

President George H. W. Bush (1989-1993)

Election Results:

1988 Election-

George Bush: Popular Vote 48,881,278 Electoral Vote 426

Michael S. Dukakis: Popular Vote 41,805,374 Electoral Vote 111

Ideas or Acts Passed During Administration:

In the wake of a struggle with Congress, Bush was forced by the Democratic majority to raise tax revenues; as a result, many Republicans felt betrayed because Bush had promised "no new taxes" in his 1988 campaign.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a law that was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1990. It was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush, and later amended with changes effective January 1, 2009.

A Clean Air Act is one of a number of pieces of legislation relating to the reduction of smog and air pollution in general. The use by governments to enforce clean air standards has contributed to an improvement in human health and longer life spans. Critics argue it has also sapped corporate profits and contributed to outsourcing, while defenders counter that improved environmental air quality has generated more jobs than it has eliminated.

The Immigration Act of 1990 increased the number of legal immigrants allowed into the United States each year. It also created a lottery program that randomly assigned a number of visas. This was done to help immigrants from countries where the United States did not often grant visas. The modifications also removed homosexuality as a ground for exclusion from immigration.

Administration:

Vice President: J. Danforth Quayle

Secretary of State: James A. Baker, III, Lawrence S. Eagleburger

Secretary of the Treasury: Nicholas F. Brady

Secretary of Defense: Richard B. Cheney

Attorney General: Dick Thornburgh, William P. Barr

Secretary of the Interior: Manuel Lujan

Secretary of Agriculture: Clayton Yeutter, Edward R. Madigan

Secretary of Commerce: Robert Mosbacher, Barbara H. Franklin

Secretary of Labor: Elizabeth H. Dole, Lynn Morley Martin

Issues Faced:

Bush faced the problem of what to do with leftover deficits spawned by the Reagan years. At \$220 billion in 1990, the deficit had grown to three times its size since 1980.

On August 1, 1990, Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, invaded its oil-rich neighbor to the south, Kuwait; Bush condemned the invasion and began rallying opposition to Iraq in the US and among European, Asian, and Middle Eastern allies.

Trivia:

His father, Prescott Bush, was a managing partner in the Wall Street investment firm of Brown Brothers

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941, at the age of 18, Bush postponed going to college and became the youngest aviator in the US Navy at the time.