

Spring Semester 2020:

Distance Learning Assignments: US

Each week, there will be a reading assignment from your textbook. For each assignment, you will need to read the assigned pages AND:

- 1. Write a 5+ sentence summary in your own words of the material covered in the reading.**
- 2. Include 2 vocabulary definitions from the reading. The definitions should be in your own words.**
- 3. You will need to email me at dalmasc@luhsd.net your summary and vocabulary. (both should be in the same email.) BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL YOUR FULL NAME (First and last) AND Period AND THE TITLE OF THE READING ASSIGNMENT. (for example, US Reading Assignment Week One)**

**You can email throughout each week day (Monday through Friday) 8:15 a.m. - 3:00p.m. if you have any questions.
Email: dalmasc@luhsd.net**

U.S. Domestic Politics at the Turn of the 21st Century

How have recent presidents tried to fulfill their domestic policy goals?

Introduction

George H. W. Bush did not serve a second term as president, losing the 1992 election to Bill Clinton. Clinton won, in part, by focusing on economic issues. The recession that had begun in 1990 ended less than a year later, but the sluggish economy still worried Americans. Clinton believed that promoting economic growth should be his main theme. A sign posted in his campaign headquarters said, "It's the economy, stupid."

The economy has always been a major political issue. Modern presidents know that to be successful, they must steadily guide the economy. But doing so has proved to be a difficult task.

The economy boomed under Clinton. The stock market climbed to record heights, thanks largely to the computer revolution. Internet-based businesses, often called dot-coms, multiplied rapidly. Economists refer to the too-rapid expansion of a sector of the economy as a "bubble." A year before George W. Bush, son of George H. W. Bush, took office in 2001, the dot-com bubble burst. Stock prices plunged, and the economy went into a recession.

The economy roared back early in Bush's second term, only to take a nosedive again late in 2007. Home prices had soared, thanks in part to questionable lending practices. When the housing bubble burst, home prices fell, and the economy fell with them. In 2009, when Barack Obama took office as president, the nation's economy faced serious problems.

The economy is a key domestic issue. But it has never been the only one. All three of these presidents came into office with several goals. In a country deeply divided in its party loyalties, none of them would accomplish all they had hoped. In this lesson, you will examine how Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump have tried to meet their domestic policy goals after entering the Oval Office.



Barack Obama (left), Bill Clinton (center), George W. Bush (right), and Donald Trump (not pictured) each strived to meet their own unique domestic policy goals during their terms as president of the United States.



On January 20, 2017, President Donald Trump, accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, was sworn in to office.