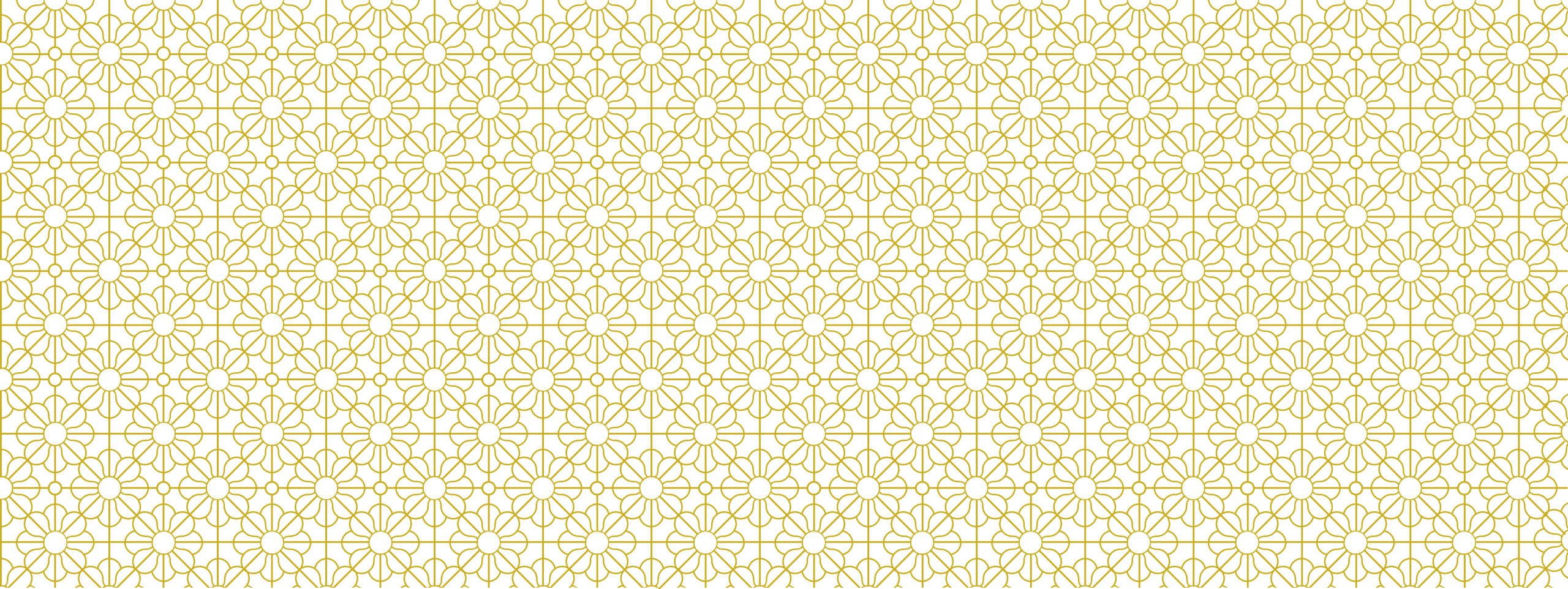


MODERN AMERICA

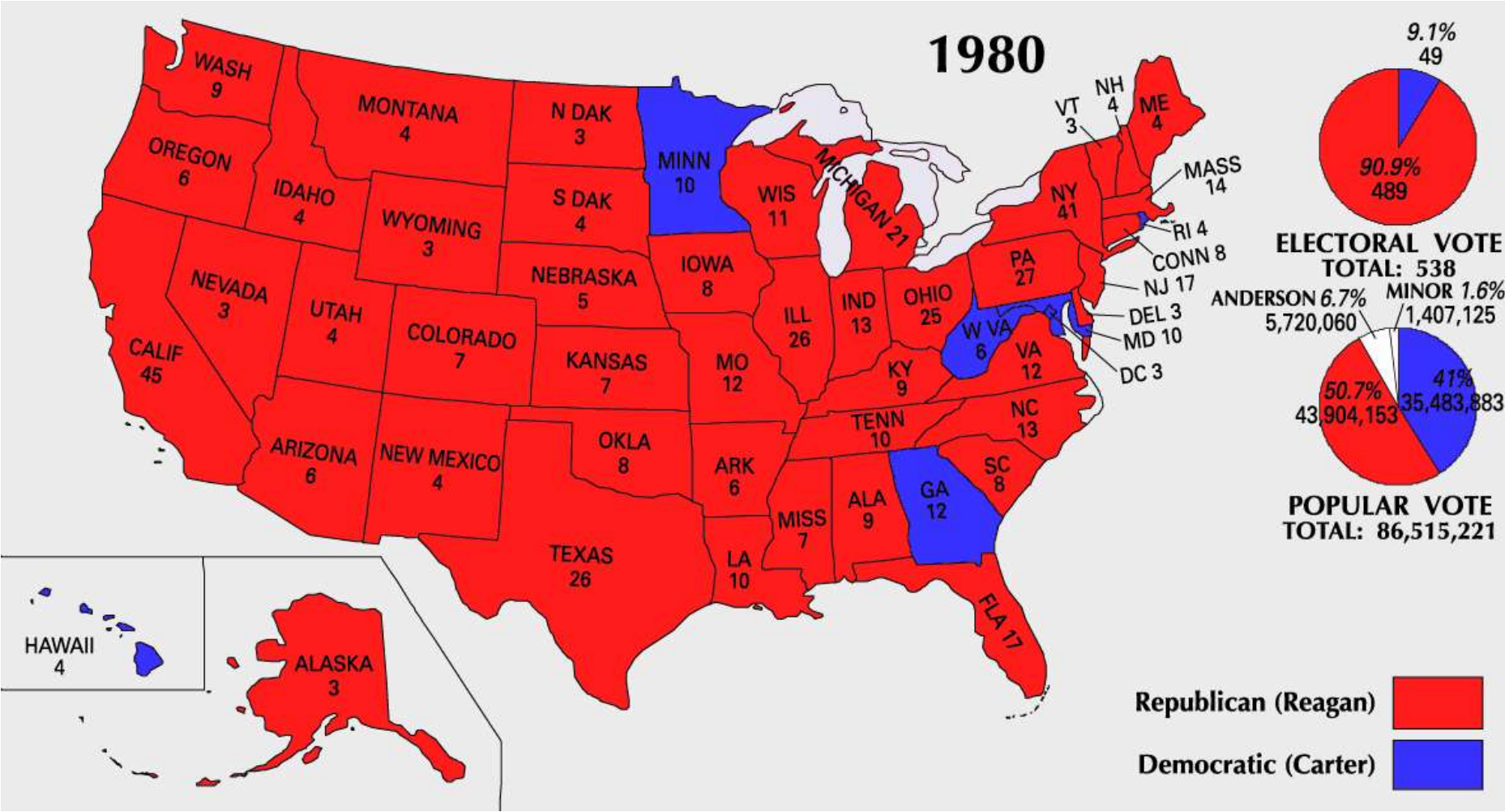
1980-now



NEW CONSERVATISM



1980



CONSERVATIVE REVOLUTION

President Carter criticized as ineffectual both domestically and abroad in economic downturn

Conservatism was gaining popularity as taxpayers sought to control where their money was spent

Christian fundamentalists became more influential as Americans looked to “traditional family values” for strength

RONALD REAGAN

Ronald Reagan, former governor of California elected President in 1980.

Former movie star and governor of California

As a conservative, Reagan believed that the federal government should have a smaller role in American life.

Pursued an economic policy critics called “Reaganomics”; included lower taxes, smaller government, and a stronger military

“Reaganomics” (sometimes referred to as supply-side economics or “trickle-down” economics) is generally thought to have benefitted wealthier Americans while penalizing the poor.

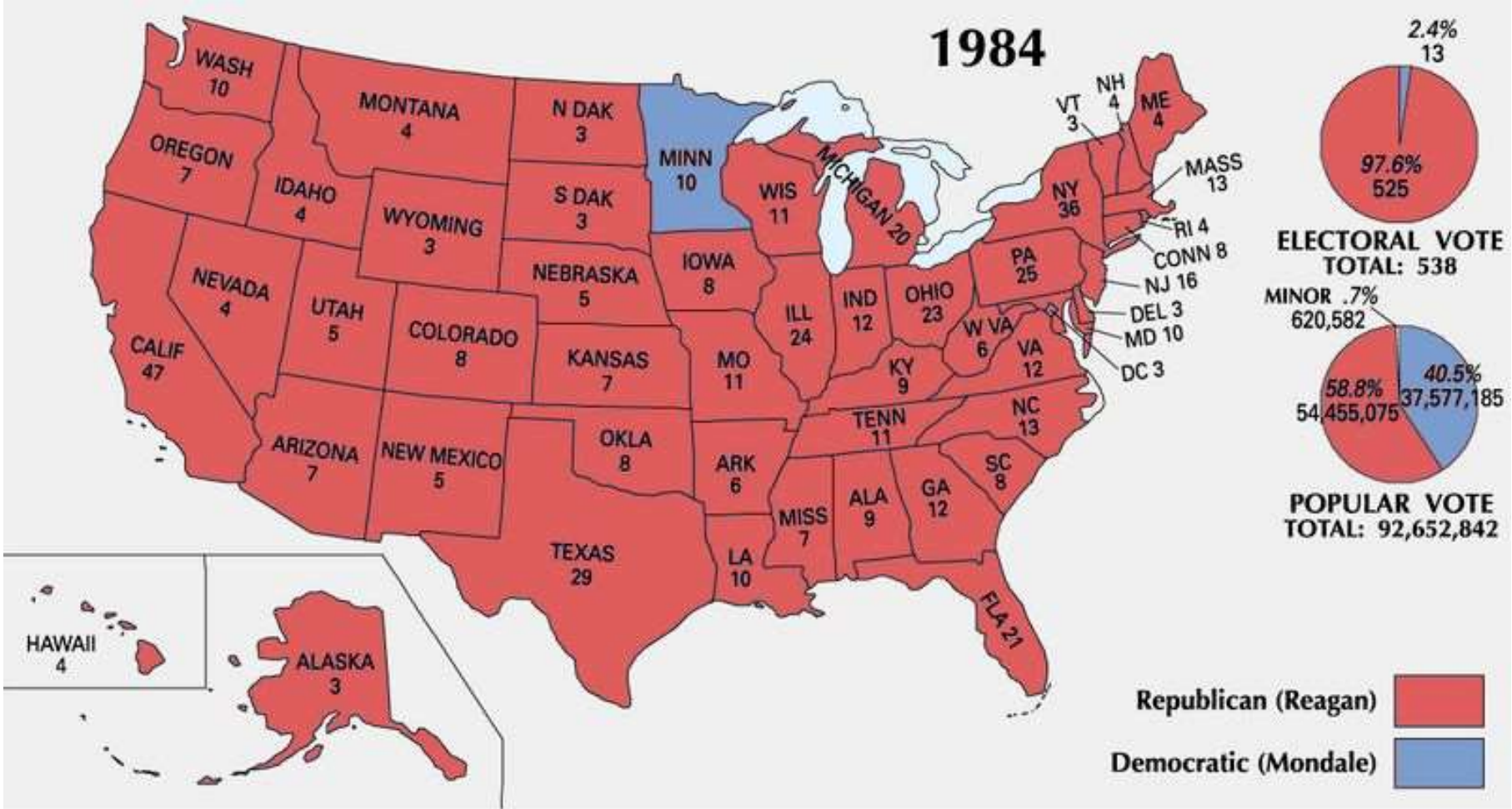


Trickle-Down Economics



Chattanooga Times Free Press Bennett

1984



IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL

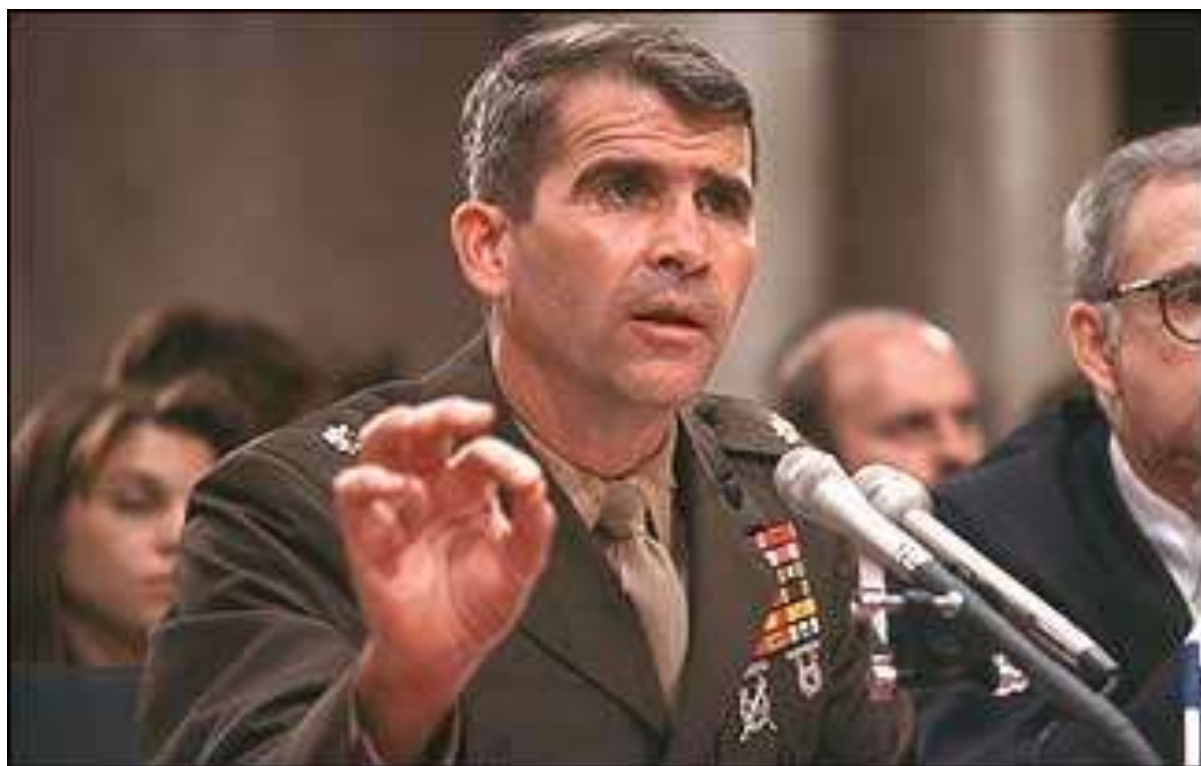
During Reagan's second term, a scandal involving the sale of weapons tarnished his administration.

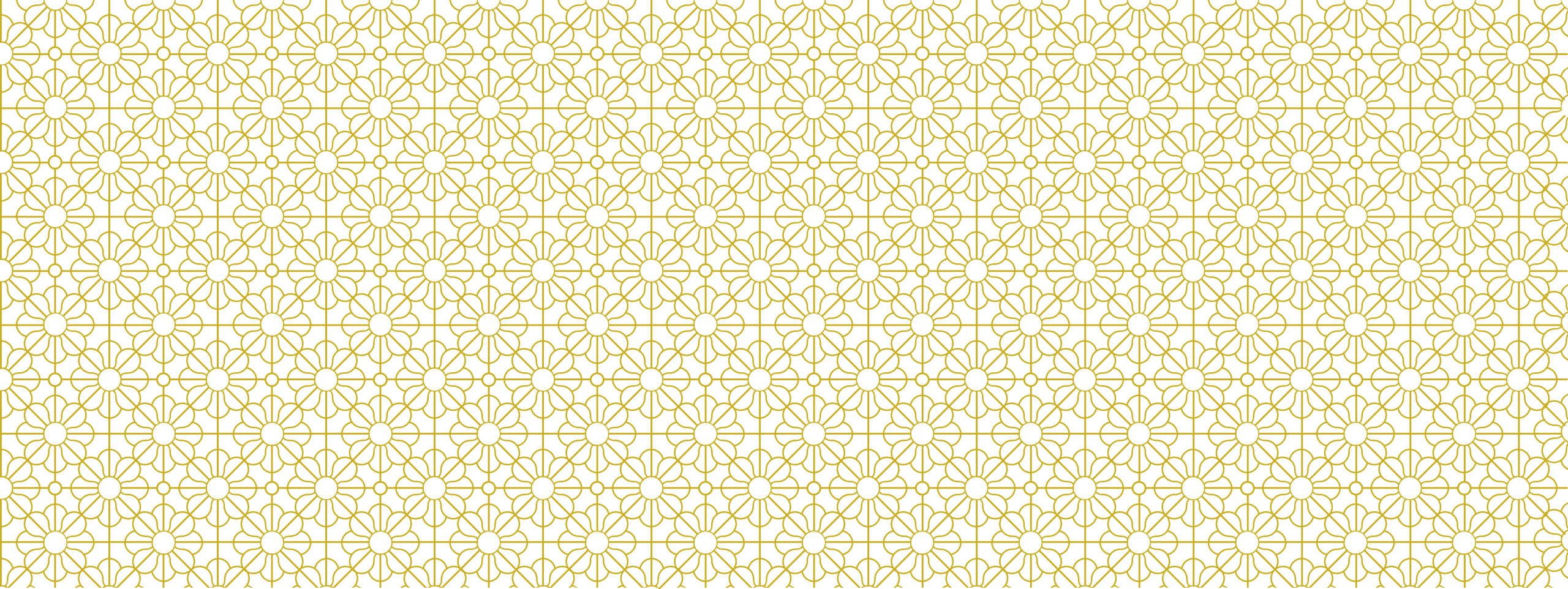
In an attempt to free 7 American hostages from Iran, Reagan's administration offered to sell Iran weapons for the hostage's release.

This money would in turn be used to fund the rebellion of anti-Communist fighters (called "Contras") in the Latin American country of Nicaragua.

Both the sale of arms to Iran and the funding of the Nicaraguan Contras violated acts of Congress.







THE END OF THE COLD WAR



END TO DETENTE

After Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and US boycott of the 1980 Olympics, it was clear that détente was a thing of the past

Reagan called USSR the “Evil Empire”

Reagan pushed for the funding of the Strategic Defense System (SDI), more popularly known as “Star Wars”

Planned to station satellites in orbit that could defend against nuclear attack with lasers

US shifts focus to arms race

Put pressure on Soviet economy, as USSR tried to keep up



Reagan is credited with pursuing a foreign policy of pressuring Soviet leaders to grant more individual freedoms to its citizens.

Reagan, while decreasing domestic spending, increased military spending.

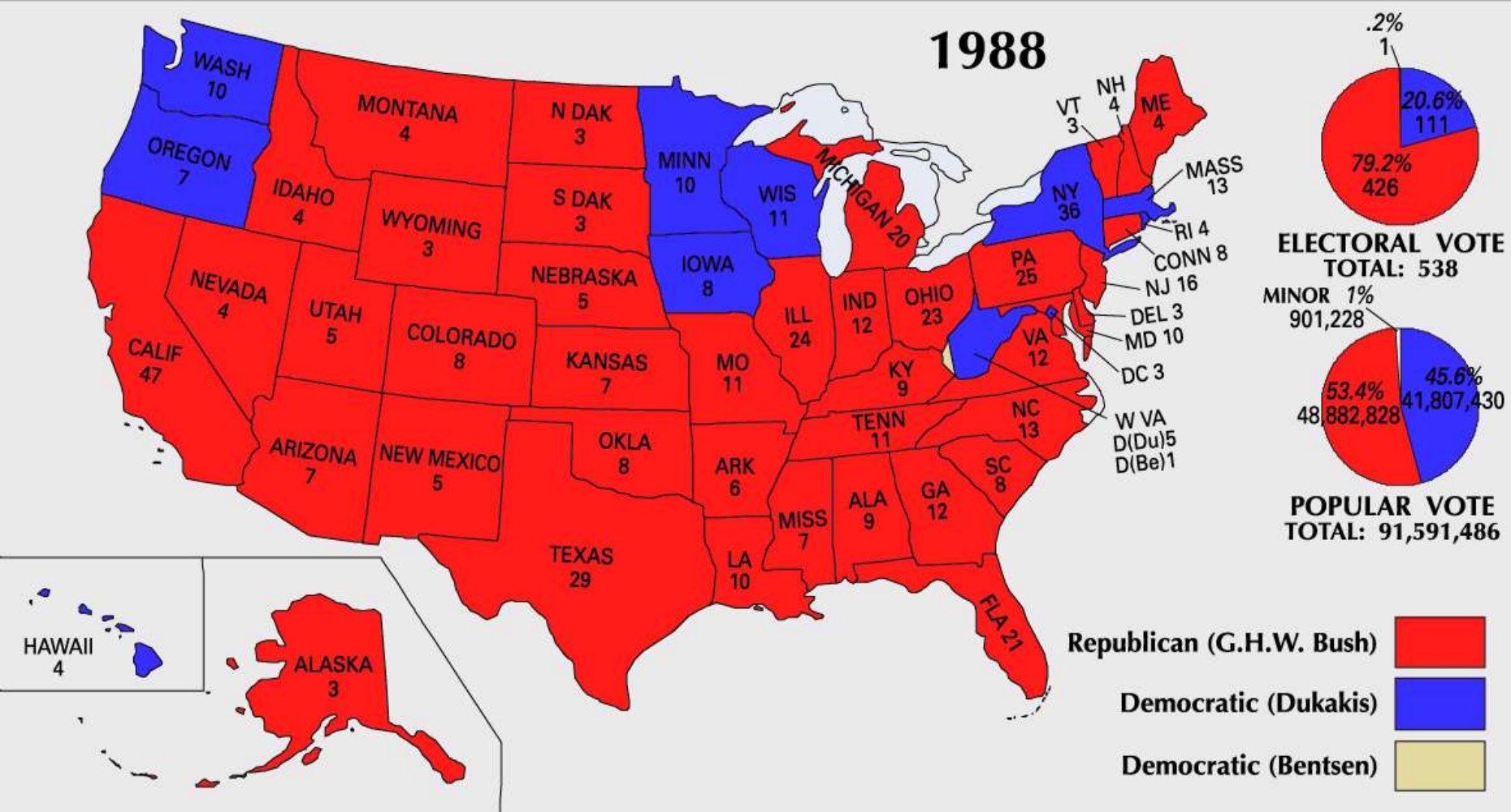
Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (right) instituted the policies of *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring) that led to economic changes in the communist nation.

Glasnost =openness; easing Stalinist laws to limit individual freedoms

Perestroika =restructuring; opening up Soviet economy to free-market mechanism



1988



FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Reagan famously encouraged Soviet leader Gorbachev to end Soviet control of its satellite nations.

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

October 1989 – Berlin Wall torn down

Reunification of communist East Germany and capitalist West Germany



COLD WAR COMES TO AN END

On Christmas Day in 1991, Gorbachev resigns as leader of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union is dissolved into 15 individual republics including Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The collapse signified the over 50 year standoff between the US and the Soviet Union known as the Cold War.



Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)



THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY

William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton served as the 42nd President of the United States.

Worked to reform healthcare and welfare

He was challenged by disunity on Capitol Hill; after the midterm election in 1994 Congress was in the hands of Republicans under the leadership of House Speaker Newt Gingrich

Opposition from Republicans and Conservative Democrats prevented him from passing healthcare reform, but he was able to make reforms to welfare

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) removed all tariffs on trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



IMPEACHMENT AND ACQUITTAL

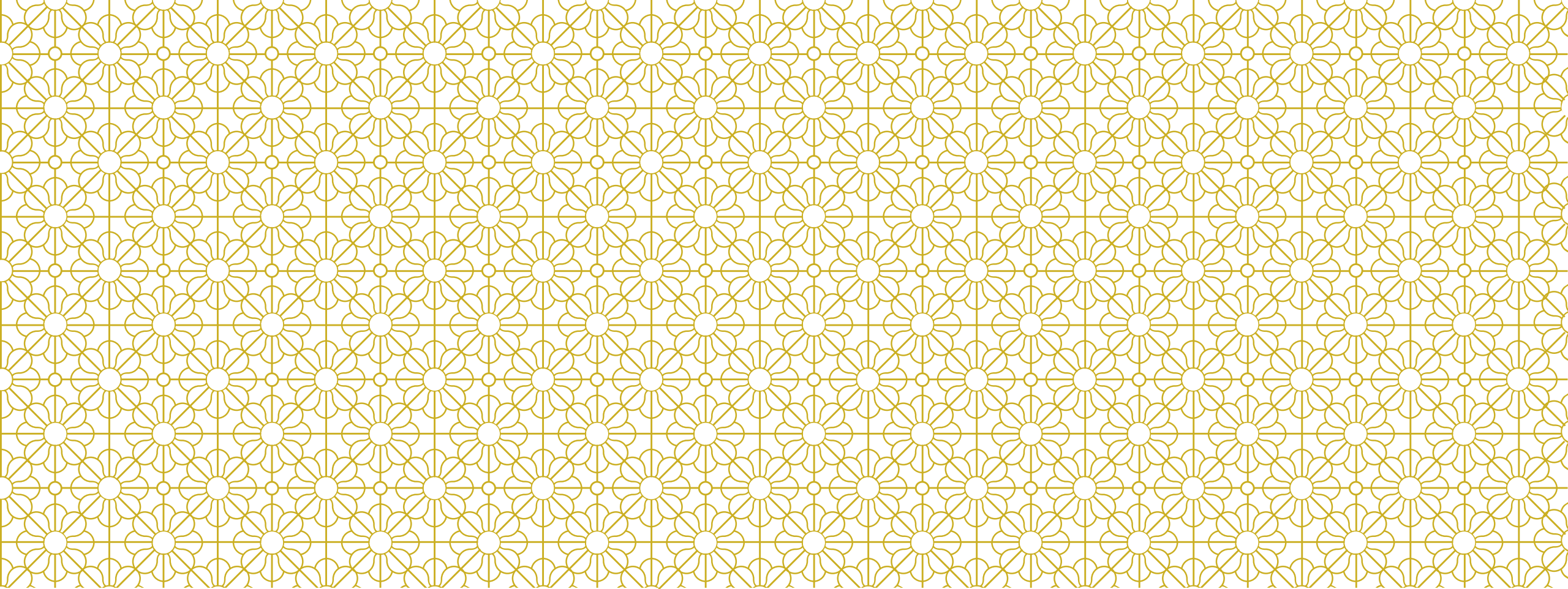
Clinton's second term was consumed with defending himself against charges of personal and political misconduct

The two charges were for perjury and obstruction of justice.

- The perjury charge arose from Clinton's testimony about his relationship to Monica Lewinsky during a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones.
- The obstruction charge was based on his actions during the subsequent investigation of that testimony.

Both counts fell short of the Constitutional two-thirds majority requirement to convict and remove an office holder.





21ST CENTURY |

2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The election was a contest between Democratic candidate Al Gore and Republican candidate George W. Bush.

Bush narrowly won the November 7 election, with 271 electoral votes to Gore's 266.

The election featured a controversy over who won Florida's 25 electoral votes, the recount process in that state, and the unusual event that the losing candidate had received more counted popular votes than the winner.

This election led to election reform movements designed to improve the counting of votes and the way people voted.

THE BUSH PRESIDENCY

George Walker Bush served as the 43rd President of the United States.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The September 11 attacks were a series of coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States

19 Islamist terrorists affiliated with al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City.

Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying at least two nearby buildings and damaging others.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The hijackers crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The crash happened after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane, which the hijackers had redirected toward Washington, D.C.



THE WAR ON TERROR

After September 11, Bush announced a global War on Terrorism.

Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban regime.

- The invasion was called Operation Enduring Freedom.
- On October 7, 2001, U.S. and Australian forces initiated bombing campaigns.
- The United States is still involved in Afghanistan to this day.

The invasion of Iraq commenced on March 20, 2003 and the Iraqi military was quickly defeated.

- In an effort to remove threatening dictator, Saddam Hussein
- He was refusing to cooperate with UN weapons inspections, and there was a fear that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction
- The United States withdrew from Iraq in 2011, but conflict and insurgency continues in Iraq

SCI-FI BECOMES A REALITY

What was once the stuff of science fiction movies and literature became reality between the years 1965 and 2000

Advances in biotechnology, mass communications, and computers have brought the world together, bringing excitement and danger along with progress

Y2K (AKA MILLENNIUM BUG)

Due to a minor issue with some computers that had not been coded to update calendars into the new century (1999 ⇨ 2000)

Some people prepared for the end of the world as power grids, banks, businesses, etc. were expected to shut down from the chaos; dooms day preppers worried and waited on New Years Eve

Many computers could be successfully programed to fix the glitch before New Years and the world did not end



ADVANCES IN COMMUNICATION

Portable communication in the 1960s was only an idea that appeared in spy stories

The first portable telephones were introduced in the 1980s at prices only the wealthy could afford

Cable changed television in 1970s and 1980s because cable programs are not held to the same standard as broadcast networks and can push the boundaries with more explicit programming

Cable news stations changed television news into a 24-hour affair

Satellite communications opened up the world to television audiences, as news from around the world can be transmitted in seconds

The World Wide Web developed from smaller networks of computers

Bill Gates developed the technology to create the personal computer

By the late 1990s almost every person in the US had used the Internet at some point

GLOBALIZATION

In the 21st century, the US is linked to a broader global economy in a way that it never has been before

Economic crises in other parts of the world can affect the US



THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY

The election of 2008 was a historic election because Barack Obama became the first person of color to be elected to the presidency.

The youth and minority voter turnout was significantly higher than previous elections.

His platform in 2008 centered upon “Hope and Change”

Best remembered for the controversial Health Care Reform (Obamacare) successfully enacted during his presidency

Also remembered for the elimination of Osama Bin Laden the prime target of the War on Terror after the 9/11 attacks

