



# Chapter Thirty-One

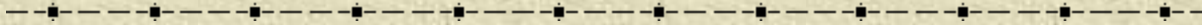
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**Toward a  
Transnational  
America, since 1988**

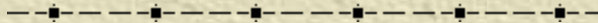
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Part One:



**Introduction**



# Chapter Focus Questions

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- ✦ What was American foreign policy like after the cold war?
- ✦ What was the impact of the new economy and the boom of the 1990s?
- ✦ What revelations resulted from the 2000 Census?
- ✦ What characterized the Clinton presidency and resurgent conservatism?
- ✦ What was globalization?
- ✦ How did international terrorism affect the United States?



## Part Two:

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# **The World Trade Center, New York as a Transnational Community**

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# World Trade Center, New York

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- ✦ In August 2001, Telmo Alvear became a waiter at the Windows on the World restaurant located in the North Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City.
- ✦ The restaurant was part of the transnational community created by the more than 50,000 people who work at the World Trade Center.
- ✦ Many of the firms renting space in the twin towers were multinational operations from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- ✦ The WTC symbolized American leadership and the belief that transnationalism would lay the foundation for a new world order based on democratic liberalism.



## Part Three:

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**“A Kinder, Gentler Nation”**

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# The Persian Gulf War

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- ✦ When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, President Bush formed a coalition:
  - ◆ to prevent Iraqi aggression against Saudi Arabia.
  - ◆ to enforce economic sanctions against Iraq.
- ✦ Bush shifted policies and prepared for an offensive war to drive out Iraq.
- ✦ The U.S. relentlessly bombed Iraq, driving it from Kuwait.
- ✦ The war left Iraq devastated and, although Saddam Hussein remained in power, wreaked ecological havoc in the region.
- ✦ Mideast tensions worsened due to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.
- ✦ A Saudi millionaire built the Al Qaeda terrorist network.

# The Election of 1992

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- ✦ A harsh recession and soaring national debt had eroded public confidence in the Bush administration.
- ✦ Democrats turned to centrist governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, who stressed the need for fiscal responsibility, a middle-class tax cut and new jobs.
- ✦ Billionaire H. Ross Perot won support for his independent bid with his folksy style and criticism of Washington insiders.
- ✦ Clinton focused on the “forgotten middle class” in an effort to return Reagan Democrats to the fold.
- ✦ Clinton won 43 percent of the vote to Bush’s 38 percent and Perot’s 19 percent.
- ✦ [Map: The Election of 1992](#)





Part Four:

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**The Clinton Presidency**

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# A “New Democrat” in the White House

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- ✦ Clinton broke political gridlock by positioning himself between warring Democrats and Republicans.
- ✦ Often backing ideas friendly to Republicans, he clashed with liberal Democrats.
- ✦ Clinton unsuccessfully promoted a plan for national health insurance:
- ✦ Clinton pushed through a series of trade agreements (NAFTA and GATT), which raised fears that jobs were being sent abroad while environmental standards were being weakened at home.

# Clinton's Internationalism

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- ✦ Transnational human rights emerged as another issue.
- ✦ Human rights became factors in trade and diplomatic relations (i.e.: China).
- ✦ International organizations were formed to work with the United Nations to aid victims of abuses.
- ✦ Clinton connected human rights to the expansion of democracy.
- ✦ Heightened ethnic nationalism and religious fundamentalism created unrest across the globe, especially in the Balkans.
- ✦ The civil war in Kosovo between the Serbians and Albanians was the worst foreign crisis of Clinton's presidency.
- ✦ After negotiations failed, NATO bombed Serbian forces that eventually withdrew from Kosovo. Their president was indicted on war crimes.

# Presiding over the Boom

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- ✦ The greatest stimulus to the economy was the soaring stock market, led by “tech” stocks.
- ✦ The resulting economic boom created huge profits.
- ✦ Critics noted the ill effects of downsizing and the pay disparity between white- and blue-collar workers plus the continuing decline of blue-collar jobs.



# Part Five

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## **Changing American Communities**

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# Silicon Valley

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- ✦ Silicon Valley in northern California emerged as the capital of the American computer industry.
- ✦ Although Silicon Valley resembled a suburb, it was a sprawl of two dozen cities that expanded rapidly as the computer industry grew.
- ✦ Silicon Valley divided along class lines:
  - ◆ the white male managers and engineers lived in affluent communities.
  - ◆ non-unionized, Latino, and Asian workers lived in poor communities.
- ✦ By the early 1990s, the Silicon Valley had lost its boomtown atmosphere as competition increased.

# An Electronic Culture

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## ✦ Map: Cyberspace

- ✦ New computer and telecommunications technologies transformed American cultural life.
- ✦ VCRs and cable TV revolutionized the American entertainment industry.
- ✦ Music videos on MTV transformed the music business.
- ✦ The most revolutionary aspect of the electronic culture was the Internet.
- ✦ The new information technologies gave rise to a media community that transcended national boundaries, but the ownership of media corporations became increasingly concentrated.

# The New Immigrants and Their Communities

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## ✦ Media: Continent of Birth

- ✦ The 2000 census showed that the U.S. population had experienced greater growth than any other decade.
- ✦ More than one-third of the population increase came from foreign immigration, the Latino and Asian populations increasing by 70 percent.
- ✦ Most Mexican immigrants struggled in low-paying, often dangerous jobs.
- ✦ Another trend was intermarriage and a growing number of multiracial Americans.
- ✦ Hispanics were the largest minority group among those 17 and younger.
- ✦ Immigrants formed their own communities and maintained their group identity.





Part Six:

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**A New Age of Anxiety**

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# The Racial Divide

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- ✦ In the spring of 1992, rioting broke out when a jury acquitted four Los Angeles police officers who had been videotaped beating a black motorist.
- ✦ Rioters included Latino and African Americans.
- ✦ The rioting revealed the animosity between Korean storeowners and African-American customers who targeted the stores for destruction.
- ✦ For many African Americans, the Los Angeles situation seemed more desperate than ever and whites seemed not to care at all.
- ✦ The widening racial divide was also shown by the trial of O.J. Simpson and the percentage of racial minorities in prisons, especially African-American males.

# The Forces of Fear

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- ✦ During the 1990s and early twenty-first century, random violence and terrorism escalated, culminating with the catastrophic September 11, 2001, suicide attacks. The 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane was followed by the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, which brought terrorism home to the United States.
- ✦ In 1998, Middle East terrorists car-bombed U.S. embassies in Africa.
- ✦ The 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City was different in that domestic terrorists were responsible.

# The Culture Wars

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- ✦ Culture wars erupted over a struggle to define American values that pit conservative Republicans and Clinton Democrats.
- ✦ Conservatives supported what they called universal, traditional values.
- ✦ Democrats supported multiculturalism.
- ✦ Conflicts also arose over affirmative action, gays, and women.
- ✦ A growing controversy arose over stem-cell research.

# High Crimes and Misdemeanors

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- ✦ Throughout his political career, Bill Clinton faced questions of morality.
- ✦ The culture wars heated up as the 1994 election approached.
- ✦ Led by Newt Gingrich, a new breed of younger conservative Republicans swept the Congressional elections of 1994.
- ✦ Republicans promoted a “Contract with America” to cut welfare and eliminate affirmative action.
- ✦ Failure to compromise on a budget in 1995 shut the government down and proved a public relations disaster for the GOP.

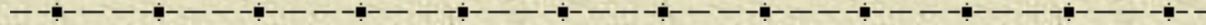
# High Crimes and Misdemeanors

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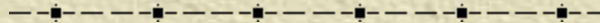
- ✦ Bill Clinton proved adept at co-opting Republican issues such as ending big government and balancing the budget.
- ✦ In the 1996 presidential election, Clinton projected a reasonable, conservative image and portrayed Republicans as conservative radicals.
- ✦ Clinton easily beat GOP candidate Bob Dole and independent Ross Perot.
- ✦ In 1998, a sex scandal embroiled the White House, leading to impeachment inquiries. The midterm election resulted in Democratic gains, due in part to the economic prosperity.
- ✦ The Republican House voted to impeach Clinton for perjury and obstruction of justice but failed to convict him.



Part Seven:



**The New Millennium**



# The Election of 2000

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## ✦ Map: The Election of 2000

- ✦ Following a dull campaign, the 2000 election ended with dramatic controversy.
- ✦ Al Gore won the popular vote, but George W. Bush won the electoral vote because of a disputed decision in Florida that eventually involved a Supreme Court ruling.
- ✦ Bush pushed through a tax cut that benefited the wealthy.
- ✦ Bush also moved quickly to reverse environmental decisions made by Clinton.



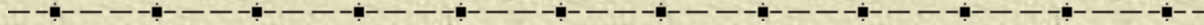
# Global Warming

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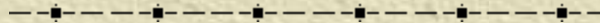
- ✦ Bush opposed the Kyoto Protocol on global warming that had been signed by 178 other nations.
- ✦ Globalization was studied for its economic and political implications.
- ✦ Globalization's role in the spread of free trade and democracy was debated.



# Part Eight



## **War On Terror**



# Terrorist Attack on America

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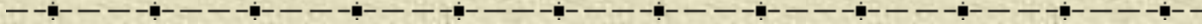
- ✦ On September 11, 2001, hijackers crashed two jetliners into the World Trade Center towers and another crashed into the Pentagon.
- ✦ A fourth plane was diverted from its mission by courageous passengers and crashed in Pennsylvania.
- ✦ The devastation was horrendous and played continuously on TV.
- ✦ President Bush declared the attacks an act of war and received congressional approval to take whatever action necessary to capture the responsible parties.
- ✦ In the aftermath, major public events were cancelled or postponed, skyscrapers were evacuated, and airports were closed.
- ✦ The following day, Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda were identified as the prime suspects.

# Reshaping U.S. Foreign Policy

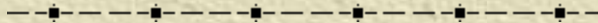
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- ✦ Osama bin Laden was thought to be hiding in Afghanistan and supported by the Taliban government.
- ✦ Bush dispatched aircraft carriers to the Persian Gulf and began air strikes on Afghanistan.

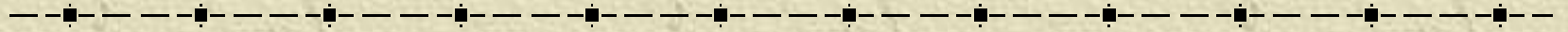
# Part Nine:



# Conclusion



# Toward a Transnational America



## ✦ Media: Chronology