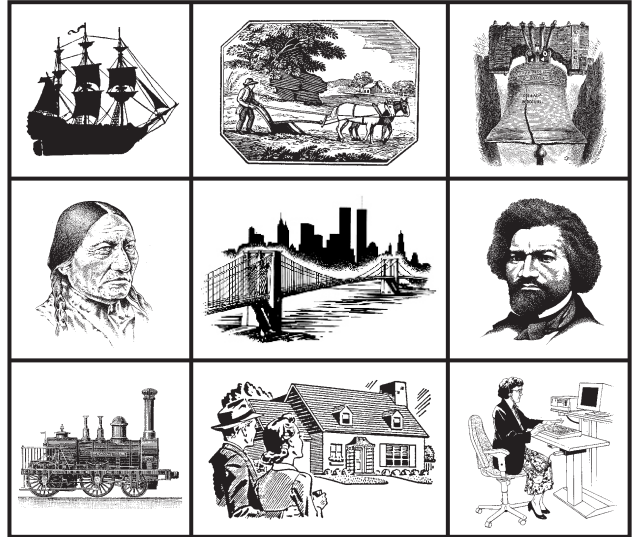

Section 8: The New Millennium 2000 - Present

Fasttrack to America's Past

Age of Discovery to Present 7th Edition



An interactive learning guide for students of U.S. History

by David Burns

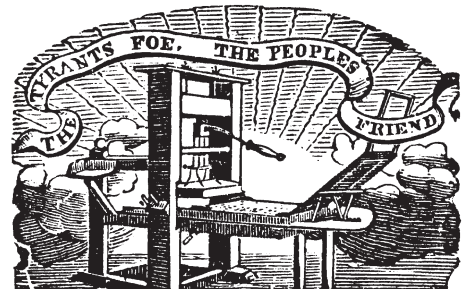


The Teacher Key and additional resources to
use with these pages are at:

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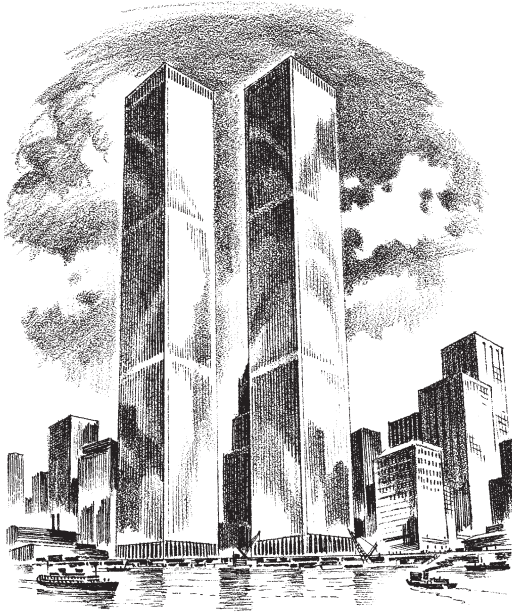
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9

The New Millennium: 2000 - Present



“Let’s roll!”

“The lesson of 9/11 is that America is truly exceptional. We withstood the worst attack of our history, intended by our enemies to destroy us. Instead, it drew us closer and made us more united. Our love for freedom and one another has given us a strength that surprised even ourselves”

“Every nation in every region now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.”



“Hope and Change”



“We will outstretch the hand if you unclench your fist.”

Study Checklist

When you have completed this section, you should be able to:



Identify and explain the context of the **Famous Quotes** shown on the Section Title Page.



Identify and explain the importance of the **Famous Names and Terms** listed on the topic summary pages in this section.



Identify on a map and explain the importance of the **Famous Places** shown on the maps in this section.



Explain the general sequence of events in this period and tell from memory the **Famous Years**:

- The World Trade Center was attacked (**2001**).
- Barack Obama was elected president (**2008**).

Take a Practice Test!



A multiple-choice practice test for this section can be found on the Internet support site.

Textbook Page References:



Discuss or write briefly on such questions and topics as these:

1. *What group was responsible for the 9/11 attacks? Who was its leader? What motivated the group to attack the U.S.?*
2. *How did Americans respond during the 9/11 attacks, and in the days just after the attacks?*
3. *What were the main goals that America had in its decision to invade Afghanistan and Iraq? Were those goals accomplished?*
4. *What happened to the American economy in 2007? What impact did that have? What did the federal government do to help?*
5. *What were some of the reasons why Barack Obama appealed to so many voters in the 2008 presidential election?*
6. *What did President Obama mean when, speaking about violent demonstrations against the U.S. in some Middle Eastern countries, he declared, “We will outstretch the hand if you unclench your fist.”*

Timeline 2000 - Present

As you study the timeline, fill in the blanks using the word bank at the bottom of the page.

9/11 terrorist attacks - The attacks were carried out by the _____ terrorists.

U.S. invades Afghanistan - We went in to get al Qaeda leader _____ bin Laden, shut down terrorist training camps operating in Afghanistan, and help the country create a better government.

U.S. invades Iraq - American leaders wanted to overthrow the dictator _____ Hussein, and help Iraq create a better government.

Facebook begins - People all over the country liked the way they could keep up with their _____ with this new online social media.

YouTube begins - The video service is just one example of the many _____ based businesses that were introduced in this decade.

iPhone 1 introduced - The new “smartphones” combined a mobile telephone with a miniature _____ and touch screen.

The Great Recession - It was the worst economic _____ since 1940, and its effects lingered for many years after the recession was declared over.

Affordable Care Act - It set up a government-run health insurance system that is usually called _____.

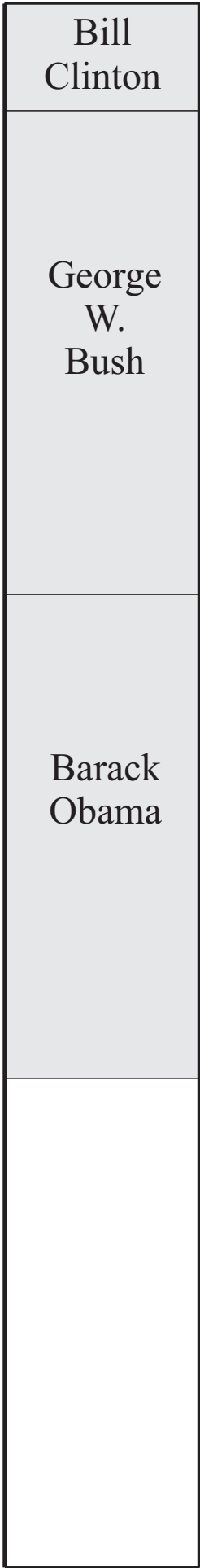
bin Laden killed - The terrorist leader fled Afghanistan to the nearby country of Pakistan, where U.S. Navy _____ attacked his hideout and shot him.

U.S. out of Iraq - Some critics said we should have _____ until Iraq was more stable. After we left, terrorist groups began taking control of parts of the country.

Boston Marathon bombing - It was proof that radical Islamic terrorism was still a deadly _____ to Americans.

Obergefell v. Hodges - The Supreme Court case declared same-sex _____ a right.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: *al Qaeda, computer, downturn, friends, Internet, marriage, Obamacare, Osama, Saddam, SEALs, stayed, threat*



TIMELINE: THE NEW MILLENNIUM

DECADE: 2000s THE RISE OF TERRORISM

George W. Bush, 9/11 attacks, World Trade Center, Pentagon, Osama bin Laden, jihad, Islam, Iraq War, Great Recession, Barack Obama



The start of the year 2000 appeared to most Americans as a milestone deserving a great celebration. The United States and its open, democratic society stood as one of the world's great success stories. The tyrannical systems that bloodied the world in the century just past – fascism and communism – had failed in their challenge. In the new millennium, however, America was forced to confront a deadly new threat: terrorism from the Middle East.

The 2000 presidential election results were so close the Supreme Court had to step in to resolve disputes about the counting of ballots. Republican George W. Bush (a son of George H.W. Bush, the president in the late 1980s and early 1990s) was finally declared the winner.

Less than a year later, on September 11, 2001, Americans watched in horror as terrorists crashed two hijacked jetliners into the twin World Trade Center towers in New York City. Terrorists from the same group crashed a third jetliner into the Pentagon building, just outside Washington, D.C. Over 3,000 people were killed in the attacks, including those on a fourth jetliner headed to Washington, D.C. The passengers on that flight, aware of what happened to the other planes, started a heroic fight against the hijackers. The jetliner crashed in a field in Pennsylvania during the struggle.

The attacks were organized by Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi Arabian who had established terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. He and his organization, called al Qaeda, followed a fanatical form of Islam that preached a jihad, or holy war, against the United States.

Within hours of the attacks reports of incredible heroism began spreading. Hundreds of firefighters, police, and emergency workers had begun rescue attempts in the burning buildings. As the World Trade Center buildings collapsed, many were still inside, still trying to save lives. American flags suddenly began appearing outside millions of homes all across the country in a display of pride and unity.



President Bush called the attacks an act of war. He declared that America wanted bin Laden “Dead or Alive.” The terrorist was hiding in Afghanistan, where he had the support of that

country's ruling group, called the Taliban. The Taliban itself was based on radical Islamic beliefs that among other things did not allow girls to go to school, and considered listening to music a crime.

American troops, together with soldiers from some other countries, entered Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban and search for bin Laden. Some Afghan groups helped the effort as well, but bin Laden avoided capture for years. He was finally cornered in a house in Pakistan and killed by U.S. Navy SEALs in 2011.



The determination to stop terrorism also turned U.S. attention to the brutal ruler of Iraq, Saddam Hussein. Early in 2003 America, with help from some other nations, invaded Iraq and forced the dictator from power. The overall goal of the action in Iraq was the same as in Afghanistan. We wanted to stop extremist groups that supported terrorism, and help the people in those countries create new democratic governments with fair elections.

President Bush, riding high in public opinion, easily won re-election in 2004. The fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, however, was not going very well. The goal of building stable governments there began to look like overly wishful thinking. Old hatreds among different groups within the Middle East itself often erupted in murderous conflict.

At home, the American economy went into a very bad downturn in 2007. Many businesses had to lay off workers. Unemployment figures rose sharply. House values dropped all over the country. Many banks were caught in the squeeze as business and home loans could not be paid back. The downturn was so bad it was soon being called the "Great Recession."

That was the disappointing picture as the 2008 election campaigns began. Senator Barack Obama, an African American, campaigned on a promise of "Hope and Change." His views appealed to many people who by this time favored scaling back America's intervention in the Middle East. Many voters were also attracted by Obama's inspiring speeches and the fact that if elected, he would be America's first black president.



The election results that November gave the Democrat a solid victory. President Obama discovered, however, that inspiring speeches about world peace and his personal visits to the Middle East did not suddenly turn America's enemies into friends.

The good news was that billions of dollars of federal government loans to banks and businesses did help end the recession. As the decade came to a close, President Obama assured Americans that the country remained strong and true to its values. The challenges confronting America and the president, however, were proving to have no quick or easy solutions.

GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

President Bush used his State of the Union address in January, 2002, to outline the status of the war on terrorism. The U.S. had already formed a coalition, or alliance, of nations willing to fight against terrorism. These are condensed excerpts.

As we gather tonight, our nation is at war, our economy is in recession, and the civilized world faces unprecedented dangers. Yet the state of our Union has never been stronger.



We last met in an hour of shock and suffering. In four short months, our nation has comforted the victims, begun to rebuild New York and the Pentagon, rallied a great coalition, captured, arrested, and rid the world of thousands of terrorists, destroyed Afghanistan's terrorist training camps, saved a people from starvation, and freed a country from brutal oppression.

Our cause is just, and it continues. Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears, and showed us the true scope of the task ahead. We have seen the depth of our enemies' hatred in videos, where they laugh about the loss of innocent life. And the depth of their hatred is equaled by the madness of the destruction they design.

We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities, and thorough descriptions of landmarks in America and throughout the world.

What we have found in Afghanistan confirms that, far from ending there, our war against terror is only beginning. Most of the 19 men who hijacked planes on September

the 11th were trained in Afghanistan's camps and so were tens of thousands of others. Thousands of dangerous killers, schooled in the methods of murder, often supported by outlaw regimes [governments], are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs, set to go off without warning.

Our nation will continue to be steadfast and patient and persistent in the pursuit of two great objectives. First, we will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt terrorist plans, and bring terrorists to justice.

Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld operates in remote jungles and deserts, and hides in the centers of large cities.

Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction. Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September the 11th. But we know their true nature.

North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens.

Iran aggressively pursues these weapons and exports terror, while an unelected few repress the Iranian people's hope for freedom.

Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America and to support terror. This is a regime that has already used poison gas to murder thousands of its own citizens, leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children.

States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a

grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United States. In any of these cases, the price of indifference [doing nothing] would be catastrophic.

During these last few months, I've been humbled and privileged to see the true character of this country in a time of testing. Our enemies believed America was weak and materialistic, that we would splinter in fear and selfishness. They were as wrong as they are evil.

The American people have responded magnificently, with courage and compassion, strength and resolve. As I have met the heroes, hugged the families, and looked into the tired faces of rescuers, I have stood in awe of the American people.

We have a great opportunity during this time of war to lead the world toward the values that will bring lasting peace.

All fathers and mothers, in all societies, want their children to be educated, and live free from poverty and violence. No people on Earth yearn to be oppressed, or aspire to servitude, or eagerly await the midnight knock of the secret police.

If anyone doubts this, let them look to Afghanistan, where the Islamic "street" greeted the fall of tyranny [the terrorists] with song and celebration. Let the skeptics look to Islam's own rich history, with its centuries of learning, and tolerance and progress.

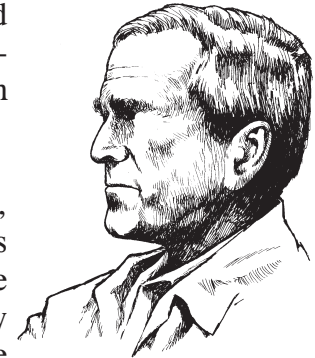
America will lead by defending liberty and justice because they are right and true and unchanging for all people everywhere.

No nation owns these aspirations [ideals], and no nation is exempt from them. We have no intention of imposing our culture. But America will always stand firm for the non-negotiable demands of human dignity:

the rule of law; limits on the power of the state; respect for women; private property; free speech; equal justice; and religious tolerance.

America will take the side of brave men and women who advocate [support] these values around the world, including the Islamic world, because we have a greater objective than eliminating threats and containing resentment.

We seek a just and peaceful world beyond the war on terror.

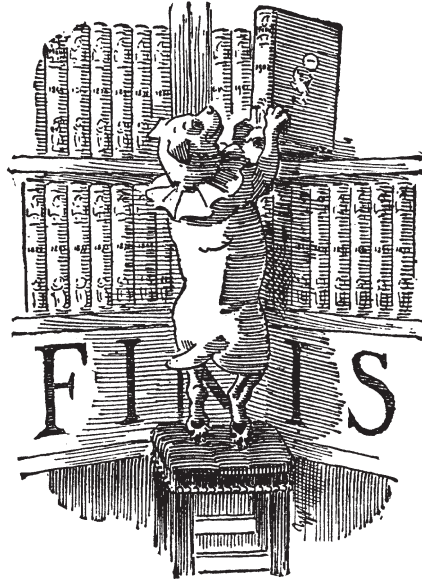


In a single instant, we realized that this will be a decisive decade in the history of liberty, that we've been called to a unique role in human events. Rarely has the world faced a choice more clear or consequential.

Our enemies send other people's children on missions of suicide and murder. They embrace tyranny and death as a cause and a creed. We stand for a different choice, made long ago, on the day of our founding. We affirm it again today. We choose freedom and the dignity of every life.

Steadfast in our purpose, we now press on. We have known freedom's price. We have shown freedom's power. And in this great conflict, my fellow Americans, we will see freedom's victory.

Group Discussion: *What does President Bush say are the main objectives or goals of America in the war on terrorism? What principles does he think will unite people, including many in the Islamic world, in the fight against terrorism?*



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