



Bush (43), and Obama

43.





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

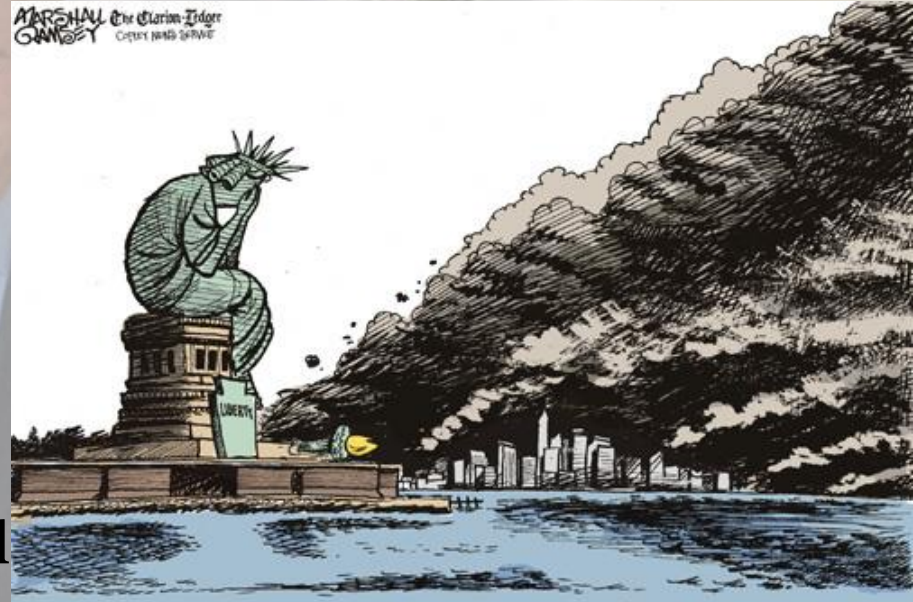
Foreign Policy

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

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”



- 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



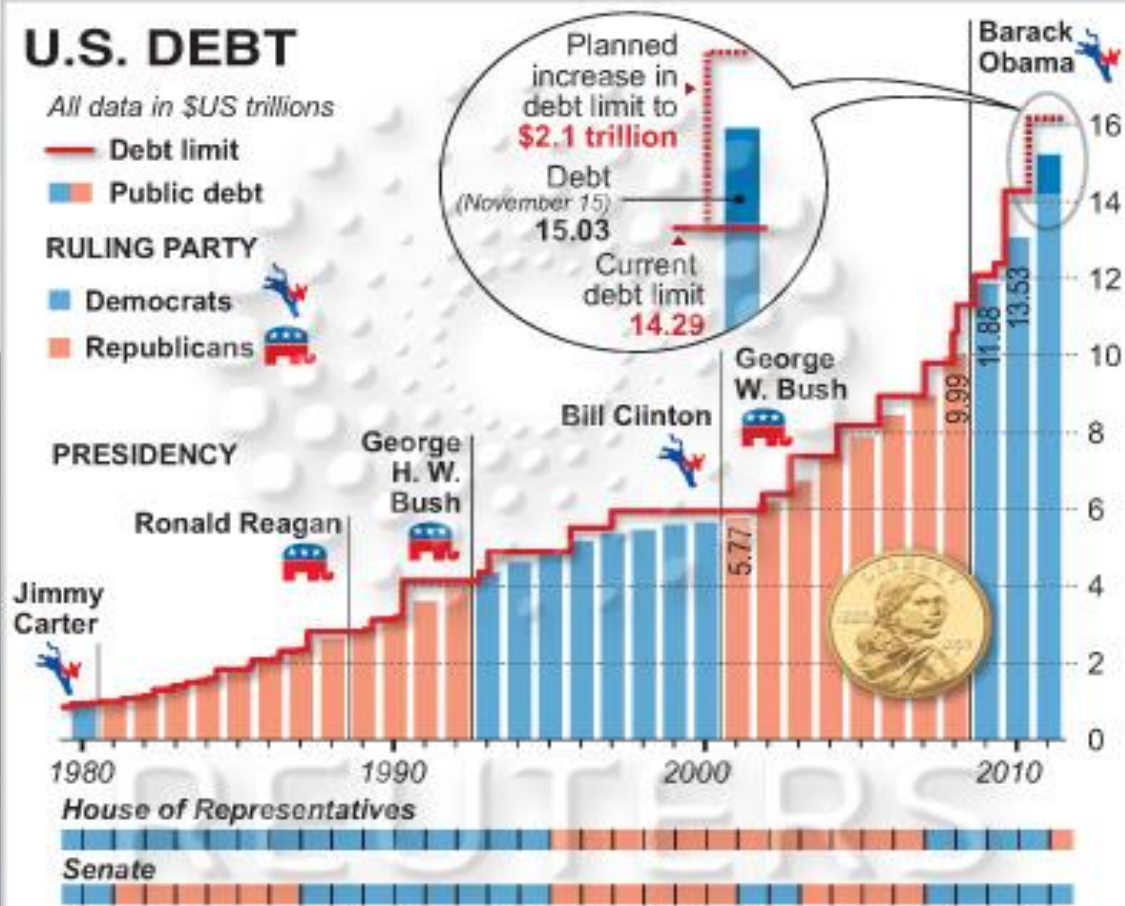
Domestic Policy

- 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
- Served three terms as Illinois state Senate
- U.S. Senator in 2005-2008

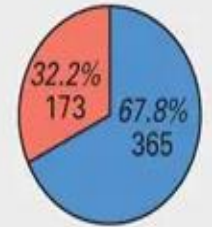
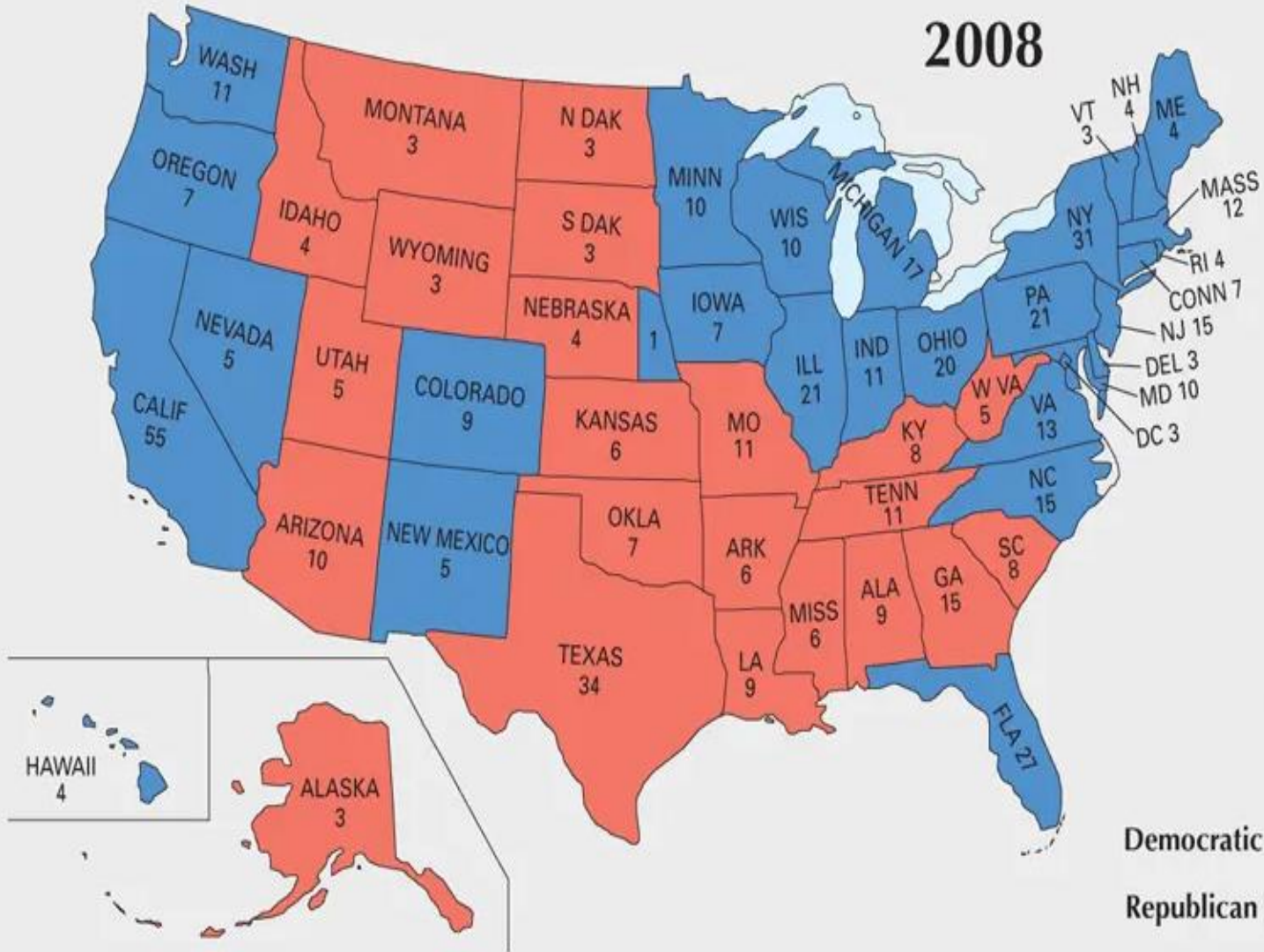


Election of 2008

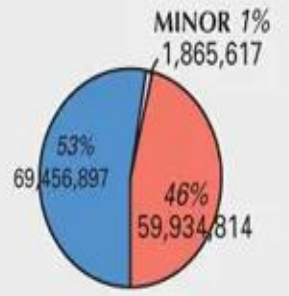


- Barack Obama become the first black male to win a major party nomination and to be elected to the office of presidency when he defeated Senator John McCain



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](#)



If you have health insurance, then you don't have to do anything. If you've got health insurance through your employer, you can keep your health insurance, keep your choice of doctor, keep your plan.

— Barack Obama —

Foreign Policy

- During his campaign had 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](#)