

Summary: Life in the 1990s

Clinton's Presidency

In 1992, Bill Clinton was elected President. He believed government money should be used to help people. There was not enough money because of the budget deficit from the Reagan years. The economy grew and more taxes were collected. Clinton put more money into social programs. By 1998, the United States had a budget surplus. The government had more money than it spent.

Clinton helped start peace processes in Northern Ireland and the Middle East. In the former country of Yugoslavia, different groups fought to form separate nations. The United States and other countries sent troops to stop the fighting there in 1999.

Clinton's second term was hurt by a scandal. He was impeached by the House of Representatives. The Senate found him not guilty.

A Changing Economy

During the 1990s, the United States had the longest period of economic growth in its history. Many people had more income to save, spend, or invest. Changes in computers and the development of high-tech businesses helped the economy grow. Personal computers were manufactured that people could use at home, at school, and at work. The Internet made it possible for people to get information, shop, and communicate quickly and easily.

New technology made the U.S. economy more productive. Jobs changed with the economy. More people did service jobs. Some companies moved factories overseas where they could make products at a lower cost. People with more education did better in the 1990s than people with less education.

A Connected World

Improved communication and transportation made trade between countries easier and less expensive. Leaders from the Group of 8, or G8 nations, meet yearly to discuss trade and other issues. Mexico, Canada, and the United States signed the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

Internet *noun*, links computers around the world with each other
high-tech *adjective*, or high-technology, uses the most recent knowledge and equipment

free-trade agreement *noun*, treaties among countries that trade with one another



After You Read

REVIEW In which places in the world did President Clinton help settle conflicts? Circle the names of three places where President Clinton helped settle conflicts.

REVIEW What effect did computers have on the economy in the 1990s? Circle the sentence that answers the question.

REVIEW In what ways did better communication change life for people during the 1990s? Highlight the sentence that tells you the answer.