

George H. W. Bush



1989-93

D+

Chief Legislator

- ❖ Public vs. Congress: Bush's attitude differed from that of the public. Bush said at the beginning of his legislation, "...there's not a single piece of legislation that needs to be passed in the next two years." The public saw this as a lack of vision and purpose and wanted to see more assertive action.
- ❖ Bush's promise for "no new taxes" during his campaign in 1988 failed to be executed.
- ❖ The gridlock seemed to be caused by the difference in political parties. Congress, during the time, was democratic while Bush was republican.
- ❖ Bush was successful at appointing two justices to the Supreme Court, which was something Reagan struggled to do.



Commander-in-Chief

- ❖ This is where he was most comfortable and most effective.
- ❖ His success in foreign affairs increased his approval ratings significantly
- ❖ Organized the military in Panama, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf.
- ❖ Had a good head on his shoulders while leading the military through the First Gulf War but struggled to help his country get back on their feet during the aftermath.
- ❖ Visionary: went into the First Gulf War with these goals:
 - ❖ Get Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait
 - ❖ Restoration of Kuwait government
 - ❖ Secure the Persian Gulf
 - ❖ Protect American citizens
 - ❖ Emerge a new world order free of terrorist threats

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Chief Executive

- ❖ He appointed certain policy makers such as:
 - ❖ Gen. Colin Powell
 - ❖ Secretary of state, James Baker
 - ❖ Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, William Bennett
 - ❖ Supreme Court Justices, David H. Souter and Clarence Thomas
 - ❖ There was major controversy when he appointed Clarence Thomas to Supreme Court Justice, making Bush's overall grade as Chief Executive a B



Chief Diplomat

- ❖ Met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Paris to sign a nonaggression pact ending the Cold War in 1990
- ❖ Signed another treaty agreeing to reduce the number of weapons America and Soviets stockpiled during the Cold War.
- ❖ Though many objected to his decisions, Bush increased the number of troops in the Persian Gulf to 500,000.

F Guardian of the Economy

- ❖ Lost many of his followers from his election in '88 by failing to go through with his “read my lips” pledge.
- ❖ Failed to make any drastic changes from Reagan’s policies.
- ❖ Raised taxes in '92 in attempt to deal with the budget crisis. His failure in this basically summed up his failure as a president.

Citations



