

CHAPTER
26
Section 1

GUIDED READING *The 1990s and the
New Millennium*

A. As you read, write notes in the appropriate boxes to answer the questions.

The 1992 Presidential Elections		
1. a. Who ran as a Republican?	2. a. Who ran as an independent?	3. a. Who ran as a Democrat?
b. Why did he fail to convince voters to support him?	b. What created an opportunity for this independent candidacy?	b. What helped him win?

The Clinton Administration's First Term	
4. What did Clinton achieve in domestic policy?	5. What did Clinton achieve in foreign policy?

The Republican Congress and the Contract with America	
6. What goals did the contract set for Republican leaders?	7. How did Clinton and the Senate undermine the contract?

B. On the back of this paper, identify **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and **Newt Gingrich** and briefly describe one success and one failure each experienced during Clinton's first term.

CHAPTER
26
Section 1

RETEACHING ACTIVITY *The 1990s and the
New Millennium*

Sequencing

A. Put the events below in the correct chronological order.

- _____ 1. The U.S. House impeaches President Clinton.
- _____ 2. Terrorists destroy a federal office building in Oklahoma City.
- _____ 3. NATO repels the Serb attack on Kosovo.
- _____ 4. Bill Clinton becomes president of the United States.
- _____ 5. George W. Bush is elected president of the United States.
- _____ 6. The Senate acquits Clinton on his impeachment charges.
- _____ 7. The North American Free Trade Agreement takes effect.
- _____ 8. President Clinton is reelected.

Completion

B. Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|
| welfare | Supreme Court | Congress |
| Kosovo | education | Chechnya |
| Newt Gingrich | H. Ross Perot | tax cut |

- 1. _____ was the third-party candidate who played a significant role in the presidential election of 1992.
- 2. In 1996, President Clinton signed a bill that reformed _____ by ending a 61-year guarantee of federal aid to the poor.
- 3. Relations between the United States and Russia grew strained over Russia's attacks on its rebel region of _____.
- 4. The _____ ended the tightly-contested presidential election of 2000 by prohibiting any further recounts.
- 5. During his first months in office, President George W. Bush pushed through a _____ that amounted to \$1.35 trillion over 11 years.

CHAPTER
26

Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE *from* **Contract with America**

On September 27, 1994, more than 300 Republican candidates signed a pact called the Contract with America. The purpose of this ten-point plan, which was created by Representatives Newt Gingrich and Dick Armey and other Republicans, was to reform government, to promote economic opportunity and individual responsibility, and to maintain national security.

Within the first hundred days of the 104th Congress, we shall bring to the House Floor the following bills, each to be given full and open debate, each to be given a clear and fair vote, and each to be immediately available this day for public inspection and scrutiny.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act

A balanced budget/tax limitation amendment and a legislative line-item veto to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses.

The Taking Back Our Streets Act

An anti-crime package including stronger truth in sentencing, “good faith” exclusionary rule exemptions, effective death penalty provisions, and cuts in social spending from this summer’s crime bill to fund prison construction and additional law enforcement to keep people secure in their neighborhoods and kids safe in their schools.

The Personal Responsibility Act

Discourage illegitimacy and teen pregnancy by prohibiting welfare to minor mothers and denying increased AFDC for additional children while on welfare, cut spending for welfare programs, and enact a tough two-years-and-out provision with work requirements to promote individual responsibility.

The Family Reinforcement Act

Child support enforcement, tax incentives for adoption, strengthening rights of parents in their children’s education, stronger child pornography laws, and an elderly dependent care tax credit to reinforce the central role of families in American society.

The American Dream Restoration Act

A \$500-per-child tax credit, begin repeal of the marriage tax penalty, and creation of American Dream Savings Accounts to provide middle-class tax relief.

The National Security Restoration Act

No U.S. troops under UN command and restoration of the essential parts of our national security funding to strengthen our national defense and maintain our credibility around the world.

The Senior Citizens Fairness Act

Raise the Social Security earnings limit, which currently forces seniors out of the workforce, repeal the 1993 tax hikes on Social Security benefits, and provide tax incentives for private long-term care insurance to let older Americans keep more of what they have earned over the years.

The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act

Small business incentives, capital gains cut and indexation, neutral cost recovery, risk assessment/costs-benefit analysis, strengthening of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and unfunded mandate reform to create jobs and raise worker wages.

The Common Sense Legal Reforms Act

“Loser pays” laws, reasonable limits on punitive damages, and reform of product liability laws to stem the endless tide of litigation.

The Citizen Legislature Act

A first-ever vote on term limits to replace career politicians with citizen legislators.

from Ed Gillespie and Bob Schellhas, eds., *Contract with America* (New York: Random House), 7–11.

Activity Options

1. With a group of your classmates, discuss these bills and whether, in your opinion, Republicans have thus far met the objectives set forth in the Contract.
2. Work with a small group to draw up your own contract with America. Using this Republican agenda as a model, propose ten changes that you think would improve the nation.

CHAPTER
26

Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE *from* “A Bridge to the Future”
by Bill Clinton

On August 29, 1996, President Clinton accepted the Democratic Party’s nomination to run for a second term as president. As you read this excerpt from his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, think about his vision of the future.

My fellow Americans, this must be, this must be a campaign of ideas, not a campaign of insults. The American people deserve it.

Now, here’s the main idea. I love and revere the rich and proud history of America. And I am determined to take our best traditions into the future. But with all respect, we do not need to build a bridge to the past. We need to build a bridge to the future.

And that is what I commit to you to do.

So tonight, let us resolve to build that bridge to the 21st century, to meet our challenges and protect our values.

Let us build a bridge to help our parents raise their children, to help young people and adults to get the education and training they need, to make our streets safer, to help Americans succeed at home and at work, to break the cycle of poverty and dependence, to protect our environment for generations to come, and to maintain our world leadership for peace and freedom.

Let us reserve to build that bridge.

Tonight, my fellow Americans, I ask all of our fellow citizens to join me and to join you in building that bridge to the 21st century.

Four years from now, just four years from now, think of it. We begin a new century full of enormous possibilities. We have to give the American people the tools they need to make the most of their God-given potential. We must make the basic bargain of opportunity and responsibility available to all Americans, not just a few. That is the promise of the Democratic Party, that is the promise of America.

I want to build a bridge to the 21st century in which we expand opportunity through education.

Where computers are as much a part of the classroom as blackboards. Where highly trained teachers demand peak performance from their students. Where every eight-year-old can point to a book and say I can read it myself.

By the year 2000 the single most critical thing we can do is to give every single American who wants, the chance to go to college.

We must make two years of college just as universal in four years as a high school education is today. And we can do it.

I want to build a bridge to the 21st century in which we create a strong and growing economy to preserve the legacy of opportunity for the next generation by balancing our budget in a way that protects our values and ensuring that every family will be able to own and protect the value of their most important asset, their home.

Tonight, let us proclaim to the American people we will balance the budget, and let us also proclaim we will do it in a way that preserves Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, the integrity of our pensions, the strength of our people.

Now, last year when the Republican Congress sent me a budget that violated those values and principles, I vetoed it, and I would do it again tomorrow.

I could never allow cuts that devastate education for our children, that pollute our environment, that end the guarantee of health care for those who are served under Medicaid, that end our duty or violate our duty to our parents through Medicare. I just couldn’t do that.

As long as I’m president, it’ll never happen.

And it doesn’t matter, it doesn’t matter if they try again, as they did before, to use the blackmail threat of a shutdown of the federal government to force these things on the American people. We didn’t let it happen before. We won’t let it happen again.

from Vital Speeches of the Day, Vol. LXII, No. 23 (September 15, 1996).

Discussion Questions

1. How does President Clinton propose to expand opportunities in the 21st century?
2. What challenges does he think must be met?
3. Why does Clinton say he vetoed the budget sent to him by the Republican Congress?
4. What American values and traditions do you think will help the United States “build a bridge to the future”?