

Into a New Century
1992-Present
Chapter 34



After years as a magazine editor and television news commentator, Michael Kinsley jumped into the new technology of the Internet in 1996, by agreeing to edit an online magazine called *Slate*. “I was determined,” Kinsley said, “to be on the next train to pull out of the station no matter where it was going—provided that I was the engineer.”

Soon newspaper and print magazines were also developing Web resources. Television stations also used the Internet to update news stories, allowing consumers to access news when and how they wanted. As Kinsley explained:

“Web readers *surf*. They go quickly from site to site. If they really like a particular site, they may visit it often, but they are unlikely to devote a continuous half-hour or more to any one site. . . . This appears to be in the nature of the Web and not something that is likely to change.”

Technology in the 1990s

- Computers
 - ENIAC & military
 - Microprocessors
 - PC, Apples, & Macs
 - Bill Gates & Software
- Telecommunications
- Internet
- Biotech
 - DNA
 - Human Genome



Bill Clinton was the third-youngest person ever to serve as president and the first of the “baby boom” generation to reach the Oval Office. Clinton brought with him a team of young energetic advisers. In the early weeks of the administration, Clinton’s team spent many hours at the White House adjusting to their new life. In early 1993, they began discussing plans for Clinton’s new economic strategy for paying down the deficit and reducing interest rates. George Stephanopoulos, an aide to the president, remembers their inexperienced beginnings:

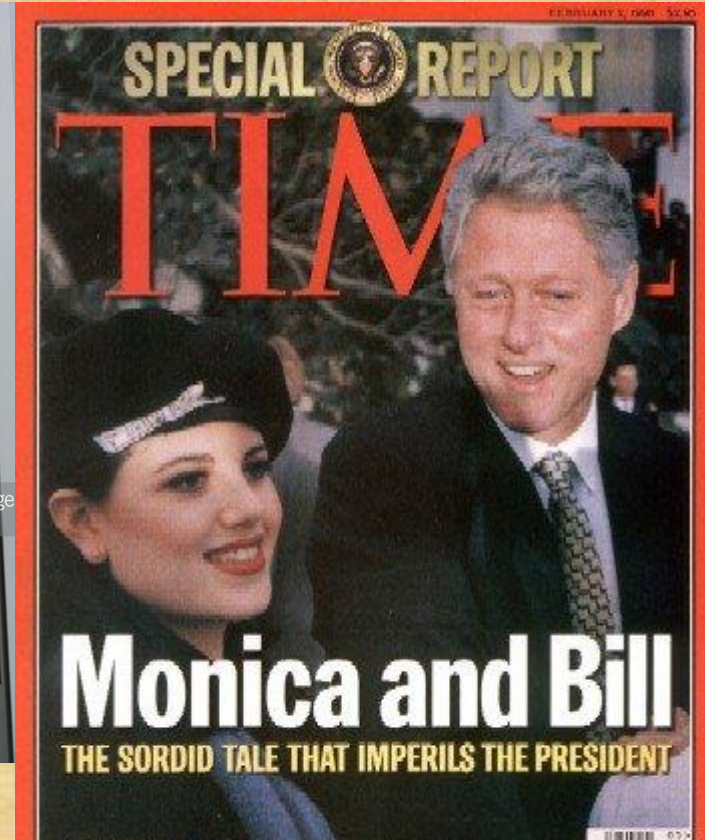
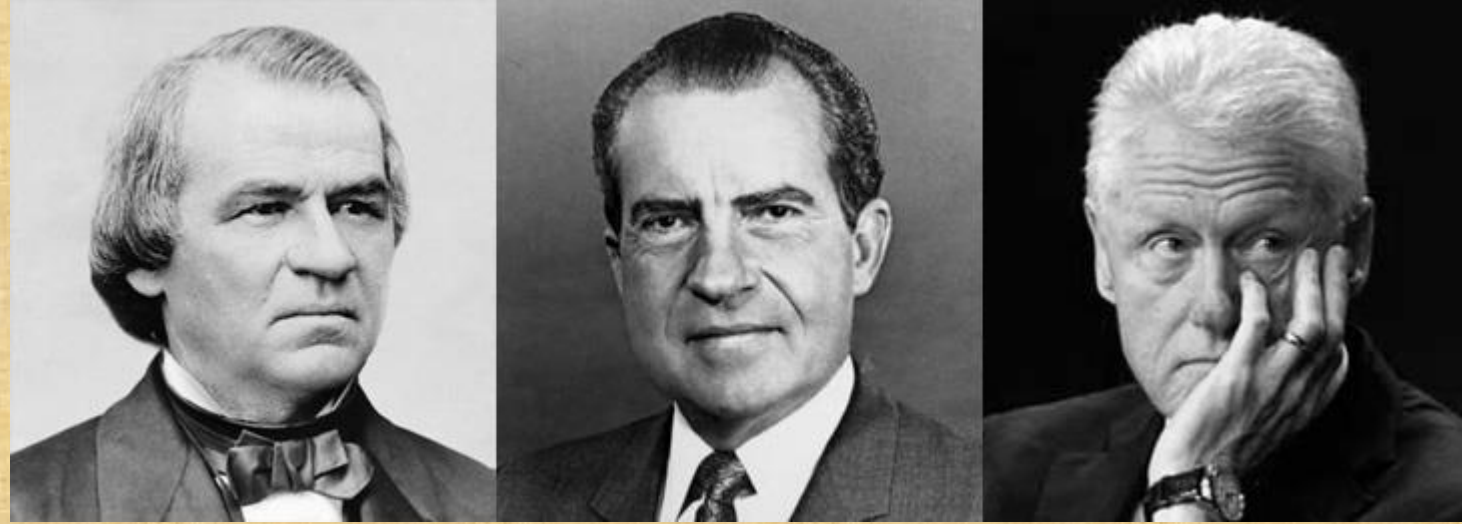
“The president presided over the rolling Roosevelt Room meetings in shirtsleeves, with glasses sliding down the end of his nose. . . . Clinton let everyone have a say, played us off against one another, asked pointed questions, and took indecipherable notes. But the reminders of who we were and what we were doing was never far away. Late one night, we ordered pizzas. When they arrived, the president grabbed a slice with the rest of us . . . [b]ut just before he took his first bite, [a secret service] agent placed a hand on his shoulder and told him to put it down. The pie hadn’t been screened. . . .”

Clinton & the Democrats, 1990s

- Raising Taxes, Cutting Spending?
- Government Health Care?
- Family & Education
- Gun Control
- Clinton Impeachment
 - Sex and lies
- Foreign policy
 - Haitian Democracy
 - Bosnia & Kosovo & Serbia
 - Ethnic Cleansing
 - Israel & Palestinians
 - Bombings and murder

Republicans in Congress

- The Contract With America
- Balancing Budget
- Welfare Reform



It was an important breakthrough when President Clinton appointed Madeleine Albright in 1996 to be the first woman to serve as secretary of state. Born in Czechoslovakia, Albright immigrated to the United States as a young girl. She earned a Ph.D. in Russian studies from Columbia University. Her tough-talking approach as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations earned her the nation's top foreign policy job.

As secretary of state, Albright dealt with everything from peace negotiations in the Middle East to improving trade relations with China. She also championed women's rights in developing countries. Here, she expresses her views on women's rights:

“[Halting violence against women] is a goal of American foreign policy around the world, where abuses range from domestic violence . . . to forcing young girls into prostitution. Some say all this is cultural, and there's nothing we can do about it. I say it's criminal, and we each have a responsibility to stop it.”

An Interdependent World

- Global Economy
- US trade deficit
- NAFTA
- European Union
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- China
- Nuclear proliferation
- Ozone
- Global Warming
 - Kyoto Protocol

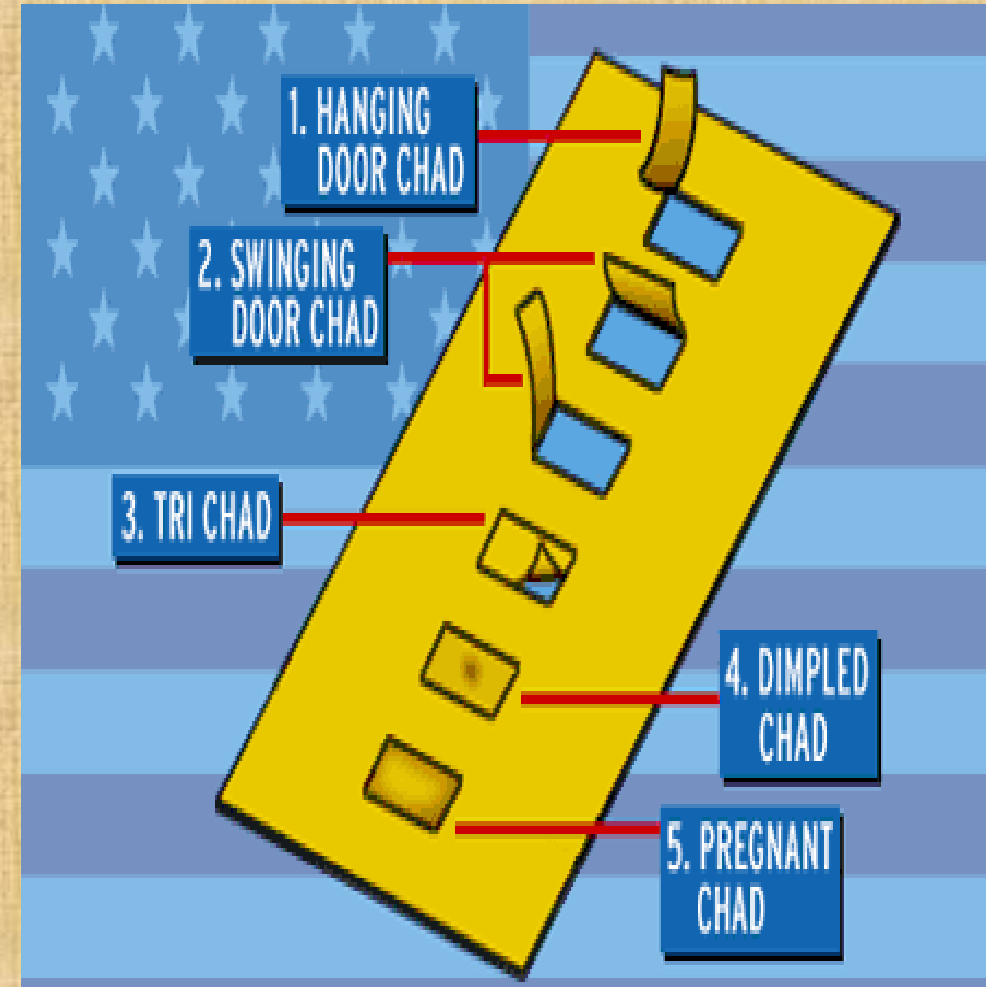


The 2000 presidential election was very close. Two candidates battled over the Electoral College votes of one state—Florida. The election remained undecided for more than a month. Though this election was a spectacle of demonstrations and detailed ballot evaluations, some people tried to put it all in perspective. May Akabogu-Collins, an American citizen originally from Nigeria, contrasted the “turmoil” and “chaos” of the election with the transfer of power in other parts of the world:

“America should be grateful that this election was as wild as it gets. Some of us originally came from places where heads would have rolled during a similar crisis. So far, not a gunshot has been heard on account of the balloting, and you call this ‘wild’? An election held in Nigeria in 1993 led to the President-elect’s being thrown in jail for trying to assume office and ultimately to his mysterious death. Going to court to decide who won this contest is, in my opinion, as civilized as it gets.”

America Enters a New Century

- 2000 Election
 - George W. Bush vs. Al Gore
 - Ralph Nader, spoiler
 - Hanging Chads in Florida
 - Bush vs. Gore Court Case
 - Bush Wins
- Bush's Strategic Defense
- 9/11



At 8:45 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time on September 11, 2001, a Boeing 767 passenger jet slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. As people below gazed in horror, a second plane collided with the South Tower. Soon afterward, a third plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. At 9:50 A.M., the South Tower collapsed in a billowing cloud of dust and debris. The North Tower fell about 40 minutes later. The falling towers killed thousands of people, burying them beneath a vast mound of rubble.

The airplanes did not crash accidentally. Hijackers deliberately crashed them into the buildings. Hijackers also seized a fourth airplane, United Airlines Flight 93, probably hoping to crash it into the White House or the Capitol. Many passengers on Flight 93 had cell phones. After hearing about the World Trade Center, four passengers—Todd Beamer, Thomas Burnett, Jeremy Glick, and Mark Bingham—decided to do something. An operator listening over a cell phone heard Todd Beamer's voice: "Are you ready, guys? Let's roll." Soon afterward, Flight 93 crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. At that moment, Vice President Dick Cheney was in a bunker under the White House. After hearing that Flight 93 had crashed, he said, "I think an act of heroism just took place on that plane."

The War on Terrorism

- 1980-1990s bombings
 - Beirut
 - New York
 - Africa
 - Airplanes high jackings
 - USS Cole
- September 11, 2001, Changed Everything
 - Osama bin Laden & al-Qaeda
 - US response
 - Terrorist funding
 - Patriot Act
 - Department of Homeland Defense
 - Bioterrorism
 - Anthrax
 - Afghanistan
 - Iraq
 - WMDs

Today we focus on Afghanistan, but the battle is broader. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers, themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril. The battle is now joined on many fronts. We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail. President George W Bush, 2001

1. Who will be the targets of the American military during the War on Terror?