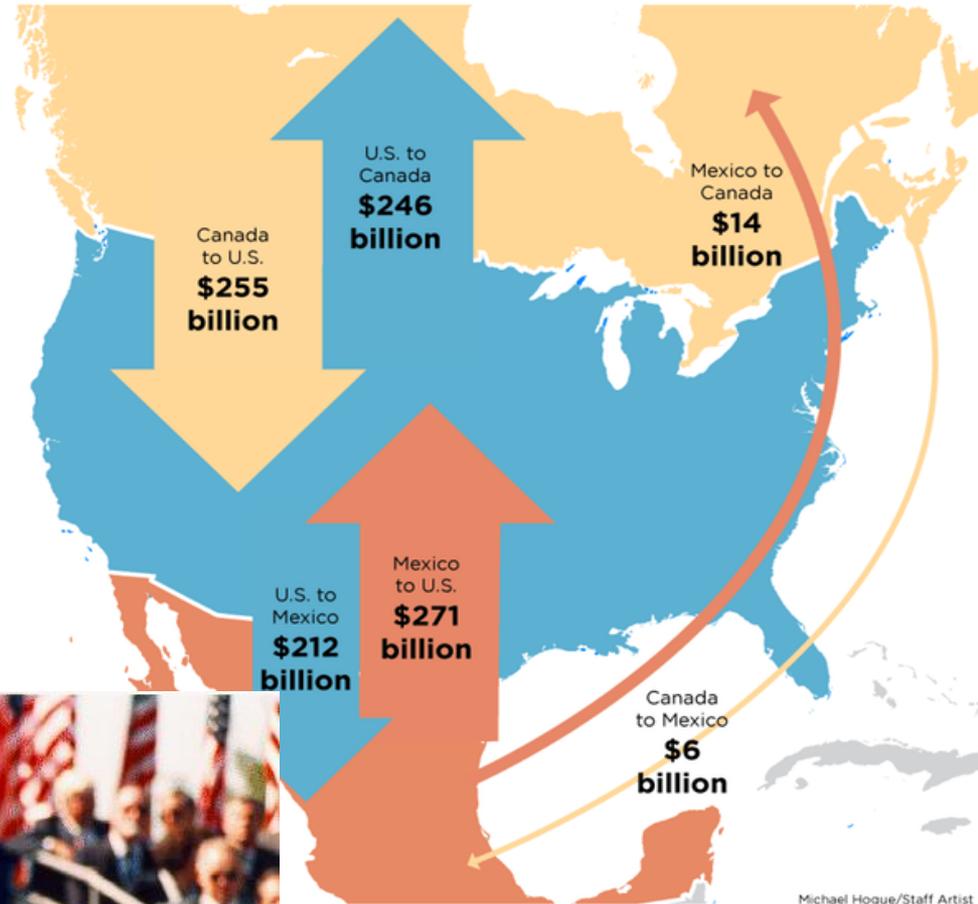
-At \$248.2 billion for Canada and \$163.3 billion for Mexico, they were the top two purchasers of U.S. exports in 2010

-Also resulted in outsourcing to Canada and Mexico



Flow of trade between NAFTA partners

Billions of dollars worth of goods move each day between the United States and its neighbors — far more than when NAFTA went into effect in 1994.



*As of 2020, it's been updated as the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) to include protections for digital and IP, U.S. auto incentives, greater access to Canada's dairy market, etc.



The Goals of NAFTA



Grant signatories most-favored-nation status



Eliminate barriers to trade



Promote conditions of fair competition



Increase investment opportunities



Provide protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights



Create procedures for the resolution of trade disputes



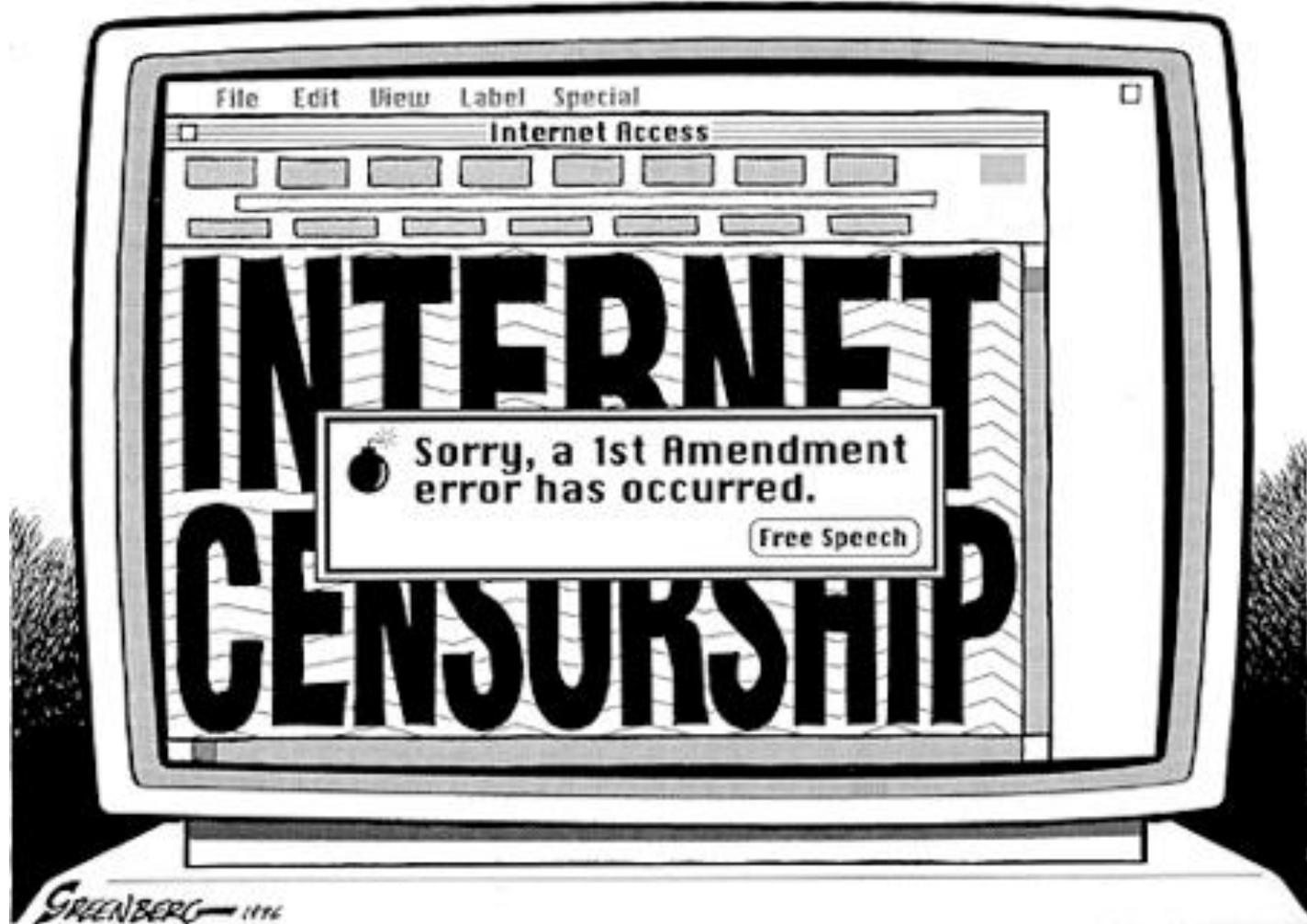
Establish framework to expand trade agreement's benefits



Internet

- Major means of communication and commerce
- People were concerned about inappropriate material on the internet
- Congress tried to pass a law to limit sexually explicit material, but the Supreme Court ruled that it violated the right to freedom of speech

Technocracy: the control of society or industry by an elite of technology experts

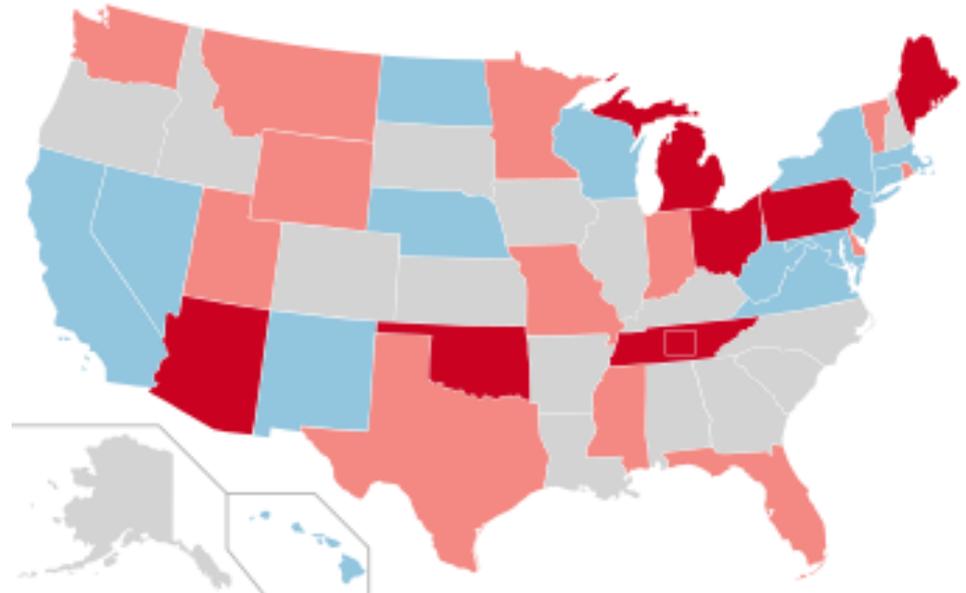
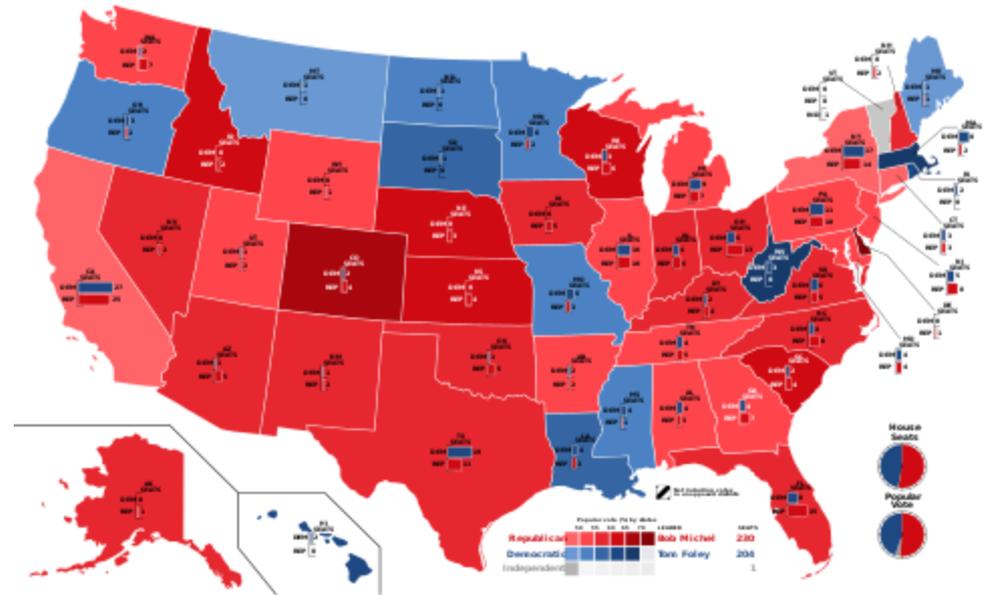


1994 Midterm Elections and the “Contract with America”

-Outlined legislation to be enacted by the House of Representatives within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress (1995–96)

-Among the proposals were tax cuts, a permanent line-item veto, measures to reduce crime and provide middle-class tax relief, term limits and a balanced budget

-With the exception of the constitutional amendment for term limits, all parts of the “Contract with America” were passed by the House, under the leadership of the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich



Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994

- Gave the federal stamp of approval for states to pass even more tough-on-crime laws
- Before its passage, all states had passed at least one mandatory minimum law, but the '94 crime bill encouraged even more punitive laws and harsher practices on the ground, including by prosecutors and police, to lock up more people and for longer periods of time
- Allocated billions in funding for states to build new prisons, train and hire additional police, expanded the federal death penalty and instituted a federal "three-strikes" life sentence mandate
- Sponsored by then-Senator from Delaware – Joe Biden
- While the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, enacted under the Obama-Biden administration, reduced the crack/powder cocaine disparity from 100:1 to 18:1, the damage had been done, and its effects continue to this day

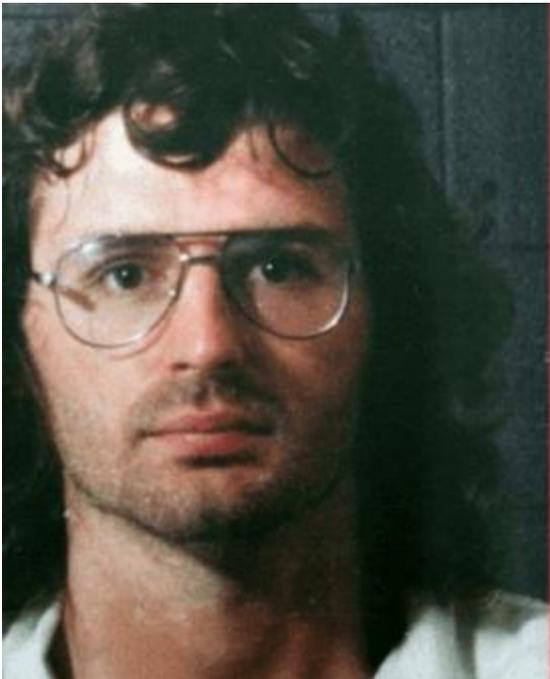
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/07/politics/biden-1993-speech-predators/index.html>



https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1021/vote_102_1_00125.htm#name

Branch Davidians (Waco Siege)

- A sect of 7th Day Adventists led by David Koresh
- Practiced polygamy with minors and had illegal firearms and ammunition for a coming apocalypse
- 19 April 1993: AG Janet Reno authorizes a raid using tanks, tear gas → fire breaks out, killing 80 including children
 - ATF criticized by the public for using too harsh of tactics; investigation launched and found the fire was set and some killed by members



Oklahoma City Bombing

-19 April 1995; 168 people killed

-Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were convicted of the crime

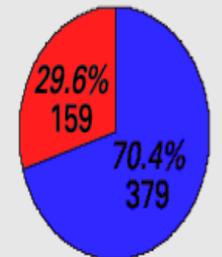
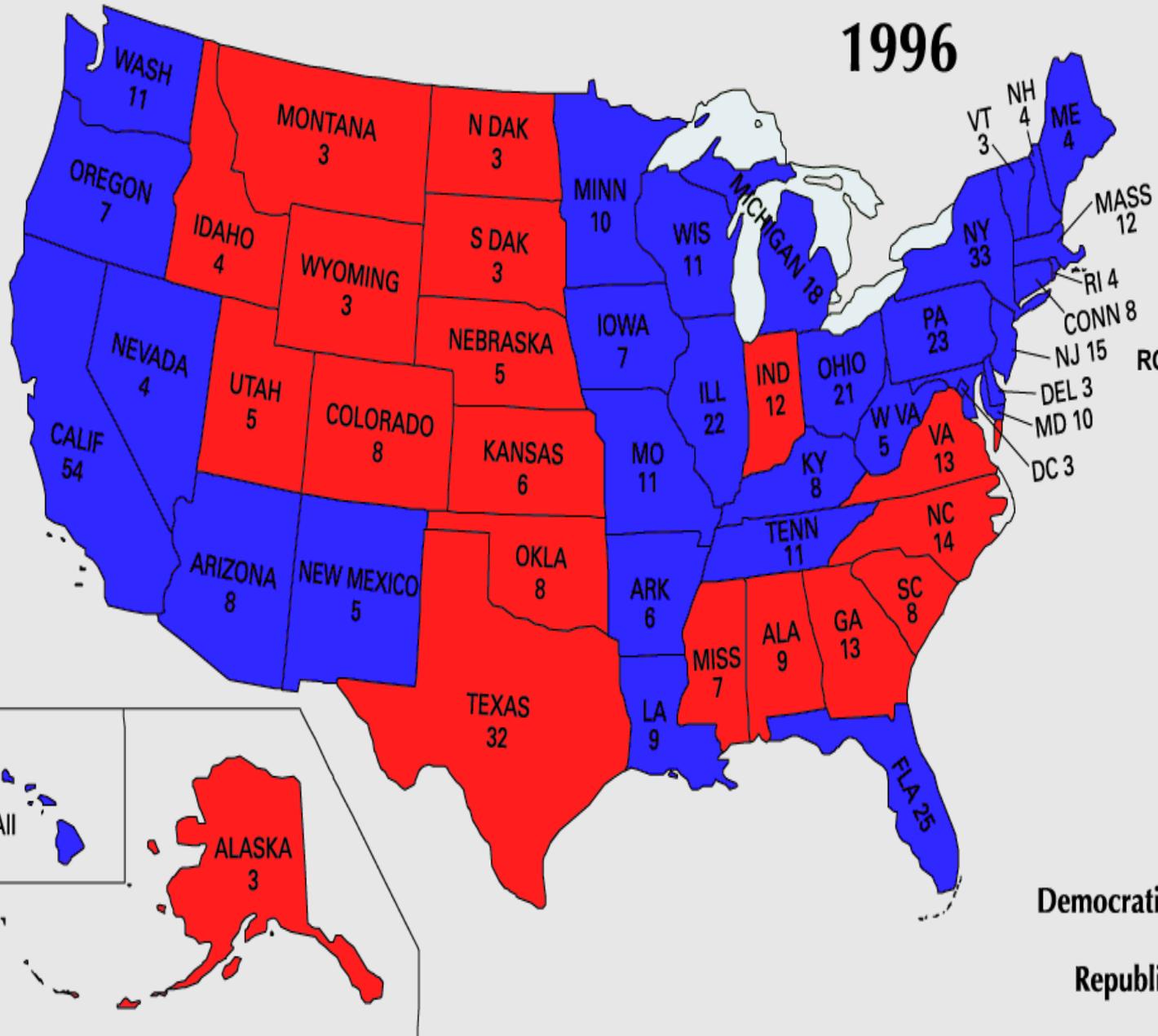
-Motive: anger surrounding gun control, and the DEA, ATF, and federal govt handling of the Branch Davidians raid in Waco, TX



- 1996 Clinton defeats Bob Dole of Kansas
- The only Democrat to win reelection to a 2nd term of office as president since FDR

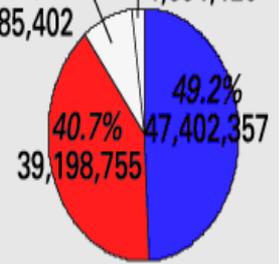


1996



ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 538

ROSS PEROT 8.4%
MINOR 1.7%



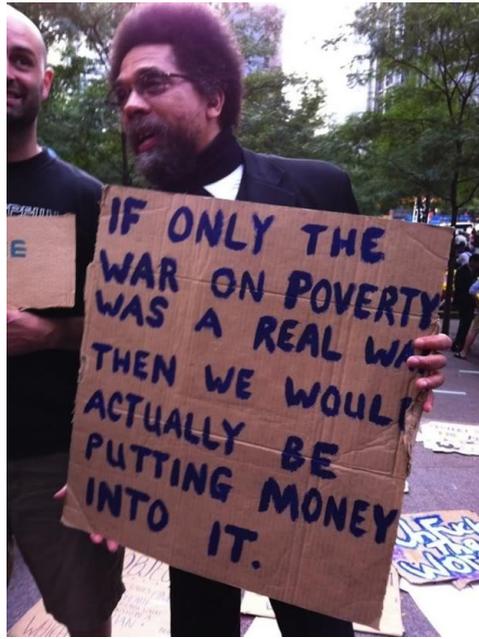
POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 96,277,634

Democratic (Clinton) 
 Republican (Dole) 

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act

- Proposed in 1996 to place limits on how long people could receive benefits, the goal often characterized as “welfare-to-work”
- Required single mothers to work within two years of receiving funds, unmarried mothers under 18 be required to live with an adult and attend school to receive benefits, mothers must provide father’s info to receive full payments, cut off benefits for convicted felons, limited food stamps to 3 months in 3 years for 18-50s not working
- Gave states “block grants”—set amounts of federal money they could spend on welfare or for other social concerns
- Despite Democrats fear of the effects of eliminating the federal safety net for the poor, Clinton backed the bill and it passed

This reform legislation was supposed to be to giving people who “deserved” welfare versus to the “undeserving poor”



Foreign Policy Challenges

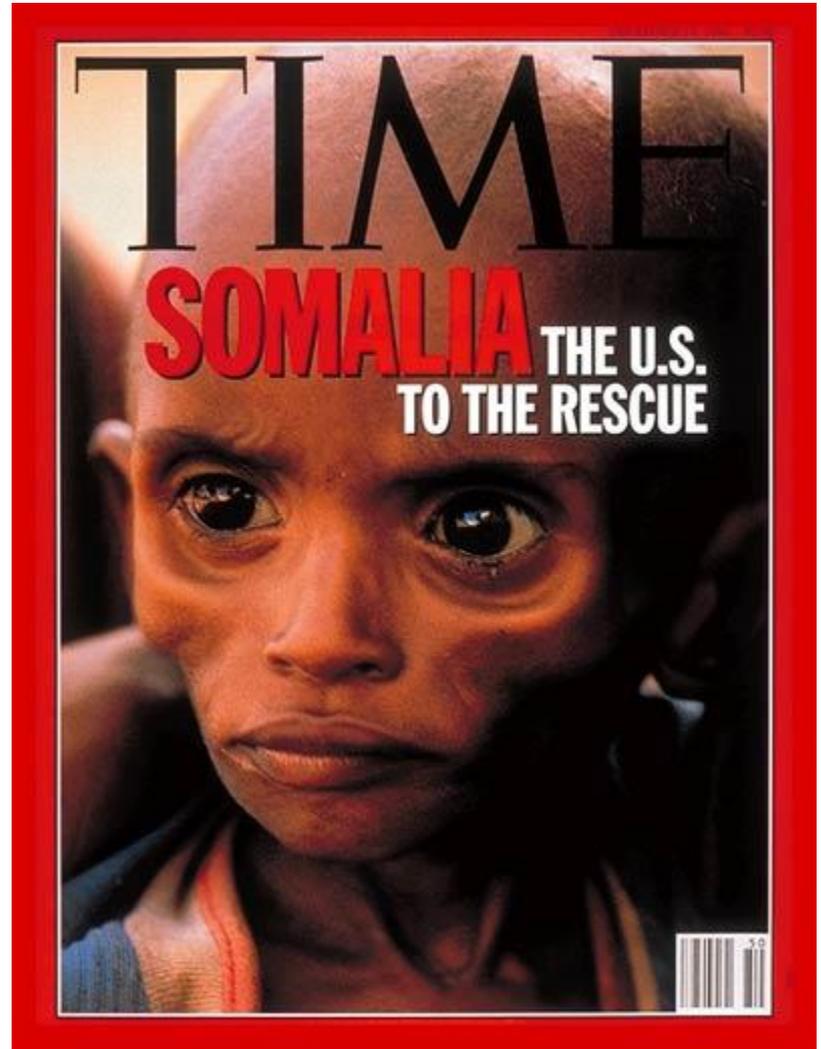
Oslo Accords

- 2nd attempt to improve Israel & Palestinian relations
- Clinton hosted the signing of a peace agreement
- Agreed to self-rule for Palestinians in return for the Palestinians recognizing Israel's right to exist
- Never fully realized



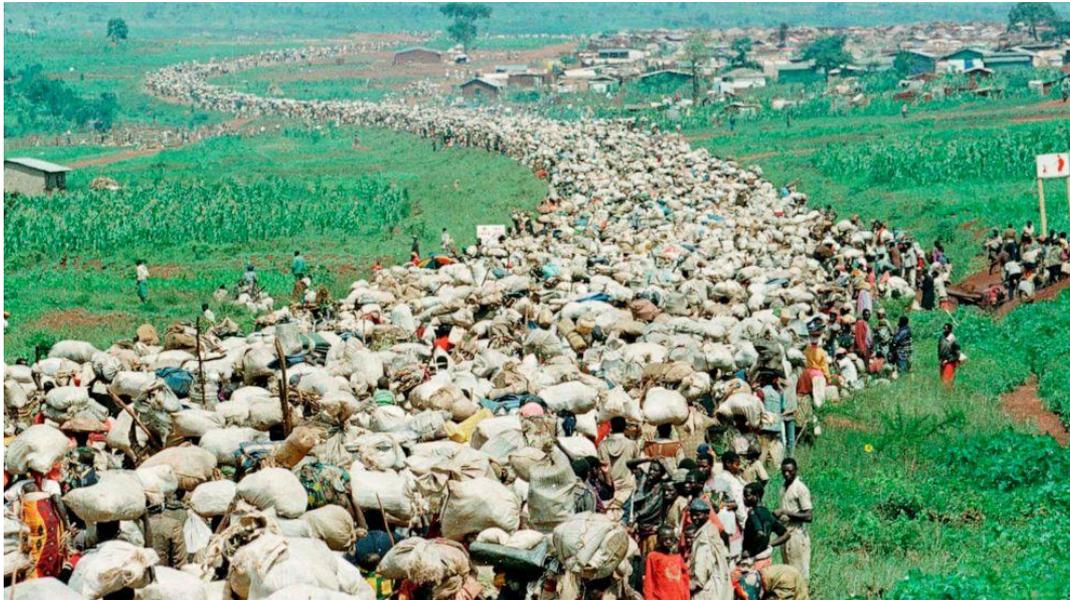
Somalia

- Bush sent troops to help the UN distribute food to victims of the civil war
- UN forces aided
- After 19 Americans died (Black Hawk) in '93 at Mogadishu, Clinton withdrew the remaining soldiers March '94
 - ✦ → Stopped U.S. from sending help to Rwanda in the future



Rwanda - 1994

- Started by Hutu nationalists in the capital of Kigali, the genocide spread throughout the country with shocking speed and brutality, as ordinary citizens were incited by local officials and the Hutu Power government to take up arms against their neighbors
- Members of the Hutu ethnic majority murdered as many as 800,000 people, mostly of the Tutsi minority
- 2 million refugees (mainly Hutus) fled Rwanda, exacerbating what had already become a full-blown humanitarian crisis
- The killing of the Belgian peacekeepers, meanwhile, provoked the withdrawal of Belgian troops. And the U.N. directed that peacekeepers only defend themselves thereafter
- The Clinton administration was reluctant to call this crisis genocide and the international response failed to intervene



Haiti

1993-1994: Clinton pledged the use of American troops to lead a UN mission to restore democratically-elected President Aristide to overturn the military coup led by Cedras (Operation Uphold Democracy)

-The presence of UN forces helped bring about a *generally* peaceful change in govt



UN Bombing in Kosovo

-Violence occurred in the newly-formed countries from the breakup of Yugoslavia between the ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians

-The Serbian Army was forcing ethnic Albanians from the Serbian region of Kosovo

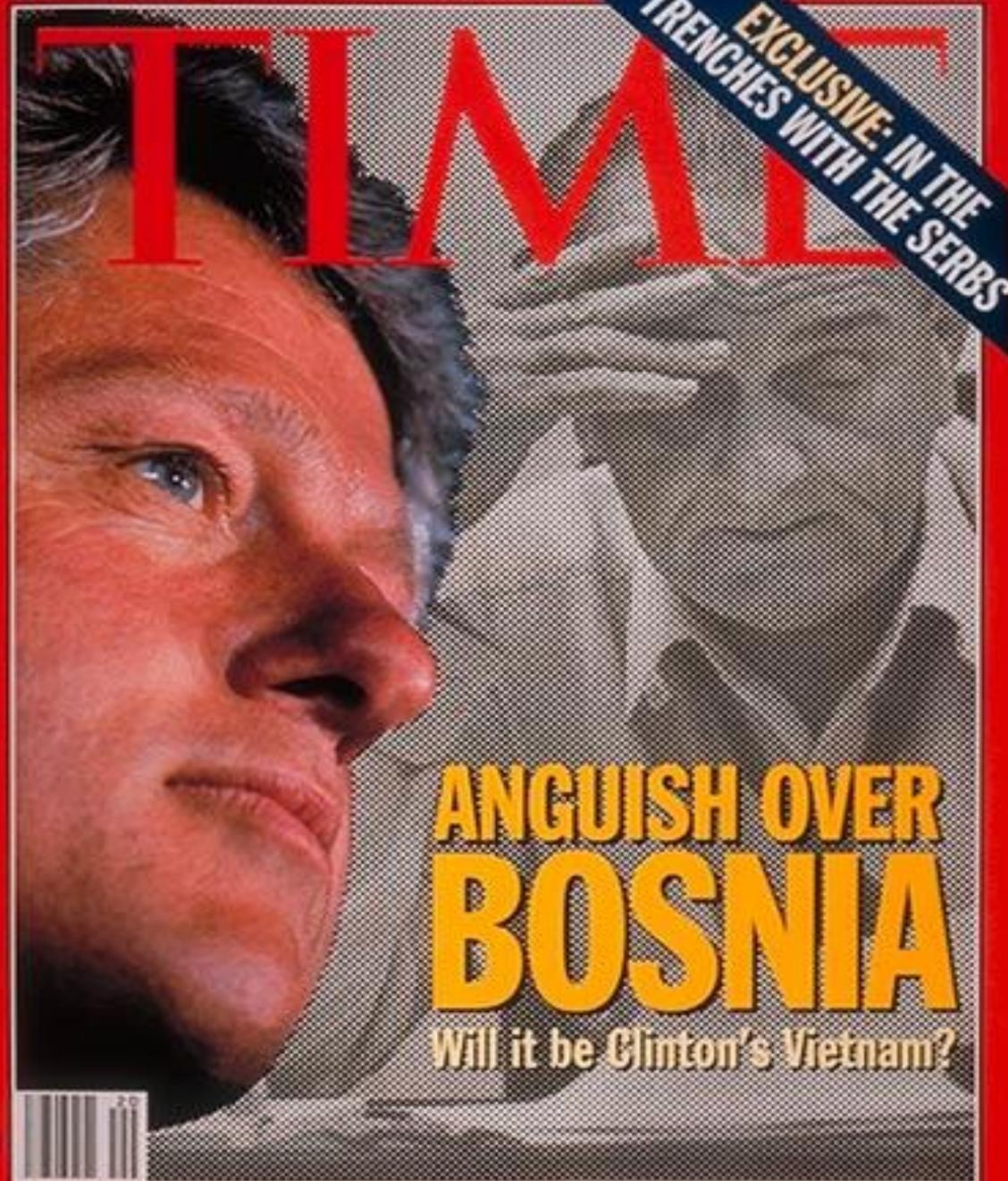
-Clinton helped broker the **Dayton Accords** to end fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina

-He urged NATO to act against Serbian military targets and continued UN presence



-In an attempt to force President Milosevic to accept the terms of an agreement to end his military campaign against the Kosovo Liberation Army, which involved widespread ethnic cleansing and killings of Kosovo Albanian civilians

-24 March 1999: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) begins air strikes against Yugoslavia with the bombing of Serbian military positions in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo



Whitewater Scandal

-Ken Starr led an investigation into a failed real estate investment the Clintons were involved in during the 1970s; they were cleared of any crime since they had

-The Clintons bought land (with partners) for a development for seniors under the company Whitewater Development Corporation

-Hillary created the WDC, wrote the fine print, accepted the down payments – but if buyers (retirees, teachers, farmers, etc.) missed one payment of the total due, they'd repossess the home/land and flip the property for more

-Investigation found no evidence of wrongdoing

Paula Jones Case

-Jones sued Clinton for sexual harassment while he was governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee

Monica Lewinsky/Impeachment

-1998: Clinton accused of lying under oath about Monica Lewinsky

-House approved two articles of impeachment but the Senate did not have the two-thirds majority necessary to convict Clinton for either perjury (charge rejected) or obstruction of justice (50-50)





The 2000 Election

Gore/Lieberman vs. Bush/Cheney

- Election close enough that Florida would “make or break” the election
 - “Margin of victory” demanded recounts in several precincts
- Gore concedes to Bush
- *Bush v. Gore*: in a 5-4 decision the SC upheld the result of Bush’s victory

Foreign Policy

Changes as result of 9/11/2001

- Most deadly domestic terrorist act
- Al-Qaeda (lead by Osama bin Laden), ordered terrorists to fly planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon
- “United 93” flight crashes in PA; failed to crash into either the Capitol or the White House

MARSHALL
GANNON
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Bush Doctrine

- “Preemption”—U.S. has the right to strike first at any nation that it perceives as a threat to prevent a future attack on America
- “Axis of Evil”: Iraq, Iran, and North Korea
- “Unilateralism”: one-sided action; created isolation from alliances and led the U.S. to “Go it alone”



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- Patriot Act: passed after 9/11 to increased surveillance to gain intelligence to prevent future terrorist attacks
- Created a new executive department: **Dept. of Homeland Security**
- Finding “Weapons of Mass Destruction” (WMDs) became the reason for the invasion of Iraq on 19 March 2003



SOURCE: DHS

* Returned to HHS in July 2004

Domestic Policy

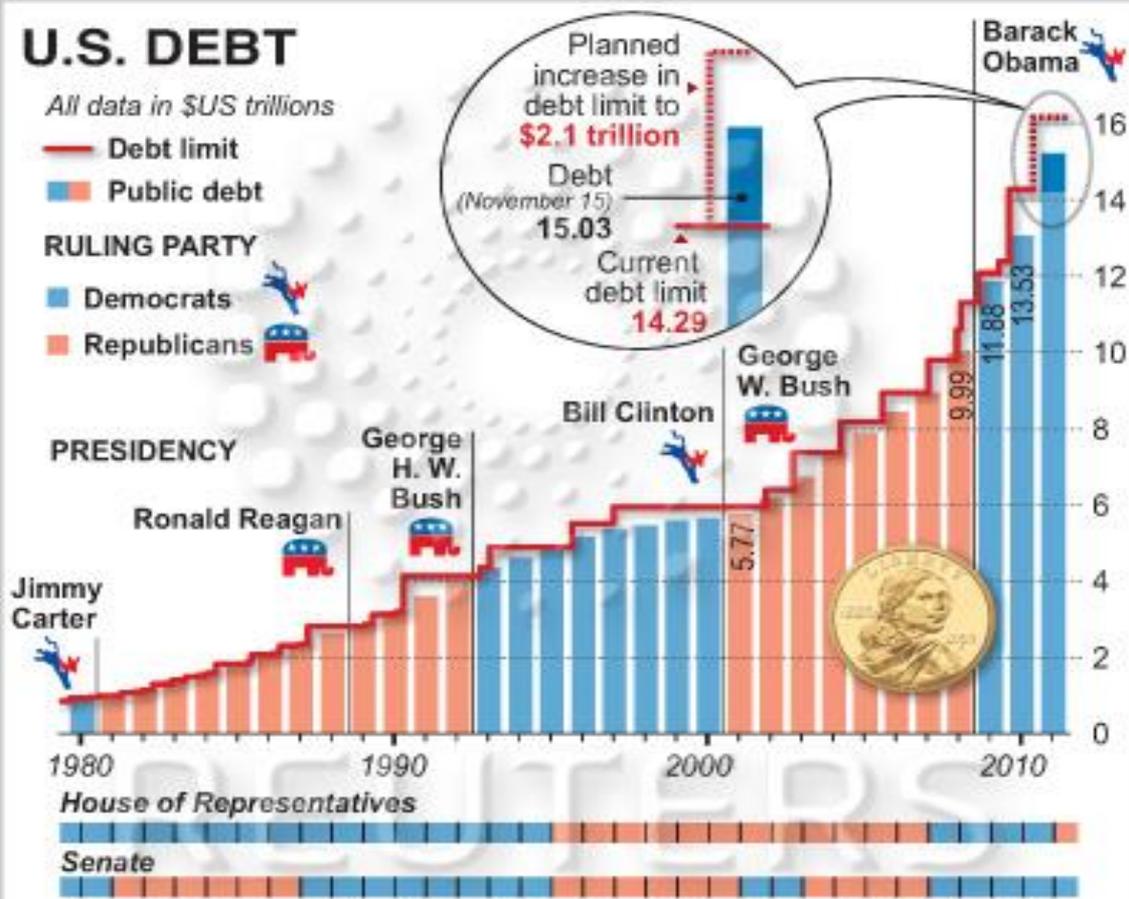
- Tax cuts *and* deficits
- “No Child Left Behind” program attempted
- Hurricane Katrina
- 2008 mortgage crisis and the Great Recession

U.S. DEBT

All data in \$US trillions

— Debt limit
■ Public debt

RULING PARTY
■ Democrats
■ Republicans



Sources: Washington Post, Reuters

isotype.com REUTERS



Barack Obama

- Law school at Harvard; civil rights attorney and professor at University of Chicago Law School
- Served three terms as Illinois state Senate
- U.S. Senator from 2005-2008

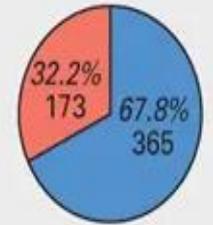
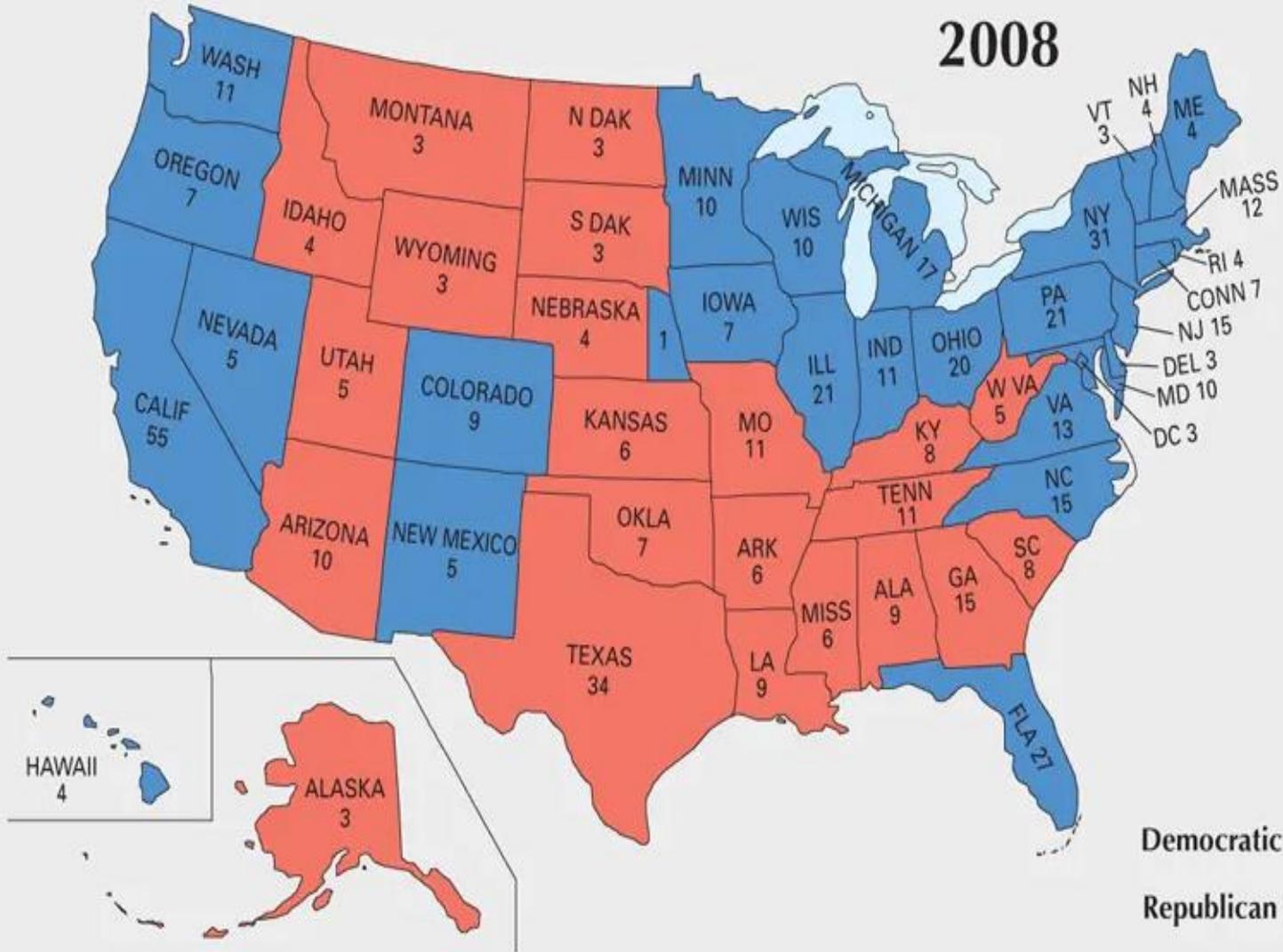


Election of 2008

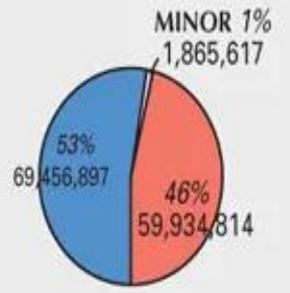


- Barack Obama become the first black male to win a major party nomination and to be elected to the office of presidency when he defeated Senator John McCain

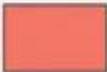
2008



ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 538



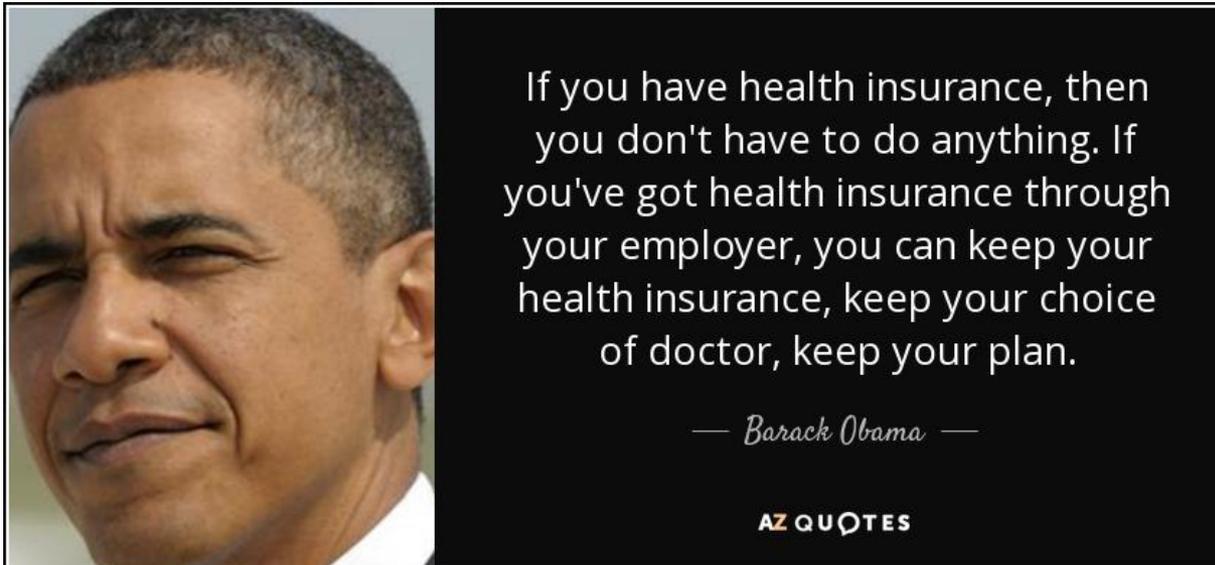
POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 131,257,328

Democratic (Obama) 
Republican (McCain) 

Domestic Policy

- Passed legislation to stimulate the economy by extending unemployment benefits and tax cuts; also authorized federal spending on education, green energy, and infrastructure in an attempt to create jobs and to provide temporary relief programs; helped stave off economic catastrophe but also significantly raised the federal debt and the federal budget deficit
- Passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known colloquially as “Obamacare“, mandating health insurance coverage for U.S. citizens; also made it illegal for insurance companies to discriminate against patients with preexisting conditions; provided federal subsidies to insure lower-income Americans, and extended coverage to millions
 - There were some negative unintended consequences of Obamacare; many previously-insured Americans saw their premiums skyrocket, while others lost coverage completely; others had to purchase plans that did not cover their prior healthcare providers
- Repealed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in 2010

[Source: Khan Academy](#)



Foreign Policy

- During his campaign, Obama been sharply critical of the Bush (43) administration to the Global War on Terror, however continued drone strikes targeting suspected terrorists in countries like Pakistan and Yemen, with which the U.S. was not officially at war
- Unable to fulfill his campaign pledge to close the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay
- Withdrew forces from Iraq and announced in August 2010 that the combat mission officially ended; after U.S. withdrawal the insurgency intensified, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL) captured major cities in Iraq
- Prolonged the combat mission in Afghanistan; however, on 2 May 2011, U.S. Navy Seals captured and killed Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan
- Renewed diplomatic relations with Cuba after half a century of estrangement



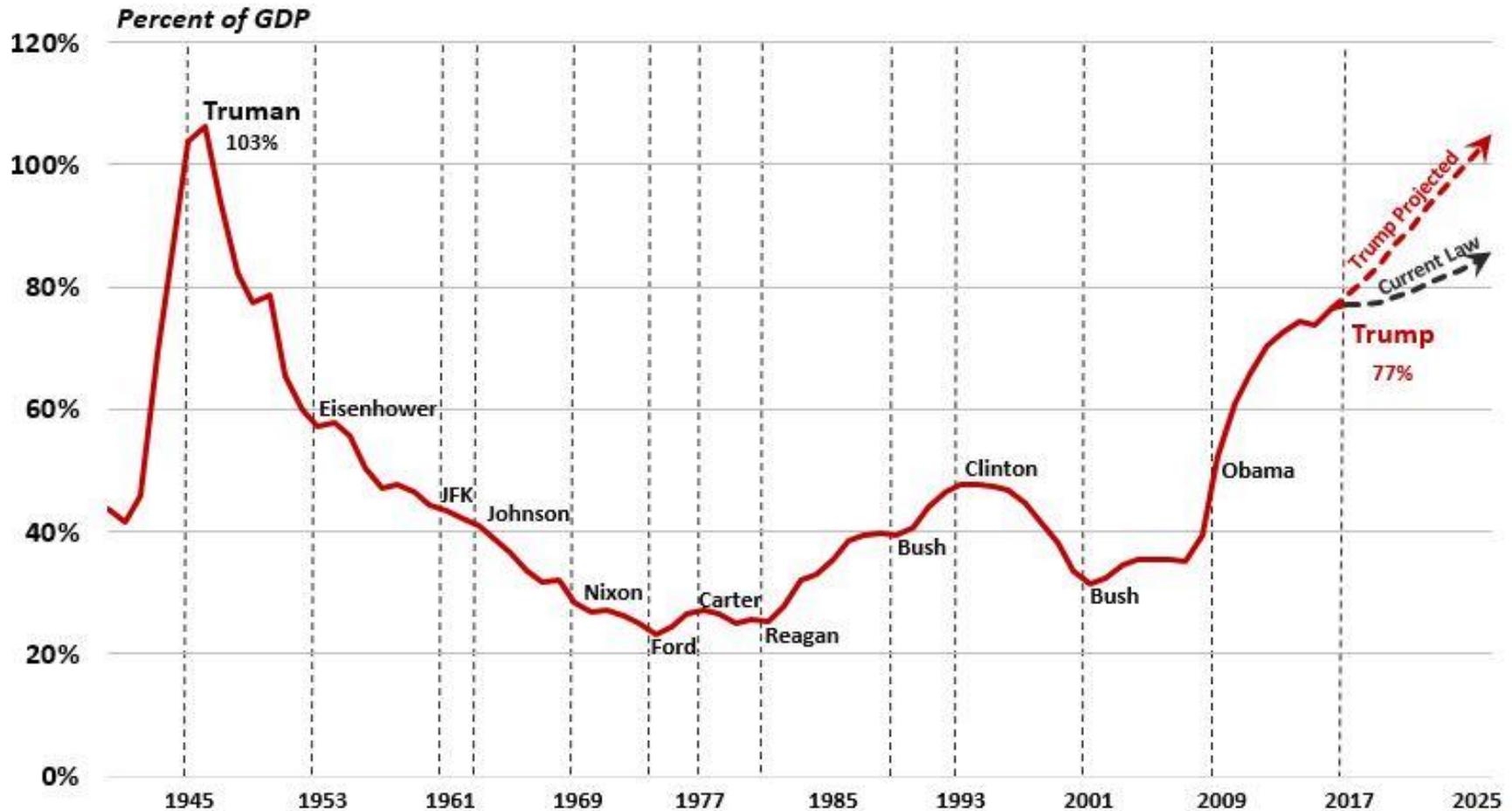
[Source: Khan Academy](#)

Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2012

- In 1948, Truman signed the Smith–Mundt Act, which prohibited the U.S. Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) from disseminating government-produced programming within the United States over fears that these agencies would “propagandize” the American people
- In 1990, Congress passed an amendment to the Smith–Mundt Act (1990 Amendment) that required the USIA director to “make [programming] available to the Archivist of the United States, for domestic distribution . . . 12 years after the preparation of the material.”
- In 2013, Congress abolished the domestic dissemination ban, which has led to a heated debate about the role of the federal government in free public discourse
- Although the 2013 repeal of the domestic dissemination ban promotes greater government transparency and may help counter anti-American sentiment at home, it also gives the federal government great power to covertly influence public opinion
- In 2012, the U.S. spent over three-quarters of a billion dollars funding government agencies that produce and broadcast programming around the globe; the bill was marketed not as national security legislation, but as government transparency legislation
- Any citizen may attempt to rebroadcast government-produced programming—not just members of Congress → the potential for misleading the public is arguably greater than if the government had broadcast this programming itself because the message is emanating from a private entity, the average citizen assumes that the program was not produced by the government

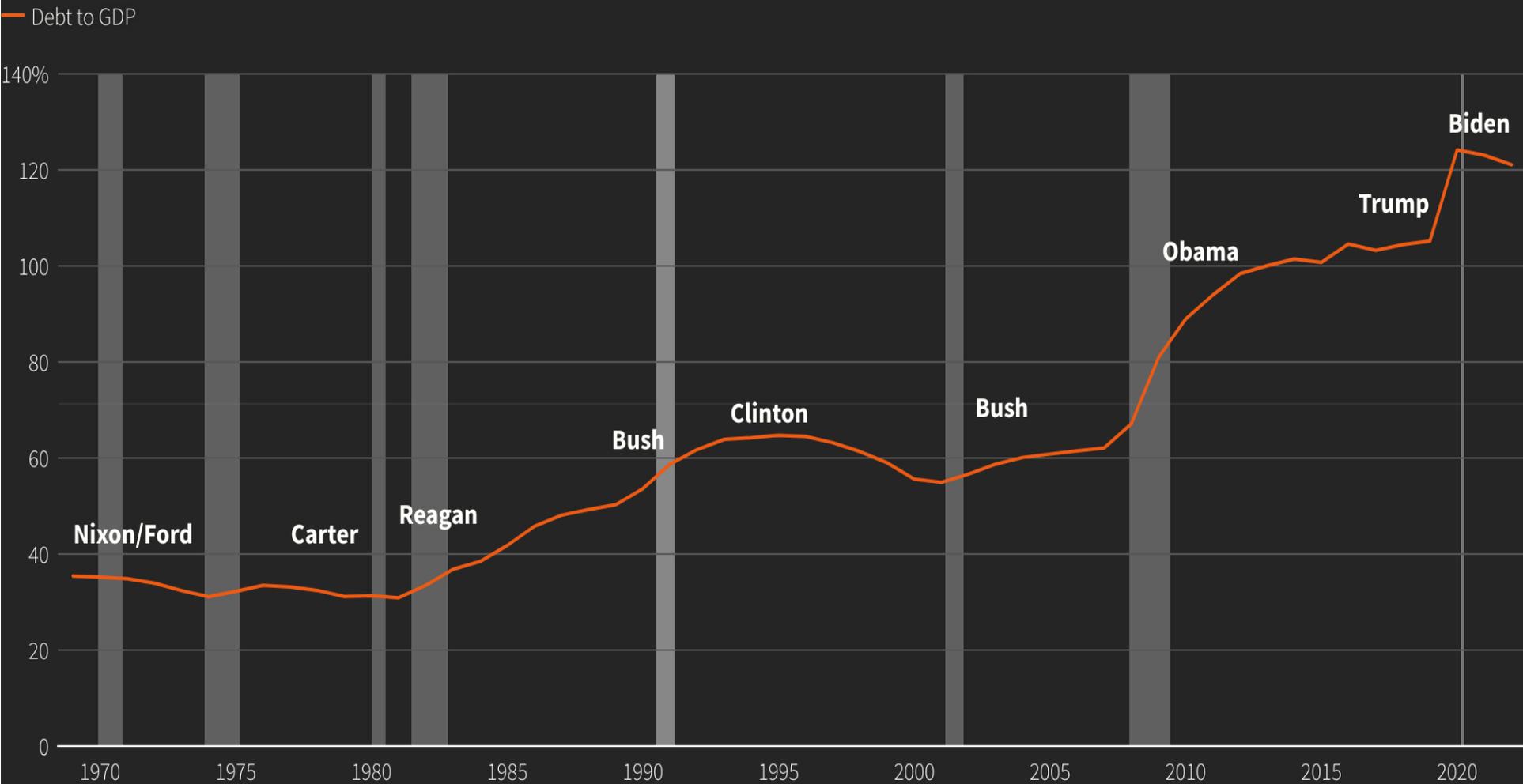
<https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1203&context=nulr>

Debt-to-GDP For New Presidents



Sources: CBO and OMB Budget Data

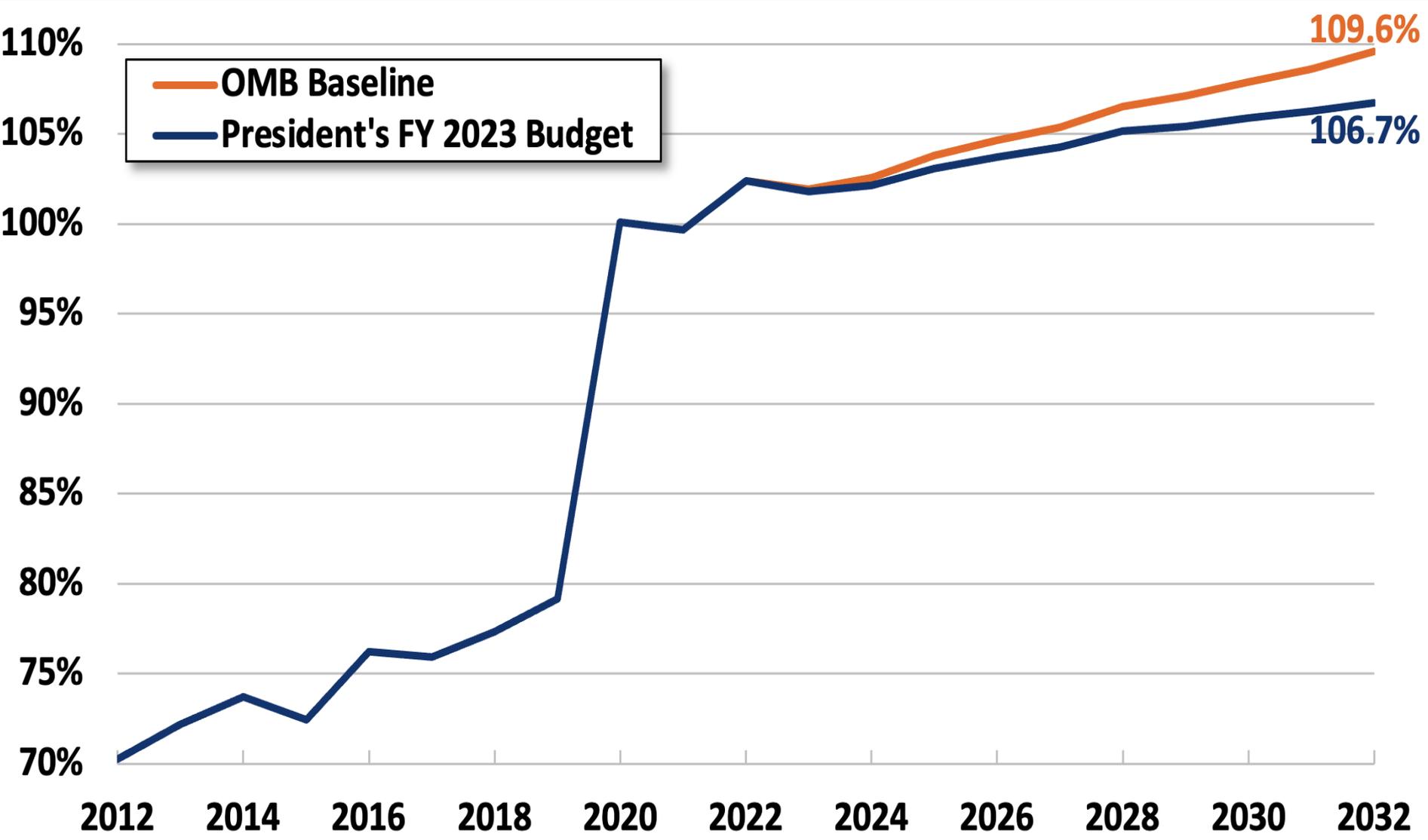
Federal Debt to GDP by President



Gray bars denote recession.

Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Fig. 1: Debt Held by the Public Under the President's Budget and OMB Baseline (Percent of GDP)



Sources: Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget.