

Module 11: The End of the Cold War

Topic 4 Content: Presidents and Foreign Policy – Barack Obama

Introduction



Presidents and Foreign Policy – Barack Obama

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The Economy



The Economy

- President Obama responded to the country's recession with two different acts to help boost the economy.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 tried to protect and grow jobs, and support citizens hurt by the economy.
- The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended Bush's tax cuts and continued some investments.

Early in the tenure of President Obama, the country was suffering from a significant economic recession. The president signed into law two different acts to help boost the economy. The first was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This bill focused on trying to protect and grow jobs as well as provide support for those hurt by the recession. It focused investment on infrastructure, renewable energies, health, and education. The second bill was the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. This bill extended the Bush tax cuts for an additional two years, and continued some of the investments from the 2009 bill.

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Healthcare



Healthcare

- President Obama worked to increase access to healthcare in the United States.
- In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law.
- The law required everyone to have health insurance, provided subsidies to those who needed help buying insurance, increased Medicare, created new healthcare exchanges, and required medical professionals to improve the distribution and access to healthcare.
- The act created debate around the requirement that everyone have insurance, and questioned the role of the government in the healthcare market.

President Obama also worked hard to increase access to healthcare in the United States. In March, 2010 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law. Nicknamed Obamacare, this law required everyone to have health insurance, provided subsidies to those who needed help buying insurance, increased access to Medicare, created new healthcare exchanges, and required medical professionals to improve the distribution and access of healthcare. The act was successful at reducing the number of uninsured Americans. It also created considerable debate around the requirement that everyone have insurance, and brought to light the role of the government in the healthcare market.

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Terrorism



Terrorism

- President Obama worked to reduce the war on terror.
- On May 2, 2011, U.S. Navy SEALs killed Osama Bin Laden.
- In December 2011, the U.S. military completed its withdrawal from the Iraq war.
- On April 15, 2013 two men planted bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

Image taken by Aaron Tang

President Obama continued the war on terror, but worked to reduce the war. On May 2, 2011, U.S. Navy SEALs acting under orders from President Obama killed Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda and the man responsible for ordering the 9/11 attacks. Bin Laden's death was a significant blow to Al Qaeda. In December 2011, the U.S. military completed its withdrawal from the Iraq war as ordered by President Obama. Even with these successes, terrorism still struck the country. On April 15, 2013 two men planted backpack bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. This bombing killed three people and injured hundreds. A four day manhunt concluded with the capture of one of the two bombers, and the killing of the other.

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Conclusion

A portrait of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States, smiling and standing with his arms crossed. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a blurred indoor setting with red curtains.

Presidents and Foreign Policy: Barack Obama

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