Aditya Patel

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APUSH

Period 4

05/03/2021

CH 32 FQs Domestic & Foreign Policy of Bush Sr, Clinton, Bush Jr

1. Bush Sr. Domestic Policy Developments

Despite the Savings and Loans Crisis and the Iran-Contra Scandal at the end of the Reagan Presidency, public support in the Republican cause didn’t die down, and Bush was a surprisingly good campaigner, and ended up with an 8-point lead on election night. Despite Democratic Control of Congress, legislation was made to solve the loans crisis and he even increased taxes to control the deficit, what many thoughts lost Bush his second election. Bush also had no response to the Recession of 1990, which decimated the middle class with rising healthcare costs and bankrupted a huge number of corporations. Bush also continued the War on Drugs started by Reagan and claimed that the number of drug users declined by 30% since Reagan began it, and that efforts by police, teachers, religious leaders, and activists lead this decline (President H. W. Bush’s Address to the Nation on the National Drug Control Strategy , pg 1).Despite the large number of criminalization, the amount of drugs used in the United States was the same, calling into question the efficacy of this “War”. However, Bush’s presidency was cut short.

1. Bush Sr. Foreign Policy

After the chaos in the Middle East after the Reagan Administration, the first Bush Administration was much more successful with their foreign policy. The First Gulf War was a resounding success for the United States, with Bush leading the country into war against a dictatorial and aggressive Saddam Hussein and Iraq, which had invaded Kuwait earlier. A combination of sanctions, military attacks, and diplomacy left Iraq in tatters in one of the United States most successful operations. However, this war was the first of many that encouraged Islamic Terrorists to begin to despise the United States. Apart from the Middle East, Bush had also to deal with the dictator of Panama, General Manuel Noriega, declaring war on the United States. Similarly, to Iraq, Bush led the soldiers into a quick war to restore a democracy in the region with the support of the United States (President George H. W. Bush’s Address to the Nation on the Panama Invasion, pg 2). Bush’s foreign policy records is one of the most successful of any president in recent history.

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1. Clinton Domestic Policy Developments

The election of 1992 marked the end of the Reagan Revolution, as Democrats controlled all of Washington for the first time in over a decade. Bill Clinton came out of the gate with very progressive goals, however with the loss of control in Congress just two years later, Clinton became a much more centrist candidate. Hillary Clinton championed a health-care reform for nationwide coverage but was blocked by Congress. Clinton was able to pass bipartisan legislation such as the 1994 Crime Bill and the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act. The 1994 Crime Bill continued the War on Drugs by continuing to give large quantities of money to police, and it gave extremely harsh sentences for even one time drug users (Clinton Crime Bill 1994 Provisions NY TIMES, pg 1 ). Just 20 years later, this bill seems horrific. However, Clinton was able to negotiate with the Republican Congress into eliminating the deficit, ending his presidency with a powerful economy and stable country.

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1. Clinton Foreign Policy Developments

American Foreign Policy didn’t change many objectives with the election of Clinton, but he faced many challenges during his term. He led over the sole superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the continued economic dominance of the United States. One of his signature policies was NAFTA, a free trade agreement across North America. He continued his work on deconstructing economic borders across the world with trade agreements. Clinton also worked to negotiate peace during the Bosnian Civil War, and American negotiators brought peace to the region. Clinton was unable to get the Americans to join the Kyoto Protocol, a devastating blow to the worldwide anti-climate change community, even though the Protocol didn’t have many specific goals, but just a promise to improve (Kyoto Protocol, pg2). Clinton also faced incredibly challenges in Kosovo, where a Civil War erupted in 1998. Clinton sent NATO peacekeeping forces and was able to recreate peace in the region.

1. Bush Jr Domestic Policy Developments

The Election of 2000 was one of the closest ever, and was given to Bush Jr. after the Supreme Court, which had a right-wing majority, certified it for him. This was due to counting votes in Florida taking over a month, and still being too close to call, but in Bush’s favor by a few votes. Bush Jr. campaigned heavily on a new wave of Bush Tax Cuts, allowed by Clinton’s massive destruction of the deficit. Bush was a much more conservative president than he campaigned, as he was surrounded by powerful conservative republicans. The Bush Administration took conservative stances on trying to ban gay marriage and promoting guns. They were encouraged by an even more powerful evangelical presence behind them. Bush led America into a new era with the Digital Revolution and the continued growth of businesses and the stock market. However, due to a variety of factors, the stock market crash and housing bubble burst in 2008, leading to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression (President George W. Bush’s Address to the Nation on the National Economy, pg 1).

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1. Bush Jr Foreign Policy Developments

After the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Islamic Fundamentalism began to influence much of the world. Many of these militants resorted to terrorism to combat hatred of Western influences in the Middle East. The United States was abruptly woken to this on 9/11/2001 when terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center. Bush Jr. responded with a “War against Terrorism”. American forces spread across the Middle East in pursuit of Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden, those responsible for the September 11th Attacks, beginning the longest series of wars in American History. Bush also took domestic action in response, with the Patriot Act being the most invasive legislation passed by government into regular Americans’ lives (The Patriot Act, pg 7). Bush Jr. also began the Iraq War, falsely claiming they were in possession of “weapons of mass destruction.” After not finding any and declaring the war won, soldiers remained there until 2009, becoming one of the most unpopular aspects of Bush’s presidency.