

AMERICA: PATHWAYS TO THE PRESENT

CHAPTER 27: ENTERING A NEW ERA—1992-PRESENT

Summary

Sweeping changes in world affairs in the early 1990s changed the face of world politics. Although the Cold War was over, these developments offered new challenges to the United States, now the only superpower, and to the President. The United States also faced challenging issues at home, as immigration and an aging population changed the demographics of American society.

Section 1: Politics in Recent Years

Although Bill Clinton's presidency included many low points; it was also marked by great successes. The highs and lows of the Clinton years were followed by the close election of 2000. The administration of George W. Bush shifted focus dramatically from domestic to international policies after the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Section 2: The United States in a New World

The United States has faced new challenges in the post-Cold War world, including the collapse of communism, increased ethnic tensions in several countries, and the expansion of the global economy.

Section 3: Americans in the New Millennium

In the 1990s, the United States sought new ways to create unity out of its ethnic and cultural diversity and to deal with the consequences of an aging population and a technological revolution.