

**Directions:** Review a sampling of key events from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. While we won't have a chance to study these events in depth, I wanted to provide you some highlights of the last 40+ years of US History. The timeline is available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-16759233>. I have edited the original list to focus a bit further.

I have also included an optional writing activity that will help you think about the lasting effects some of these events have had on your own life – see below.

### Historical Event Highlights – 1980s

*Optional Videos:* [1980s Crash Course #1](#), [1980s Crash Course #2](#)

1980 November - Republican Party's Ronald Reagan elected president and goes on to adopt a tough anti-communist policy abroad, a dramatic increase in defense spending, and tax-cutting policies at home.

1981 August – The first widely used personal computer was introduced, IBM model 5150. It would be the basis for all personal computers that would follow.

1986 January - Space shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after takeoff from Cape Canaveral. All seven crew members are killed. Manned space flights are suspended until September 1988.

1986 - US warplanes bomb Libyan cities. "Irangate" scandal uncovered, revealing that proceeds from secret US arms sales to Iran were used illegally to fund Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

1987 October - Black Friday On October 19, the stock market collapsed. The Dow plunged an astonishing 22.6%, the biggest one-day percentage loss in history. Even bigger than the 1929 stock market crash, just before the Great Depression. ... However, it only took 2 to 3 years for the stock market to recover.

1988 - Reagan's vice-president, George Bush, elected president.

1989 - US troops invade Panama, oust its government and arrest its leader, one-time Central Intelligence Agency informant General Manuel Noriega, on drug-trafficking charges.

### Historical Event Highlights – 1990s

*Optional Videos:* [1990s Crash Course #1](#)

1991 January - Operation Desert Storm, made up of the United States and NATO allies, attacked Iraqi forces after the then leader of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait to take oil resources.

1991 December - The Fall of the Soviet Union, officially taking place December 25, 1991 after a deteriorating economy and multiple political and economic changes that did not have positive results.

1992 - Democratic Party candidate Bill Clinton elected president, a self-titled "moderate democrat" who supported conservative leaning economic policies and progressive social policies. Despite a sweeping republican takeover of the House and Senate during Clinton's first term, he was able to win a second presidential term.

1992 - Congress passes North American Free Trade Agreement, or Nafta, intended to create free-trade bloc among US, Canada and Mexico.

1995 - Oklahoma City bombing by far-right activists kills more than 160 people in worst ever incident of its kind in US.

1998 - Scandal over Clinton's sexual impropriety with White House worker Monica Lewinsky dominates domestic political agenda, and leads to impeachment proceedings in Congress, but is ultimately acquitted by the Senate.

1999 March-June - US plays leading role in NATO bombardment of Yugoslavia in response to Serb violence against ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo.

**Historical Event Highlights – 2000s**

Optional videos: [Crash Course 2000s #1](#), [Crash Course 2000s#2](#)

2000 November - Republican Party's George W Bush wins presidency after an extremely close election decided by one swing state: Florida; though Bush won the electoral college after a Supreme Court decision, he lost the popular vote to Al Gore by 500,000 votes.

2001 11 September - Co-ordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda terror group prompts the US to embark on a "war on terror" that includes invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. The terror group used multiple commercial airplanes to crash into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in NYC and the Pentagon.

2001 October - US leads massive campaign of air strikes against Afghanistan and helps opposition forces defeat the Taliban regime.

2002 November - President Bush signs into law a bill creating a Department of Homeland Security, the biggest reorganization of federal government in more than 50 years.

2003 March - Missile attacks on Baghdad mark the start of a US-led campaign to topple the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. US forces advance into central Baghdad in early April.

2004 May – Pictures reveal the abuse of Iraqi prisoners in US custody.

2005 August - Hundreds of people are killed when Hurricane Katrina, the most destructive storm to hit the US in decades, sweeps through gulf coast states. Much of the city of New Orleans is submerged by flood waters.

2006 March - Congress renews the USA Patriot Act, a centerpiece of the government's fight against terrorism, after months of debate about its impact on civil liberties. The government agrees to some curbs on information gathering.

2007 January - President Bush announces a new Iraq strategy; thousands more US troops will be dispatched to shore up security in Baghdad.

2007 April – Deadliest School shooting in US History takes place at Virginia Tech, resulting in the death of 32 individuals.

2007 December (through June 2009) – The Great Recession, rooted in the Housing Market, the excessive use of subprime mortgages among risky buyers, lack of regulation, a rapid home value decrease was some of the key factors that led to an economic collapse, resulting in widespread unemployment

2008 September - Turmoil in the US and international financial markets as major Wall Street investment bank Lehman Brothers collapses and other big US financial players face growing troubles as a result of the "credit crunch".

2008 November - Democratic Senator Barack Obama becomes the first black president of the United States. Major accomplishments: helped end the 2007-08 recession, Reformed health care through the Affordable Health Car Act, increased bank regulation, ordered the elimination of Osama bin Laden (who was behind Sept 11 attacks), brokered a nuclear peace agreement with Iran.

**Assignments:**

*Optional Writing: Write a brief reflection based on the provided reading materials of 1 paragraph. Consider the lasting effects of these historical events on your own life. Consider US involvement in conflicts overseas, civil liberties, the economy, international trade, etc.*

*Optional Discussion: Participate in a final class discussion focused on the assigned materials as well as an end of the year message from Mr. West*