



George H.W. Bush

Was President from 1989-1993



The Berlin Wall Falls



- On November 9, 1989 Gunter Schabowski announced that at midnight citizens of GDR were free to cross the country.
- Both East and West Berlin citizens flocked the wall chanting “Tor Auf!” which means “open the gate!”
- At midnight the Berliners flooded through checkpoints that weekend and that weekend more than 2 million east Berliners visited west Berlin
- The day after the Berlin wall falls President George H.W Bush met with West German Foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to discuss reunification of Germany the minister brought a piece of the wall to Bush

Tiananmen Square



- In 1989, communism was collapsing all over the world
- Despite that, China's communist leaders were determined to stay in power
- Chinese students and workers held a pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China's capital
- In response, China's government sent tanks and soldiers to crush and arrest the demonstrators.
- Many people who were arrested were sentenced to death
- Many countries were shocked and halted arms sales and reduced diplomatic contact
- Bush resisted harsher sanctions, however, as he thought trade and diplomacy would change China's behavior.

Confirmation of Clarence Thomas

- On July 1 1991, Bush nominated Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court
- This was to replace the retiring Thurgood Marshall
- He has conservative political views
- During his confirmation hearings, he was accused of sexual harassment while he was working at the Department of Education
- The public polls said they believed Thomas and he was confirmed by the narrow majority of 52-48
- He still serves as a justice today



End of Cold War/Dissolution Communist East

- In August of 1991, Communist officials and officers tried to stage a coup
- This failed when Russian president Boris Yeltsin defied coup leaders
- However, the end of the Soviet Union had begun as all 15 republics declared their independence
- In December of 1991, Gorbachev announces the end of the Soviet Union
- Many republics join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and some remain independent



Invasion of Panama



- In 1978 the United States agreed to give Panama control of the Panama Canal by 2000. Due to the importance of the canal, American officials wanted to make sure that Panama's government was both stable and pro-United States.
- Although in 1989 the director of Panama General Manuel Noriega was helping drug traffickers and harassing the American officials.
- So, in December 1989, George H.W. Bush ordered the troops to invade Panama. Noriega was then brought to the US to face trial on drug charges.
- The troops then helped the Panamanians through elections and to organize a new government.

Persian Gulf War

- Began August 2nd 1990
- Iraqi Leader Saddam Hussein invaded their neighboring country, Kuwait
 - Hussein accused Kuwait of syphoning oil from oil fields along their common border
 - Problem: Hussain believed Kuwait and Saudi Arabia kept oil prices low to pander to western oil buyers, affecting Iraq's oil market
 - Problem for U.S. because if Iraq took control of Kuwait and decided to take Saudi Arabia, they would control $\frac{1}{3}$ of world Oil market
- Hussein defied United Nations and their demands to withdraw from Kuwait
- As a result of conflict, the U.S. lays the groundwork with Operation Desert Shield and enters the War with an air offensive known as Operation Desert Storm



Operation Desert Shield

- Acted as a precursor for Operation Desert Storm
- 500,000 U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia in case Iraq decided to invade
- Troops acted as a deterrent or “shield” against an attack from Iraq
- With troops in place U.S. presented Hussein with an ultimatum
 - Withdraw from Kuwait by Jan 15, 1991 or face war
 - Hussein didn't withdraw and Operation Desert Storm Began



Operation Desert Storm

- Night January 16, 1991
- Operation Desert Shield Became Operation Desert Storm
- Bombing of Iraq's Military Targets lasted weeks
- Ground Forces were able to retake Kuwait about 100 hours after being deployed
- Iraq eventually agreed to a cease fire
 - Averting crisis, stopping Iraq from taking over oil trade



Americans with Disabilities Act

- Passed July 26, 1990
- Civil Rights law that ensures that there is no discrimination based on disability
 - If a person is capable of doing a job, they cannot be turned away because they have a disability that doesn't hinder them
 - Facilities made to incorporate needs of the disabled
 - Overall ensure equal opportunity for those with disabilities

