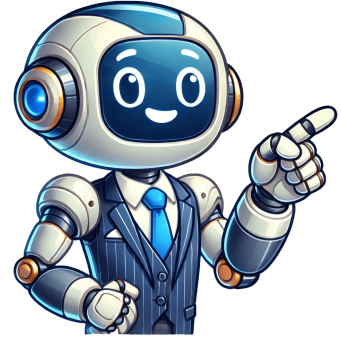


I'm not a robot



George W Bush Bush was the 43rd president of the United States, serving from 2001 to 2009. His time in office was dominated by the controversial "war on terror" that began with the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Bush was born on 6 July 1946 in New Haven, Connecticut but was brought up in Texas when his father, the future President George HW Bush (in office 1989 - 1993), moved the family to try and make oil fortune in the oil business. Bush was educated at Yale University. In 1968 he enrolled in the Texas Air National Guard as a pilot, and, thus, was not eligible to serve in the Vietnam War draft. He served two years in the Combat Crew Training School. After gaining his MBA in 1975, he returned to Texas to work in the oil industry in 1978. He ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives. In 1988, Bush worked as a paid campaign advisor on his father's successful presidential bid. Around this time he reached an important turning point in his life, pledging to quit his heavy drinking and becoming a born-again Christian. By the late 1980s, Bush was independently wealthy as a result of selling his stake in the Texas Rangers baseball club. In 1994, he ran for the governorship of Texas and won. He was re-elected four years later. By 2000, he was the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, announcing social policies of 'compassionate conservatism', which included using churches and charities to use federal funds to deliver social services to the needy. After winning the nomination, Bush ran against the Democrat Al Gore. It was one of the closest races in presidential history, but after numerous court challenges and recounts Bush was declared the winner. He became only the second son to follow his father into the Oval Office. For many Americans, doubts about Bush's legitimacy as president were swept away on 11 September 2001, when Islamic fundamentalists carried out terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington DC, causing the deaths of almost 3,000 people. Bush proclaimed that the US was at war with terrorism and this became the defining policy of his administration. As part of his 'war on terror', Bush ordered the invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. Bush was re-elected to the White House in 2004, but criticism of his government's response to the Hurricane Katrina natural disaster that devastated New Orleans in August 2005 marked the start of a terminal decline in Bush's popularity. By 2008, disapproval of the Bush administration had increased sharply both at home and abroad, largely due to the ongoing war in Iraq. Scandals involving abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad and the treatment of terrorist suspects at facilities such as Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo, Cuba had also done much to undermine the United States' reputation abroad. The final months of the Bush presidency were further marred by the financial crisis, entering recession, the subprime mortgage crisis, Bush's departure from office as an opportunity to resign the United States' invasion of Iraq, and the world. This article is about the 43rd U.S. President. For his father and 41st U.S. president, see George H. W. Bush. George W. BushOfficial portrait, 2001January 20, 2009Vice PresidentDick CheneyPreceded byBill ClintonSucceeded byBarack Obama46th Governor of TexasIn officeJanuary 17, 1995–December 21, 2000LieutenantBob BullockRick PerryPreceded byAnn RichardsSucceeded byRick PerryPersonal detailsBornGeorge Walker Bush (1946-07-06) July 6, 1946 (age79)New Haven, Connecticut, U.S. Political partyRepublicanHeight1.81m (5ft 11in)Spouse(s)Laura Welch (m.1977)ChildrenBarbaraJennaParentsGeorge H. W. Bush (father)Barbara Pierce (mother)RelativesSee Bush familyEducationYale University (BA)Harvard University (MBA)ReligionMethodismSignatureWebsiteOfficial websitePresidential LibraryPresidential CenterWhite House ArchivesMilitary serviceNickname(s)'Dubya''GWB'George Bush Jr.[2][3]AllegianceUnited StatesBranch/serviceUnited States Air Force Texas Air National Guard Alabama Air National GuardYearsof service19681974RankFirst LieutenantUnit147th Reconnaissance Wing187th Fighter WingAwardsAir Force Pilot's Badge Outstanding Unit Award National Defense Service Medal Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon1]Bush's VoiceBush announcing the bombing of AfghanistanRecorded October 7, 2001George Walker Bush (born July 6, 1946) is an American politician and businessman. He was the 43rd president of the United States from 2001 to 2009. He is the son of former U.S. President George H. W. Bush and former U.S. First Lady Barbara Bush. Before becoming president, he was the Governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000. Bush is a member of the Republican Party.[4]He flew warplanes in the Texas and Alabama Air National Guard. After graduating from Yale College in 1968 and Harvard Business School in 1975, he worked in the oil industry. In 1977, he married Laura Welch and ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, but lost. He later co-owned the Texas Rangers baseball team. In 1994, he was elected Governor of Texas, defeating the incumbent Democrat, Ann Richards. As governor, Bush successfully passed legislation for tort reform, gave more money for education, set higher standards for schools, and changed the criminal justice system. Bush also helped move the Texas the leading producer of wind-powered electricity in the U.S.In 2000, Bush was elected President of the United States when he defeated Democratic incumbent Vice President Al Gore in an extremely close election. He became the fourth person to be elected president without winning the popular vote. He is the second son of a former United States president to himself become president, the first being John Quincy Adams, the son of John Adams. Bush was inaugurated in January 2001. As president, his earlier focus was on domestic issues. He cut taxes, passed an education reform bill, made changes to Medicare, and changed abortion laws. On September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked by Al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization, via the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As a result of these attacks, Bush created the Department of Homeland Security and started a "War on Terror" that began with a war in Afghanistan in 2001. He also signed into law the Patriot Act in order to inspect on people believed to be terrorists. In 2003, he ordered an invasion of Iraq, which started the Iraq War. The reason why he did this was because his administration claimed that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program, and that the Iraqi government was a threat to the U.S. However, no WMDs or a program for WMDs were ever found.He was re-elected to a second term in 2004, against Democrat John Kerry. In his second term, Bush reached multiple free trade agreements and was able to put John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. He wanted to make major changes to Social Security and immigration laws, but these changes did not pass in Congress. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continued, and in 2007 he sent more troops to Iraq. Bush received criticism from both sides politically for his handling of Hurricane Katrina and for the midterm dismissal of U.S. attorneys. Around December 2007, the U.S. entered the Great Recession. This made the Bush administration create programs for protection of the country's financial system, such as the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Bush left office in January 2009, succeeded by Democrat Barack Obama, who signed the economic stimulus package and the 22 billion tax cut plan. He has a ranch in Crawford, Texas, which is near his birthplace. His presidential memoirs came out in 2013. Though his ratings were low in rankings of presidents by scholars and historians, public opinion on Bush has improved after his presidency ended. Bush received the highest recorded approval ratings right after the 9/11 attacks, but one of the lowest such ratings during the 2008 financial crisis.Bush as an infant with his parents, 1947Bush was born at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut.[6][7] Bush grew up in Midland, Texas. He went to a high school called Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and graduated in 1964.[8][9] He went to school at Yale University from 1964 until he graduated in 1968.[10][11] He joined the Texas Air National Guard in 1968.[13][14] (part of the United States National Guard) during the Vietnam War and became a fighter pilot but did not fight in the war. He left the Texas Air National Guard in 1973.[15] In 1975 Bush earned an MBA from Harvard University.[12]On November 5, 1977, Bush married Laura Welch.[16] In 1978, Bush tried to get elected to Congress in West Texas, but lost. After that, he ran some oil companies and was one of the owners of the Texas Rangers baseball team. He thought about trying to become the commissioner of Major League Baseball, but went into politics instead.[17] Bush is a Methodist.[18] In 1994, he was elected to be Governor of Texas,[19] defeating incumbent Democratic Governor Ann Richards. [12]Governor Bush (right) with father, former president George H. W. Bush, and wife, Laura, 1997Bush announced he was running for governor in the 1994 Texas gubernatorial election. His campaign focused on four themes: changing welfare, changing torts, crime reduction, and making education better. [20]He easily won the Republican primary. His opponent was popular Democratic incumbent Governor Ann Richards. [20]During the campaign, he said that if he was elected, he would sign a bill that would allow Texas to get permits to carry concealed weapons (this means a person can carry a weapon on them, as long as it cannot be seen).[22] Bush won the general election with 53.5 percent of the vote. [23]Bush signed a budget that cut the government's income tax by \$2 billion and the 22 billion tax cut plan. He signed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act[42] which made it so that if a pregnant woman is murdered, her murder can also be charged. 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of 51 states for a total of 286 Electoral College votes. Inauguration Bush won re-election in 2004 after an intense and heated campaign, becoming the first candidate to win a majority vote in 16 years.[29]Bush was inaugurated for his second term on January 20, 2005. The oath of office was administered by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist. Bush's inaugural address centered more on themes of spreading the rule of law and the rule of law, and on the need for peace in our world. He also expressed his hope for peace in our world, and the expansion of freedom in all the world. The great objective of ending tyranny and the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it. From the viewpoint of centuries, the questions that come to us are narrow and few. Did our generation advance the cause of freedom? And did our character bring credit to that cause?

PresidencyDomestic policyEducation Bush signs the No Child Left Behind Act into law. In his domestic agenda, Bush's emphasized familiar themes of increased responsibility for performance from his days as Texas governor, and he lobbied hard for the adoption of the No Child Left Behind Act, with Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy as chief sponsor. The legislation had four main objectives: first, it aimed to close the achievement gap between white and minority students; second, it required measurement of student performance; third, it provided options to parents with students in low-performing schools; and, fourth, it provided more federal funding to low-income schools. NCLBA has been a source of ongoing controversy. Critics argue that Bush has underfunded his own program, and Kennedy himself has claimed: "The tragedy is that these long overdue reforms are finally in place, but the funds are not."[30] Many educational experts are critical of the reforms in question, claiming that NCLB allows some students to flee failing public schools instead of improving those schools.[31] Others contend that NCLBA's focus on "high stakes testing" and quantitative outcomes is counterproductive.[32] Bush increased funding for the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health in his first years of office, and created education programs to strengthen the grounding in science and mathematics for American high school students. However, funding for NIH failed to keep up with inflation in 2004 and 2005, and was actually cut in 2006, the first such cut in 36 years.[33] Bush appointed First Lady Laura Bush to oversee an initiative to improve opportunities and education for inner-city boys.[34][Social Services and Social Security]Bush promoted increased and investment options in social services and led Republican efforts to pass the Medicare Act of 2003, which added prescription drug coverage to Medicare and created Health Savings Accounts, which would permit people to set aside a portion of their Medicare tax to build a "nest egg." AARP, a lobbying group for senior citizens, worked with the Bush Administration on the program and gave its endorsement. Bush said that the law, estimated to cost US\$400 billion over the first ten years, would give the elderly "better choices and more control over their health care".[35]President Bush began his second term by outlining a major initiative to reform Social Security, which was facing record deficit projections beginning in 2005. Bush made it the centerpiece of his agenda despite contrary beliefs in the media and in the U.S. Congress, both of whom saw the program as the "third rail of politics," due to the American public's history of being suspicious of any attempt to change it. It was also widely believed to be the province of the Democratic Party, with Republicans in the past having been accused of efforts to dismantle or privatize it. In his 2005 State of the Union Address, Bush discussed the allegedly impending bankruptcy of the program and attacked political inertia against reform. He proposed options to permit Americans to divert a portion of their Social Security tax (FICA) into secured investments, creating a "nest egg" that he claimed would enjoy steady growth. Despite emphasizing safeguards and remaining open to other plans, Bush's proposal was criticized for its high cost, and Democrats attacked it as an effort to partially privatize the system, and for leaving Americans open to the whims of the market. Bush embarked on a 60-day national tour, campaigning vigorously for his initiative in media events ("Conversations on Social Security") in a largely unsuccessful attempt to gain support from the general public.[36] According to at least one poll, Bush failed to convince the public that the Social Security program was in crisis.[37]ImmigrationIn 2006, under political pressure from members of the Republican party, Bush put his support behind immediate and comprehensive immigration reform. Going beyond calls from Republicans and conservatives to secure the border, Bush demanded that Congress create a "temporary guest-worker program" to allow more than 12 million illegal immigrants to obtain legal status. Bush continued to argue that the laws of legal status, and the protections of U.S. laws to millions of people who face dangers of poverty and exploitation and persuade employers despite a demand for immigrant labor. On May 15, 2006, Bush proposed expanding "Basic Pilot," an online system to allow employers to easily confirm the eligibility of new hires, creating a new identification card for all foreign workers; and increasing penalties for businesses that violate immigration laws. Bush urged Congress to provide additional funding for border security, and committed to deploying 600 National Guard troops to the United States-Mexico border.[38]Hurricane KatrinaOne of the worst natural disasters in the nations history, Hurricane Katrina, struck early in Bushs second term. Katrina was the sixth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the third-strongest land-falling U.S. hurricane on record. Katrina formed in late August during the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season and devastated much of the north-central Gulf Coast of the United States, particularly New Orleans.[39] President Bush declared a state of emergency in Louisiana on August 27[40], and in Mississippi[41] and Alabama[42] on August 28. The eye of the hurricane made landfall on August 29. After the hurricane reached ground, Bush mobilized the U.S. Coast Guard and National Guard to help rescue the approximately 60,000 people stranded in New Orleans. Both local and federal governments were vehemently criticized for their response to Katrina, which was considered insufficient and disorganized. Criticisms of Bush focused on three main issues. First, leaders from both parties attacked the president for having appointed incompetent leaders to positions of power at FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, most notably Michael D. Brown.[43] Second, many people argued that the inadequacy of the federal response was the result of the Iraq War and the demands it placed on the armed forces and the federal budget.[44] Third, in the days immediately following the disaster, President Bush denied having received warnings about the possibility of floodwaters breaching the levees protecting New Orleans.[45] However, the presidential video conference briefing of Aug. 28 shows Max Mayfield warning the President that overflowing the levees was "obviously a very, very grave concern." [46] Critics claimed that the President was misrepresenting his administration's response. Economic policyGeorge W. Bush assumed office with fiscal policy goals that were highly reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's presidency. The last years of the Clinton administration had established a large budget surplus, and Bush wanted to use the money to pay for a large tax cut. He faced opposition in Congress, however, so he held town hall-style public meetings across the nation in 2001 to increase public support for his plan for a \$1.3 trillion tax cut. Bush and his economic advisers argued that unspent government funds should be returned to taxpayers. With reports of the threat of recession from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, Bush argued that such a tax cut would stimulate the economy and create jobs. In the end, five Senate Democrats crossed party lines to join Republicans in approving Bush's \$1.35 trillion[47] tax cut program one of the largest in U.S. history. During his first term, Bush sought and obtained Congressional approval for two additional tax cuts: the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. These acts increased the child tax credit and eliminated the so-called "marriage penalty." Arguably, cuts were distributed disproportionately to higher income taxpayers through a decrease in marginal rates, but the change in marginal rates was greater for those of lower income, resulting in an income tax structure that was more progressive overall. Complexity was increased with new categories of income taxed at different rates and new deductions and credits, however; at the same time, the number of individuals subject to the alternative minimum tax increased since it had remained unchanged. Bush has, for the most part, continued Reagan's legacy of lax business regulation and low taxes. Under the Bush Administration, unemployment peaked at a high of 6.2 percent in June 2003, and as of 2006, was at a low of 4.4 percent. The economy has remained strong, with Wall Street setting several record highs and the GDP experiencing healthy growth. [1], [1] Critics argue that the economy, however strong, is only benefiting the wealthy, and not the majority of middle and lower-class citizens. [2]War on Terrorism President Bush addresses rescue workers at Ground Zero in New York, September 14, 2001. The September 11 terrorist attacks were a turning point in Bush's presidency. Bush was visiting an elementary school in Florida when Chief of Staff Andrew Card informed him that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City. Following news of a second collision, Bush remained with the class for seven minutes while they finished reading a story. He then flew to air bases in Louisiana and Nebraska before returning to Washington, D.C. in the late afternoon. That evening, he addressed the nation from the Oval Office, promising a strong response to the attacks but emphasizing the need for the nation to come together and comfort the families of the victims. On September 14, he visited the World Trade Center site, meeting with Mayor Rudy Giuliani and firefighters, police officers and volunteers. In a moment captured by press and media, Bush addressed the gathering via megaphone from atop a heap of rubble: "I can hear you. The rest of the world hears you. And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon." In a September 20, 2001 speech, President Bush condemned Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, and issued the Taliban regime in Afghanistan an ultimatum to "hand over the terrorists, or share in their fate." [48] Thus began his "War on Terrorism," a comprehensive, global effort to eliminate terrorists and the regimes that sponsor them. As part of the War and to prevent another attack like that of September 11, Bush tried to streamline national defense by combining various agencies under one Cabinet department called the Office of Homeland Security. The War on Terrorism, or the War on "Terror" as it is commonly referred to by the President, has also included military incursions into Afghanistan and Iraq, foreign policyUnder George W. Bush, the United States has become more isolated than it had been under Clinton. The Bush administration withdrew US support for several international agreements, including the Kyoto Protocol, the International Criminal Court, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) with Russia. It pursued a national missile defense policy which was previously barred by the ABM treaty (but was never ratified by Congress).[49] In his 2002 State of the Union address, Bush publicly condemned Kim Jong-il of North Korea, naming North Korea one of three states (in addition to Iraq and Iran) in an "axis of evil," and saying that "the United States will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons." [50] Within months, "both countries had walked away from their respective commitments under the U.S.-DPRK Agreed Framework of October 1994." [51] Bush also boldly expressed U.S. support for the defense of Taiwan following the stand-off in March 2001 with the People's Republic of China over the crash between an EP-3E American spyplane and a Chinese air force jet, leading to the detention of U.S. personnel. In 2003-2004, Bush authorized U.S. military intervention in Haiti and Liberia to restore order and oversee a transition to democracy. In the Middle East, Bush emphasized a "hands-off" approach to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in wake of rising violence and the alleged failure of the Clinton Administration's efforts to negotiate. Bush denounced Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for his support of the violence and militant groups. But prompted by European leaders, he became the first American President to embrace a two-state solution in which an independent Palestine would exist side-by-side with Israel. Bush sponsored dialogs between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas but continued his boycott of Arafat. Bush also supported Sharon's unilateral disengagement plan, and lauded the democratic elections held in Palestine following Arafat's death. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with George W. Bush inspects the Malacanang Palace Honor Guards during the latter's eight-hour State Visit to the Philippines in October 2003In his State of the Union Address in January 2003, Bush outlined a five-year strategy for global emergency AIDS relief, the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, supported by a \$15 billion commitment\$3 billion per year for five yearsbut requested less in annual budgets, though some members of Congress added amendments to increase the requested amounts. The emergency relief effort is led by U.S. Ambassador Randall L. Tobias, former Chief of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, at the State Department. At the time of the speech, \$9 billion was earmarked for new programs in AIDS relief for the 15 countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, another \$5 billion for continued support of AIDS relief in 100 countries where the U.S. already had bilateral programs established, and an additional \$1 billion towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Controversially, almost one quarter of the \$15 billion for the new programs was to be used to emphasize sexual abstinence over condom use.[52] This budget represented more money contributed to fight AIDS globally than all other donor countries combined.Bush condemned the attacks by militia forces on the people of Darfur, and denounced the killings in Sudan as genocide.[53] Bush said that an international peacekeeping presence was critical in Darfur, but opposed referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, a court that the United States does not officially recognize.Bush began his second term with an emphasis on improving strained relations with European nations. He appointed long-time advisor and media consultant Karen Hughes to oversee a global public relations campaign to improve the image of the U.S. and significantly increased development aid to countries with a focus on encouraging democracy and human rights. Bush strongly lauded the pro-democracy struggles in Georgia and Ukraine and the election of Mahmoud Abbas as president of the Palestinian Authority. He led international pressure against Syria to withdraw troops from Lebanon. In March 2006, Bush visited India, leading to renewed ties between the two countries, particularly in areas of nuclear energy and counter-terrorism cooperation.[54][Bilateral relations between the United States and Germany and Canada improved following the election of relatively conservative governments in those countries. Midway through Bush's second term, however, many analysts observed a retreat from his freedom and democracy agenda, highlighted in policy changes toward some oil-rich former Soviet republics in central Asia.[55] Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, both undemocratically elected and fiercely autocratic, received official state visits to the White House and accepted U.S. offers of increased economic and military assistance.[56] The President has engaged both leaders to free and fair elections early on in his second term, but in fact neither leader has been carried out such promises. [57][58]The democratic election of the Hamas organization in the parliamentary elections of the Palestinian territories, along with the September 14, 2001 terrorist attacks were the turning point in Bush's presidency. 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