

★ ★ ★ **Tribune Extra** ★ ★ ★

1000 North Dearborn St. SATURDAY 1041
Jan. 1, 2000



Playing to the new: Concertgoers celebrate the turn of the century during the Sugar Top concert at the Terrace (Rocky Park).

INSIDE

New baby

• A trip to the

The night was unlike any other

THE NEW CENTURY BEGINS

ELECTION OF 2000

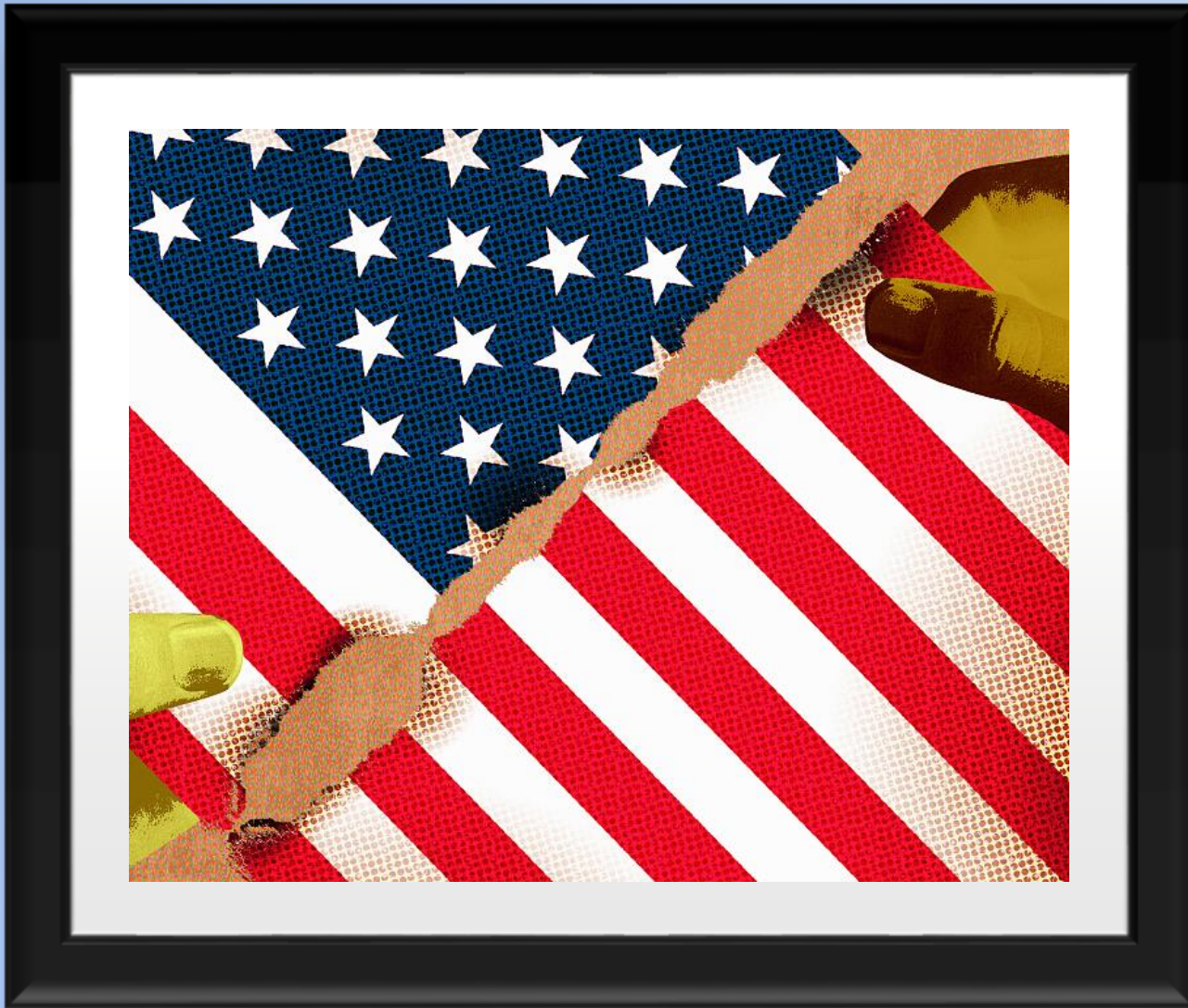
- The election was highly contested, with George W. Bush, the Republican candidate, facing off against Al Gore, the Democratic candidate.
- Despite winning the popular vote, Gore lost the election due to the electoral college system, which ultimately favored Bush.
- The pivotal state in the election was Florida, where the vote margin was extremely narrow, leading to a recount.
- The recount process was marred by issues such as hanging chads and inconsistent standards for counting ballots.
- The Supreme Court's intervention in Bush v. Gore effectively ended the recount and declared Bush the winner, sparking controversy over the role of the courts in deciding elections.



BUSH V. GORE

- The Supreme Court case of Bush v. Gore was a landmark decision that resolved the disputed 2000 presidential election.
- The Court's ruling halted the recount process in Florida and effectively handed the presidency to George W. Bush.
- The decision was based on arguments related to equal protection under the law and the need for a uniform standard in recounting ballots.
- The ruling was controversial and polarizing, with critics arguing that it undermined the democratic process and raised questions about the role of the judiciary in electoral politics.
- Bush v. Gore highlighted the complexities and flaws of the electoral system, sparking debates over election reform and the role of the electoral college.





POLITICAL DIVISIONS

- The 2000 election and its aftermath highlighted deep political divisions within American society.
- Partisan polarization and ideological differences were exacerbated by the contentious nature of the election and the subsequent legal battles.
- The close election and the Supreme Court's intervention further fueled distrust and skepticism in the electoral process.
- These divisions persisted throughout Bush's presidency and beyond, shaping political discourse and policy debates on a wide range of issues.

BUSH PRESIDENCY

- Bush's presidency was marked by his focus on cutting taxes, reforming education, improving healthcare, and strengthening national defense.
- His tax cut policies aimed to stimulate economic growth by returning money to taxpayers and incentivizing investment.
- Bush's education reform initiative, "No Child Left Behind," introduced standardized testing and accountability measures to improve the quality of education.
- In healthcare, Bush endorsed legislation providing prescription drug benefits for senior citizens, though the plan faced criticism and controversy.
- The administration also prioritized national security and defense strategy in response to the changing geopolitical landscape.

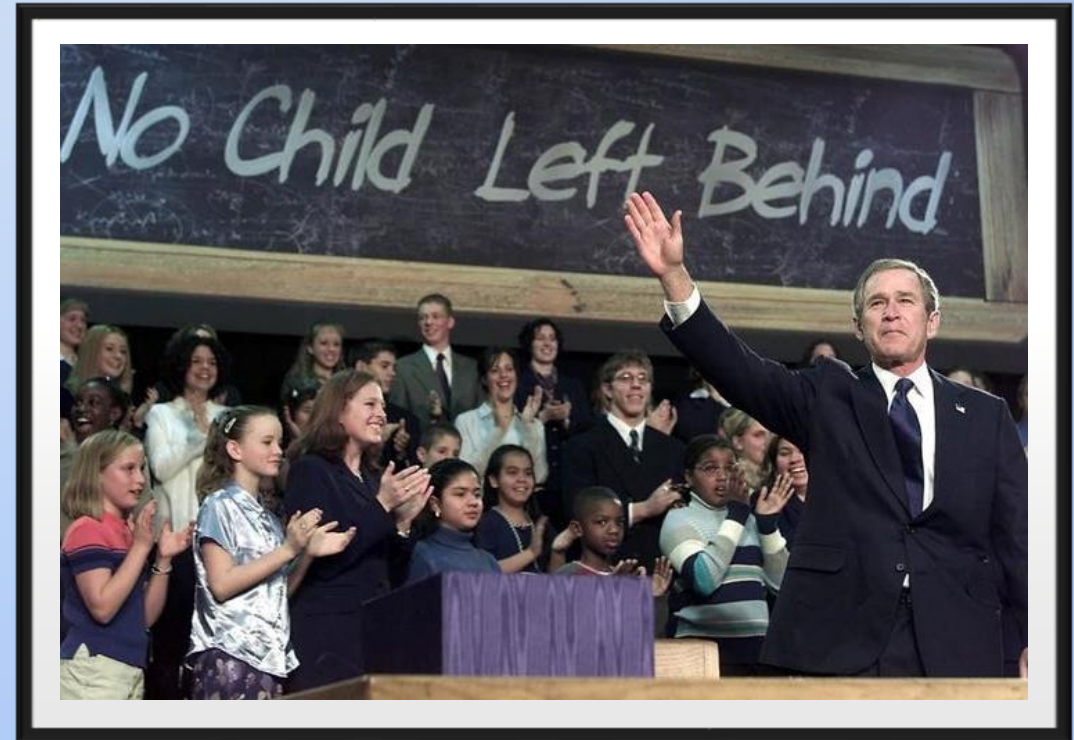


TAX CUTS

- Bush's tax cut plan, passed in 2001, aimed to provide relief for taxpayers and stimulate economic activity.
- The tax cuts were phased in over several years, with the goal of boosting consumer spending and investment.
- However, critics argued that the tax cuts primarily benefited the wealthy and contributed to growing budget deficits.
- Despite initial hopes for economic growth, the tax cuts did not prevent a recession, and concerns grew over their long-term impact on government finances.

EDUCATION REFORM

- "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) introduced standardized testing requirements for public schools and held schools accountable for student performance.
- The legislation aimed to close the achievement gap and improve overall education outcomes.
- However, NCLB faced criticism for its emphasis on testing and its impact on teaching practices and curriculum.
- Funding constraints and implementation challenges also hindered the effectiveness of the program in achieving its goals.



HEALTHCARE REFORM

- Bush's healthcare initiatives focused on providing prescription drug benefits for seniors, particularly under Medicare.
- The prescription drug bill faced significant opposition and controversy, including concerns about costs, industry influence, and access to affordable medication.
- Despite these challenges, the bill eventually passed in 2003, representing a major overhaul of the Medicare system.
- However, critics argued that the legislation favored pharmaceutical companies and did not adequately address broader healthcare challenges such as rising costs and coverage gaps.



A photograph of George W. Bush in a dark blue button-down shirt, standing in a room with several military personnel in camouflage uniforms. They appear to be in a briefing room or a control room, with a large map or screen visible in the background. The image is dimly lit and has a blue tint.

MILITARY STRATEGY

- Bush sought to modernize the military and adapt its capabilities to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War era.
- This included investment in strategic defense systems such as missile defense, aimed at countering emerging threats from hostile nations.
- The administration's military strategy emphasized agility, mobility, and technological superiority, with a focus on rapid deployment and precision strikes.
- These efforts reflected broader shifts in defense policy towards addressing asymmetric threats and non-state actors in addition to traditional state adversaries.



POST-9/11

- The events of September 11, 2001, fundamentally reshaped the priorities and focus of the Bush administration.
- The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon prompted a swift and forceful response, including military action in Afghanistan to dismantle the Taliban regime and disrupt terrorist networks.
- The Bush administration launched the "War on Terror," a comprehensive effort to combat global terrorism through military, diplomatic, and intelligence means.
- The attacks also led to significant changes in domestic security policy, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the implementation of new security measures at airports and other critical infrastructure sites.
- The post-9/11 era saw increased surveillance and intelligence-gathering activities, as well as debates over civil liberties and the balance between security and individual rights.

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