



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 10

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 810

Recent and Review (1990–Present)

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Recent and Review (1990–Present)

Introduction

The first part of this LIFEPAC® will deal with recent developments in American history since 1990. It is very difficult to analyze this part of history because it happened too recently. History can only fully be understood in perspective, or in the context of what happened before and after it. The most recent events in America do not yet have that perspective, but they can be reported pending the passage of time.

The last two sections of this LIFEPAC are a review of the year's material done in an outline form. This form deals only with major concepts and is the essence of what you should have learned this year.

Carefully study the major events of each presidency, war, and the development of any conflicts. These should be reviews for you. If any concept is not clear, look it up in the appropriate LIFEPAC or elsewhere. Do not leave yourself uncertain of any concept or event.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. List the major recent domestic and foreign political events.
2. Describe the technical advances around the turn of the century.
3. Describe the moral decline in America and list Christian organizations that are trying to fight it.
4. Describe how America was settled and became an independent nation.
5. Match the presidents with the events of their administration.
6. Describe the wars and major events of U.S. history.
7. Describe important trends in ideas and conflicts in U.S. history.
8. Describe how and when America acquired new territories.
9. Place major American historical events in chronological order.

1. RECENT AMERICA

This section is the most recent history of the United States, covering the politics at the turn of the **millennium**. This part of history is your history. Your parents lived and voted during these events. If you wish, you can ask them their opinions and ideas about what living during these times were like. Do not be surprised if some of their opinions are very strong. This is living history which is still being made. It has strong effects on the people who live through it.

This section is a snapshot of the turn from the second to third millennium after the birth of Christ. Changes in American society include changes in technology, ideas, and morals. Some of these changes are good and some are not. Whether or not these changes are good is based solely on one thing, whether or not they agree with the Word of God. As Christians, we affirm that it is our only standard.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. List the recent major domestic and foreign political events.
2. Describe the technical advances around the turn of the century.
3. Describe the moral decline in America and list Christian organizations that are trying to fight it.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

allegation (al' i gā' shən). Declare without proof.

atrocious (ə-tros' itē). A horrible event.

line-item veto (līn īt' əm vēt' ō). A government executive's power to refuse to enact a single line of or portion of a law.

millennium (mə len' ē əm). A period of a thousand years.

modem (mō' dem). An electronic device that enables a computer to send or receive information by telephone or other communication lines.

paranoid (par' ə noid). Characterized by excessive or irrational suspiciousness and distrustfulness of others.

perjury (pə' jə rē). The violation of an oath or vow by swearing to what is untrue.

software (sōft' wâr). Written or printed data, such as programs, routines, and symbolic languages, essential to the operation of computers.

trajectory (trəjek' tə rē). The path of a moving particle or body, especially in three dimensions.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



AMERICA from 1990 to Present



George H. W. Bush
1989-1993
Republican



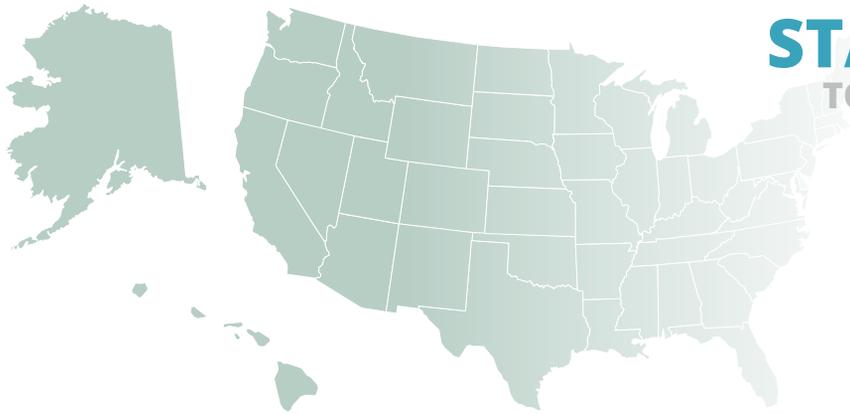
William J. Clinton
1993-2001
Democratic



George W. Bush
2001-2009
Republican



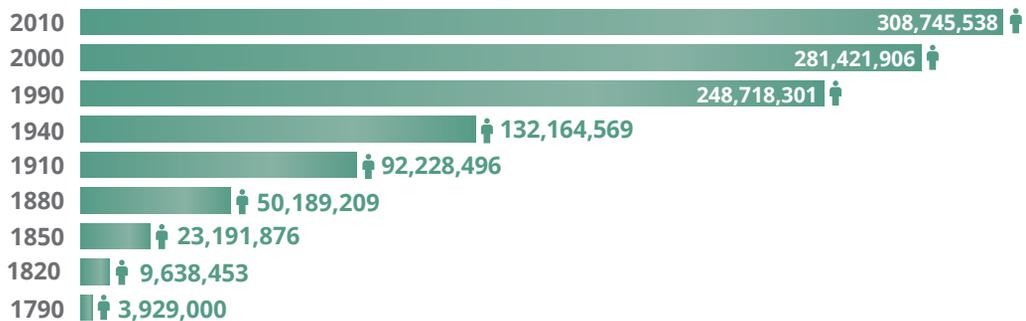
Barrack H. Obama
2009-Present
Democratic



STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

None

POPULATION of the United States of America



Politics in the 1990s

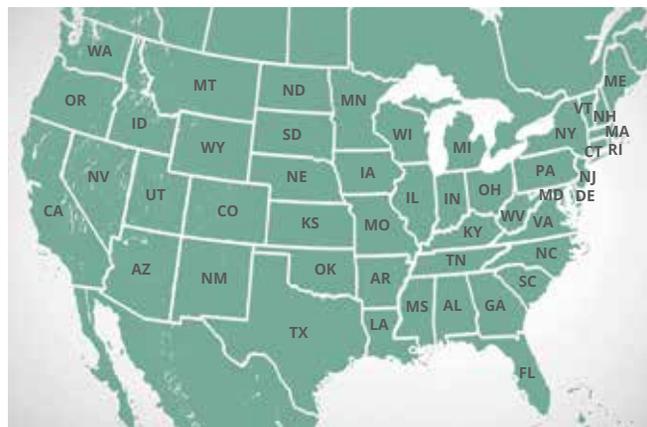
George H. W. Bush Administration. In 1989 the U.S. signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada. It allowed nations to sell their goods in the other NAFTA countries without any tariffs or restrictions. Late in 1992, the pact was expanded to include Mexico. It was ratified by the Senate in 1993, and took effect in January of 1994. Many of the provisions were introduced gradually, and its effects are still uncertain.

The African nation of Somalia collapsed into clan warfare in 1992. A drought devastated crops, and fighting made it impossible for relief agencies to distribute food. With the threat of millions starving to death, George H. W. Bush ordered the U.S. military to lead a U.N. effort to protect relief workers. The troops came in unopposed, but several soldiers died in street fighting while they were there. U.S. forces remained until 1994.

The collapse of communism caused a chain reaction all over the world. Dictators lost support since their communist backers were gone, or the U.S. no longer had reason to keep them as allies. Free elections were held in many new places in the 1990s, such as South Africa, Nicaragua, Taiwan, and Uganda. Some of those elections led to greater freedoms, but some were only brief breaks between dictators. Regardless, the early 1990s were a time of hope for the expansion of democracy all over the world. Only time would tell if the expansion would continue.

Communism did not collapse completely. In 1999 three prominent nations were still communist: North Korea, Cuba, and China. The economies of North Korea and Cuba suffered deeply from the loss of their powerful protector, the U.S.S.R., but the entrenched communist leadership refused to allow reforms.

China had begun economic reforms before 1990. It no longer had a communist economic



| The Continental United States in 2010

system, but was rapidly becoming more like the West with private ownership and control of business, but in 1989, demonstrations for political freedom were crushed by the government. Students occupying Tiananmen Square (in the Chinese capital of Beijing) who demanded free elections were attacked by the army. The student leaders were executed. In a lie by communist leaders, the government announced that students had attacked and killed soldiers in the square. Chinese leaders denied the event, although millions of people saw the demonstration and the army's attack on international television.

Election of 1992. President George H. W. Bush's popularity soared during the Persian Gulf War and he was easily renominated by the Republicans. The Democratic nomination went to the governor of Arkansas, William Jefferson Clinton. Billionaire Ross Perot ran an independent campaign that focused mainly on the growing national debt.

In 1990 the nation slipped into a recession that lasted until the 1992 election, which deeply hurt Bush's popularity. Clinton ran an intense, well-organized campaign. He won with 43% of the popular vote. George H. W. Bush drew 38% and Perot took 19% of the popular vote, illustrating how concerned many people were about the country's huge debt.

William Jefferson Clinton. Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe IV in Arkansas in 1946. His father died when he was a baby. His mother remarried when he was four and he took his stepfather’s name of Clinton. Bill attended public and private schools, showing an early interest in politics. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1968 and then studied at Oxford University in England for two years as a Rhodes Scholar. He received his law degree from Yale in 1973.

Clinton quickly turned to politics after graduation, losing in a race for the U.S. House in 1974. He served as attorney general from 1976 until he was elected governor of Arkansas in 1978. Clinton lost the governorship in 1980, but regained it two years later. He held that office until he became president in 1993.

Deficits and Debts. The end of the Cold War drew national attention back to domestic problems. The budget deficit and the national debt were two primary ones. In 1992 the deficit was \$290,000,000,000. That means the government spent 290 billion more dollars in a year than it made! The national debt that year reached \$4,064,000,000,000, which was \$15,846 per American citizen. One reason George H. W. Bush had been so helpless in the recession of 1990, was that the deficit made it difficult for the government to increase spending to help the economy.

Increased emphasis on spending controls, and a soaring taxable income, slowly reduced the deficit in the 1990s. By the end of 1996 the deficit had been reduced to \$107 billion. In 1998 the thriving U.S. economy almost eliminated the deficit. If the money taken for Social Security taxes was included, there was no deficit in 1998. However, the huge national debt still reached \$5.6 trillion by the end of 1998.

Contract with America. Under the leadership of Newt Gingrich, a Republican Congressman, the Republican Party made a major push for control of Congress in 1994. They published a



| The Aftermath in 1995 from the Bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City

list of conservative proposals called the “Contract with America.” They proposed a list of laws, including a **line-item veto**, an amendment to balance the budget, tax reforms, and term limits, to Congress within 100 days if the Republicans were given control. Many Republican candidates signed the contract, and it worked. The Congress elected in 1994 was Republican for the first time in forty years. Gingrich became Speaker of the House. The contract terms were brought before Congress, but several did not pass in the Senate.

The Republican Congress and the Democratic president did not work well together. Conflicts over just how the budget should be cut led to brief shutdowns of the government in 1995 and 1996.

The worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history took place in April of 1995. A bomb exploded in front of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The blast destroyed the front of the building and killed 168 people. Included among the dead were many small children from a daycare center inside. Timothy McVeigh,

an ex-soldier with a **paranoid** fear of the federal government, was convicted of the bombing and condemned to death.

Foreign Affairs. In 1994 Clinton ended the American Cold War policy of allowing any Cuban who escaped the island to come to the U.S. Castro, in response to the rapid disintegration of the Cuban economy, had given his people permission to leave. Thousands took advantage of the chance, leaving the island in anything that would float. Rather than try to settle so many refugees in the U.S., Clinton began a policy of returning them to Cuba.

Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere, had chosen its first freely elected president in 1990, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He was overthrown by a military coup in 1991 and exiled. After U.N. sanctions failed to restore him to power, the U.S. prepared for an invasion in 1994. Last-minute negotiations by former president Jimmy Carter led the military government to step down, and Aristide returned with the support of U.S. troops to aid in the transition.

Communism's collapse triggered a number of wars in the 1990s. Some of the worst were in Yugoslavia, the region where World War I began. Muslims, Croats, Albanians, and Serbs who hated each other had been together in

that one nation under communism. After 1990, the nation split into four parts and brutal fighting quickly followed. The wars were marked by repeated atrocities, primarily by the Serbs. The U.S. and U.N. mediated repeatedly and used air strikes to force cooperation and end the massacres. An agreement in Daytona in 1995 brought a cease fire in Bosnia, one of the new nations. However, the fighting never completely stopped and new battles broke out in Kosovo, part of Serbia, in 1998.

Elections of 1996 & 1998. After the 1990 recession, the American economy boomed as inflation stayed low. Bill Clinton rode the economic prosperity to victory over his Republican opponent Bob Dole in the 1996 election. However, the Republicans kept control of Congress both in 1996 and 1998.

After the 1998 election, the House voted to impeach Clinton on two charges of **perjury**. A trial was held in the Senate. It lasted slightly over a month. There were only three witnesses, and they all testified by video tape. Public opinion ran strongly against impeachment and the president was acquitted. The vote for impeachment did not even receive a majority of votes, let alone the two-thirds majority needed for conviction.



Give the requested information.

- 1.1 The three remaining communist nations in 1999 _____

- 1.2 Site of the Chinese army attack on student demonstrators in 1989 _____

- 1.3 Man who bombed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, 1995 _____

- 1.4 Party that won control of Congress in 1994 for the first time in forty years _____

- 1.5 Nation the U.S. sent soldiers to protect relief workers, 1992 _____

- 1.6 Free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico _____

- 1.7 Former communist nation, site of brutal wars in Serbia and Bosnia _____

- 1.8 Haiti's first freely elected president _____

- 1.9 Reason why George H. W. Bush was so popular in 1990 _____

- 1.10 Reason H. W. Bush lost his popularity between 1990 and 1992 _____

- 1.11 Document that stated the conservative goals of the Republican candidates, 1994 _____

- 1.12 Speaker of the House, 1993-1998 _____

- 1.13 The charges made against President Clinton in 1998 _____

- 1.14 The number of witnesses that testified during the Senate trial following the House vote to impeach President Clinton _____

- 1.15 How the elected president was restored in Haiti, 1994 _____

- 1.16 Amount of the deficit in 1992 _____
- 1.17 Independent candidate in 1992 that emphasized the national debt _____

- 1.18 The change in U.S. policy toward Cuban refugees in 1994 _____

- 1.19 The result of Clinton’s Senate impeachment trial in 1999 _____

- 1.20 Amount of the national debt at the end of 1998 _____

Millennium’s Last Decade

Technology. At the end of the second millennium, the most remarkable changes in American society were improvements in technology, led by incredible advances in computers. These advances led to improvements in communications, satellite usage, and medicine.

The computer has a long history. A tabulating machine was developed as early as 1888 for use in the 1890 census. The company that was created to sell that machine eventually became IBM (International Business Machines), which was the largest computer company in the world. Computer development really took off because of World War II. Both sides needed computing power to calculate weapons **trajectories** and break enemy codes. Electronic machines used for complex calculations were invaluable. However, the hard work to produce computing machines bore most of its fruit after the war.

The first general use computer was developed at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946. It was called ENIAC (**E**lectronic **N**umerical **I**ntegrator

And **C**omputer). It weighed 30 tons and covered 1,500 square feet (the size of a small house). It could do thousands of calculations per second. Any current personal computer that costs less than \$500 is faster and more powerful.

The first commercial computer was the UNIVAC 1 of the 1950s. Less than 50 of these expensive machines were sold to the U.S. government and businesses. These “first generation” computers used vacuum tubes to handle data. The second generation (beginning in the 1960s) used transistors that were smaller and faster than ungainly vacuum tubes. Smaller and faster still were integrated circuits, tiny silicon chips, developed for the third generation in the late 60s and early 70s. Fourth generation computers use microprocessors which are single chips that contain all of the basic functions of a computer. The first of these were developed in the mid-1970s.

These smaller, faster computers have expanded their influence all over the nation. They are embedded in cars to control gas flow,



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Match these people (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ Founder of Focus on the Family | a. George H. W. Bush |
| 1.02 | _____ President during the economic boom of the 1990s, faced impeachment in 1998 | b. Bill Clinton |
| 1.03 | _____ Blew up the Oklahoma Federal Building, 1995 | c. Osama bin Laden |
| 1.04 | _____ Founder of Prison Fellowship | d. Newt Gingrich |
| 1.05 | _____ Led the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, Speaker of the House (1994-1998) | e. Ross Perot |
| 1.06 | _____ Ran as a third party candidate for president in 1992, emphasized the national debt | f. Timothy McVeigh |
| 1.07 | _____ The second president whose father had been a president | g. Chuck Colson |
| 1.08 | _____ President, sent troops to Somalia to protect relief workers, lost in 1992 due to a recession | h. James Dobson |
| 1.09 | _____ Inherited an economic crisis when he took office in 2009 | i. Barack Obama |
| 1.010 | _____ Leader of Al Qaeda | j. George W. Bush |

Explain or describe each item (each answer, 5 points).

- 1.011** Improvements in technology _____

1.012 Problem caused by medical machines when people are dying _____

1.013 The event in Tiananmen Square, China in 1989 _____

1.014 Surfing the Net _____

1.015 Why divorce is so common _____

Name the item, event, nation or idea (each answer, 3 points).

1.016 _____ Letter from one computer to another

1.017 _____ Free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico

1.018 _____ List of promises made by Republicans in the 1994 election, to be fulfilled if they were elected

1.019 _____ Uses radio waves and telephone lines to reach people away from buildings

1.020 _____ The first popular home computer

1.021 _____ There was no deficit in 1998 if this was included

1.022 _____ Jimmy Carter convinced the military government to leave before a U.S. invasion

1.023 _____ A document copy sent by telephone lines

1.024 _____ Put in orbit to gather information and relay communications

1.025 _____ The first general use computer, 1946

1.026 _____ The three remaining communist nations in 1999

1.027 _____ Handled data in first generation computers

1.028 _____ The murder of children before they are born

Write true or false in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

1.029 _____ America, as a nation, is less moral in the 1990s than it was in the 1950s.

1.030 _____ Euthanasia is the greatest problem for families in the 1990s.

1.031 _____ Altair was the first computer sold for commercial use (1950s).

1.032 _____ Budget deficits were reduced in the 1990s.

1.033 _____ The end of communism brought prosperity and peace to the nation of Yugoslavia.

1.034 _____ After September 11, 2001, the Office of Homeland Security was established by President George W. Bush.

1.035 _____ Many nations that had never had free elections had them in the early 1990s.

1.036 _____ Saddam Hussein led the Al Qaeda terrorist organization.

1.037 _____ By 1998, the U.S. national debt was more than \$5,000 billion.

1.038 _____ Modern television and magazines tell Americans to do what makes them happy.

1.039 _____ The September 11 terrorists flew airplanes in buildings.

1.040 _____ The Taliban were in power in Iraq before the U.S. and its allies invaded.

1.041 _____ Barack Obama was elected the first African-American U.S. President.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
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