

A portrait of George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. An American flag is visible in the background to the left. The portrait is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of light blue lines.

43.

George W. Bush 2001-2009

# *Biography*

Born on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1946, in New Haven, Connecticut to Barbara and George H.W. Bush (who went on to become the 41<sup>st</sup> president)

Received a bachelor's degree from Yale University in history, and Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School

Served as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard

After helping his father with the election, Bush brought together a group of partners that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise in 1989

In 1994, he was elected as the 46<sup>th</sup> Governor of Texas, and went on to become the first governor in Texas history to be elected to consecutive terms four years in a row.

# *Chief Legislator: A*

- Legislation signed:

2001

- May 26: The 2001 Bush Tax Cuts [HR 1836] (through reconciliation procedure)
- June 7: Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001

2002

- January 8: No Child Left Behind Act
- March 9: Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002

2003

- December 8: Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003

2004

- April 1: Unborn Victims of Violence Act (Laci and Conner's Law)

2006

- August 17: The Pension Protection Act of 2006
- September 30: Iran Freedom and Support Act

# *Commander-in-Chief: D*

- Responding to the September 11, 2001 attacks
- Declaring the War on Terrorism
- Waging the Afghanistan War against Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban government
- Waging the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the Iraq War against Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party government
- U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement
- Establishing prison for terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay
- USA PATRIOT Act
- Establishing the United States Department of Homeland Security
- Establishing the Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement
- Responding to Hurricane Katrina

# Chief Executive: A

- Deputy Secretary of Defense – Paul Wolfowitz (2001–2005), Gordon R. England (2005–2009)
- CIA Director - George Tenet (2001–2004), John E. McLaughlin (acting, 2004), Porter J. Goss (2004–2006), Michael Hayden (2006–2009)
- FBI Director - Louis Freeh (2001), Thomas J. Pickard (acting, 2001), Robert S. Mueller (2001–2009)
- NASA Administrator - Sean O'Keefe (2001–2005), Michael D. Griffin (2005–2009)
- FAA Administrator - Marion Blakey (2002–2007), Robert A. Sturgell (acting) (2007–2009)
- FDA commissioner - Mark McClellan (2002–2004), Lester Crawford (2005), Andrew von Eschenbach (2005–2009)
- National Security Advisor - Condoleezza Rice (2001–2005), Stephen Hadley (2005–2009)
- Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan - Meghan O'Sullivan (?–2007), Douglas Lute (2007–2009)
- Ambassador to the United Nations - John Negroponte (2001–2004), John Danforth (2004); John R. Bolton (2005–2006), Zalmay Khalilzad (2007–2009)
- FCC Chairman - Michael Powell (2001–2005), Kevin Martin (2005–2009)
- White House Deputy Chief of Staff - Joe Hagin (2001–2008), Joshua Bolten (2001–2008), Howard M. Rubin (2008–2009), Kenneth C. Felt (2005–2007), J. J....

## *Chief of State: A*

- George W. Bush throws out first pitch at World Series in Texas in 2010.
- Always threw the first pitch to open every baseball season during his presidency.
- Never failed to light the national Christmas tree.



## *Chief of Party: A-*

- had an exceptional devotion to his party in that he was committed to partisanship and its emphasis on dedicating the GOP to recasting and advancing its national administrative power.
- involved in extensive party-building projects and was seen as the head of the party of "limited government" (in terms of attending to federalism issues).
- "...the contemporary American political context has encouraged the Bush White House to pursue a party-building strategy that emphasizes expansive national policymaking, celebration of executive power, and the further centralization of party organization and grassroots mobilization."
- had a commitment to cutting taxes because of its loyalty to the preferences of the Republican Party. He wanted to pursue an "effective and energetic" government in order to bring the traditional Republican principles of private enterprise, resistance to government spending/taxes/regulation, and individual responsibility, to compassion for the disadvantaged.

# *Guardian of the Economy: C*

- The GDP grew at an average annual rate of 2.5% under the Bush administration .Furthermore, unemployment increased from 4.2% to 6.3% between 2001 and 2003, but dropped down to 4.5% in 2007. At the end of his presidency, it had reached 7.2%.
- Due to the increase in domestic and foreign spending, the national debt had reached \$11.3 trillion in 2008. This was an increase of over 100% from the beginning of 2000 in which the debt was \$5.6 trillion. The debt that was accumulated was due largely in part to the Bush tax cuts.
- At the beginning of 2008, 63,000 jobs were lost. In order to remedy the situation, the Bush administration signed a \$170 billion economic stimulus package that was intended to aid the economic situation by sending tax rebate checks and providing tax breaks to struggling businesses.



## *Chief Diplomat: D*

- The main intent of Bush's platform was strong support for a stable political and economic relationship with Latin America, and a reduction of involvement in "nation building" and nonessential less-involved, small-scale military engagements.
- There were diplomatic tensions with the China and North Korea that were on the verge of a nuclear war.
- Bush pursued and signed free trade agreements between with several countries, including Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Morocco, Oman, Peru, Singapore, Ukraine, and with six countries under the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

## *Overall Grade: C*

- President Bush had plenty of beneficial ideas and strategies, but the methods by which he implemented them were not always successful. He also lacked some credibility as a leader after his responses to the terrorist attacks, and Hurricane Katrina- following each event, his public approval rating continually went down.

# Sources

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