

## **GLOSSARY AND CREDITS**

Your study of American History has gotten you to events that occurred during your lifetime. This unit focuses on the presidencies of Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. Each of them has had to deal with complex domestic and foreign policy issues.

International incidents have been numerous, with some sparking worldwide outrage like North Korea's testing of a nuclear weapon. The last eight years have seen Americans fighting two wars while citizens at home have been struggling economically with job losses, rising prices, and numerous other financial issues.

### **Chapter 1 – The Clinton Years**

The Clinton presidency was filled with a number of major scandals, one of which nearly got him impeached. Unfortunately, these scandals detracted from better-than-average decisions he made on both domestic policy and foreign matters. Under his administration, the economy performed nicely. International issues were complicated as conflict erupted on nearly every continent.

The scandals Bill Clinton faced involved business and personal dealings. Committing perjury caused Congress to nearly impeach him toward the end of his term in office.

### **Chapter 2 – A World Event in America**

Every president knows important decisions await once the oath of office is taken. But, no one could have been prepared for September 11, 2001. The terrorist attacks on American soil brought a declaration of war on terrorism by President George W. Bush. The Department of Homeland Security was begun as the United Nations authorized force against Afghanistan's Taliban government for harboring Osama bin Laden, one of the architects of 9/11. Two years later, in 2003, the United States and coalition forces invaded Iraq and deposed Saddam Hussein, who was later captured.

President Barack Obama oversaw the withdrawal of American combat troops from Iraq in August of 2010. The war in Afghanistan continued as the Taliban launched attacks on U.S. and coalition forces. The war has also heavily involved neighboring Pakistan as Taliban forces have used that nation as a staging area for attacks in Afghanistan. The United States increased pressure on Pakistan to go after the Taliban and other terrorist leaders who were hiding within its borders. American concerns about Pakistan's ability

to root out terrorist leaders intensified in 2011 when the world learned that Osama bin Laden had been hiding in a city less than 40 miles north of the nation's capital.

## Chapter 3 – Uncertainty and Hope

President Obama had to deal with a crashing economy as the home mortgage crisis, spiking oil prices, and high unemployment pushed America into a deep recession. The Federal government provided a nearly 800 billion-dollar stimulus package designed to get Americans back on their feet.

Overseas, Iran and North Korea have earned the anger of the international community with several missile tests and the testing of nuclear weapons.

## VOCABULARY

allay	to relax or calm high emotion in a person
allegation	a claim of misconduct or wrongdoing
arable	suitable for growing crops
ascertain	to understand, learn, or discover something about a situation
benchmark	a standard for determining the value of something
census	an official count or survey of a population
communique	a formal statement or message, usually in diplomatic circles
comparable	similar or equal to something else
contiguous	states or locations touching one another in an unbroken chain
consensus	an opinion most people agree upon
conservation	the act of saving or preserving something
correlation	a situation where two things are linked together
debacle	a major mess, problem, or disaster
decennial	occurring every 10 years

embezzle	to use other people's money for personal gain without their permission
eminent domain	the right of the government to seize private property for public use
entrepreneurship	the processing of designing and launching a new business
extremist	a person who is absolutely fanatical about a belief system
Federal Reserve	the central bank of the U.S.
fiscal	related to financial matters and the use of funds
globalization	the process of conducting business on a global scale
insurgent	one who rebels against established authority with force
jihad	a nonstop campaign of violence by Islamic believers
Jim Crow laws	state and local laws enforcing segregation
keynote	the first and most important speech at a conference
laissez-faire	a policy of leaving things alone, particularly in regard to government involvement in private business
manifest destiny	attitude in the late eighteenth century that justified the expansion of American settlement from coast to coast
migration	movement of people from one location to another with the intention of settling
multiculturalism	the concept of integrating members of various cultures into society
nationalism	policy or doctrine of devotion to one's nation
outsource	to obtain labor from an outside source

perjury	the act of lying under oath during a hearing or trial
perpetrator	a person involved in the planning and carrying out of a crime
proponent	a person in favor of an idea or course of action
rations	a fixed or limited amount of a good
reconciliation	a peaceful conclusion to a period of conflict
renewable energy	energy that is gathered from natural resources that can be replenished
repressive	overrestrictive and controlling, such as a leader over his people
revamp	to improve something by making changes to it
sovereign	having the ability to govern one's self
stymie	to prevent something or someone from making progress on a goal
technology	the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes