

# The Clinton Presidency



1993-2001

# Background

In the Presidential election of 1992, Bill Clinton successfully united different groups within the Democratic Party to **end twelve years of Republican rule.**

The public believed President **Bush had not done enough to fight the recession.** The criticisms of third-party candidate Ross Perot regarding the national debt helped weaken Bush's prestige.

Clinton was elected with **43% of the popular vote.**

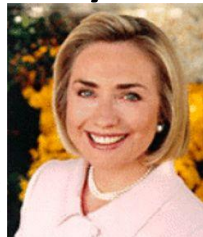
# Clinton's Domestic Policy

Clinton had an ambitious agenda of reform, but like many Presidents, he was unable to obtain Congressional support.

- **The Budget Deficit.** Clinton's first budget limited federal spending, increased income taxes for wealthy Americans, raised the gasoline tax and increased the Earned Income tax Credit for working class families.
- After Republicans gained power in Congress in the midterm elections of '94, **Clinton adopted some Republican issues** such as welfare reform.
- Throughout his term in office, Clinton and Congress were so successful that, combined with **strong economic growth**, the nation began to have **budget surpluses** for the first time in many years.

# Clinton's Domestic Policy cont.

- **Health Care Reform.** Clinton appointed his wife **Hillary** to head a task force whose goal was to guarantee every American health insurance. Many plans were proposed but **none were acceptable to Congress.**
- **NAFTA.** The North American Free Trade Agreement was pushed through Congress by Clinton, creating a **favorable trade association with Mexico and Canada.** Tariffs were phased out.
- **Economic Recovery.** Clinton's policies and the growing computer and Internet-related industries restored the economy. Employment rose to historic highs, consumer spending and business profits soared.



# Scandal and Impeachment

Clinton was **elected to a second term in 1996**. In less than a year he became the subject of a **major scandal**. A federal prosecutor, who had been investigating Clinton's financial affairs during his governorship in Arkansas, was given information about a **sexual encounter between the President and a White House intern**.

The prosecution had later determined that **the President had lied under oath** about the matter, and recommended impeachment.

The **Republican-dominated House of Representatives voted to impeach the President**. However, the vote in the **Senate fell short of the 2/3 majority required** to remove him from office.

# Clinton's Foreign Policy

- **Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Kosovo.** The end of the Cold War renewed ethnic tensions in Yugoslavia, which had split into several different states. Serb nationalists attacked Croatia, as well as Muslims in Bosnia. When Serbs persecuted Muslims in Kosovo, Clinton spearheaded the use of NATO forces, which bombed Serbia and brought an end to the bloodshed.