

Chapter 29

Challenges for a New Century

(1980–Present)

What You Will Learn

After deadly terrorist attacks in 2001, the United States began a global war against terrorism. Meanwhile, the nation faced many other challenges, including an increasingly global economy, environmental problems, and a changing population.

Chapter 29 Focus Question

As you read this chapter, keep this question in mind: What challenges face the nation in the 21st century?

Section 1

The Threat of Terrorism

Section 1 Focus Question

How did the war on terrorism affect American actions at home and abroad? To begin answering this question,

- Understand the pattern of terrorist strikes against Americans.
- Find out about the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.
- Read about the war on terrorism.
- Learn about the presidential election of 2004.

Section 1 Summary

When the use of terrorism spread to the United States, the nation became involved in a global effort to combat this violence.

Terrorism on the World Stage

Terrorism is the use of violence, often against civilians, to force political or social change. Terrorists use bombings, hijackings, kidnappings, and other violent acts to create a climate of fear. Individuals and groups have carried out terrorist attacks in many nations, from Ireland to Israel. (Middle Eastern extremists have used terrorist attacks to reduce Western influence in their lands.)

The first terrorist attacks against Americans occurred abroad. In 1988, an explosion on an airplane over Scotland killed 270 people, including 189 Americans. Between 1996 and 2000, terrorists in Africa and the Middle East struck U.S. embassies and ships. In 1993, however, a truck bomb exploded under the World Trade Center in New York, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000. In 1995, another truck bomb exploded near a federal office building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. The terrorists in this second attack were two American men who resented the federal government. ✓

Key Events

1970

President Nixon forms the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2001

Terrorists attack New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing thousands of people.

2003

Latinos, or Hispanics, become the largest ethnic minority in the United States.

Terrorists use FEAR to try and bring about change.

✓ Checkpoint

Name one way the bombing in 1993 was different from previous terrorist attacks against Americans.

Osama Bin Laden
o al Qaeda
a terrorist

✓ Checkpoint

List two ways President Bush responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

1.

2.

Vocabulary Builder

To perpetrate is to “commit” or “carry out.” Reread the bracketed paragraph. How might Bin Laden have helped perpetrate the 9/11 attacks?

✓ Checkpoint

Name the two countries the United States attacked in order to combat terrorism.

1.

2.

✓ Checkpoint

Name one issue on which Bush and Kerry disagreed.

The Nation Is Attacked

On September 11, 2001, Arab terrorists hijacked four passenger jets that had taken off from Boston. The terrorists crashed two of the planes into the World Trade Center in New York City. They crashed a third plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The fourth jet crashed into a field in Pennsylvania when passengers rushed the terrorists. The twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in New York, at the Pentagon, or on the airplanes. President Bush took steps to protect America. He made it a priority to promote counterterrorism action taken against terrorists. In 2002, Bush signed the Patriot Act, which granted authorities sweeping powers to investigate and jail people suspected of having terrorist ties. Suspects could be held indefinitely without being charged or being allowed to consult a lawyer. ✓

What about their Miranda Rights? hmmm.....

The War on Terror

Osama Bin Laden was a wealthy Saudi Arabian who ran a worldwide terrorist network called al Qaeda (al KI duh). He was suspected of having played a role in helping to perpetrate the September 11th attacks. He took refuge in Afghanistan, protected by the ruling Taliban, a group of extremists. When the Taliban refused to give up Bin Laden, the United States attacked. The Taliban lost power, but Bin Laden escaped.

President Bush next targeted the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein as a threat. Bush accused Hussein of having ties with Bin Laden and developing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), such as nuclear and chemical weapons. In March 2003, the United States led a coalition in an attack on Iraq. On May 1, Bush announced the end of major combat. However, rebuilding Iraq proved difficult, and fighting continued even after Hussein was captured late in 2003. ✓

Election of 2004

(R) (D)
Bush v. Kerry

The Iraq war was a major issue in the 2004 presidential election. The Democrats nominated Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts. Kerry accused Bush of mishandling the war in Iraq. Bush charged that Kerry lacked the determination to fight terrorism. Bush won the election. Republicans also won expanded majorities in both houses of Congress. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What is the difference between terrorism and counterterrorism?

2. Who was Osama Bin Laden?

Section 2

Economy and the Environment

Key Events

1970 President Nixon forms the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2001 Terrorists attack New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing thousands of people.

2003 Latinos, or Hispanics, become the largest ethnic minority in the United States.

Vocabulary Builder

The word *advocate* includes the Latin root *voc*, which means "voice." Use this fact and clues from the underlined sentence to write a definition of *advocate*.

✓ Checkpoint

List two different strategies for dealing with economic competition between countries.

1. _____
2. _____

Section 2 Focus Question

How do economic and environmental issues link the United States and the world? To begin answering this question,

- Understand how globalization affects the U.S. economy.
- Read about the development of the environmental movement.
- Examine the energy supply.
- Learn about the issue of global warming.

Section 2 Summary

As economic ties between nations grew stronger, the United States faced growing economic and environmental challenges.

A World Linked by Trade

Globalization is the process of creating an international network. One sign of globalization is the fact that foreign trade currently accounts for about 25 percent of the American economy. Foreign goods are cheaper to produce and sell because workers in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Asia are generally paid less than American workers. A trade deficit occurs when a country buys more from other nations than it sells to them. The U.S. trade deficit reached almost \$500 billion in 2003. As a result, American companies have begun outsourcing or having work done in other countries. This strategy allows companies to take advantage of cheap labor outside the United States. Critics of outsourcing say it hurts American workers.

Tariffs and free trade are two different strategies for dealing with foreign competition. People who support tariffs believe that raising tariffs on foreign goods will protect American profits and jobs. Those who support free trade advocate the removal of trade barriers. In 1994, President Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which removed trade barriers between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. NAFTA and global trade regulators such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) have increased trade and generated jobs. However, opponents of free trade argue that it weakens workers' rights and harms the environment. ✓

The Environment

The modern environmental movement began when biologist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book led to laws restricting the use of DDT, a chemical pesticide that was killing birds and fish. Public alarm over threats to nature increased due to a series of environmental disasters. In 1969, an oil spill polluted water off the coast of California. Smog blanketed

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many cities. In response, the Nixon administration formed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). New legislation targeted auto emissions, lakes, and rivers for cleanup. Local governments implemented recycling programs. Critics of the environmental movement argue that these laws are costly.

★ Natural disasters also can harm the environment and the economy. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina tore into Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Early estimates put losses at \$100 billion, with as many as a million people driven from their homes. ✓

The Energy Supply

OIL

The United States has less than 5 percent of the world's people, but uses more than 25 percent of the world's energy supplies. In 1973, Arab members of OPEC supported an embargo that cut off Middle Eastern oil supplies to the United States for a year. The price of oil quadrupled. Legislation ordered car makers to improve fuel efficiency. The government created a reserve to protect against future shortages.

People began to look for alternative sources of energy. Coal supplies are plentiful, but reducing the acid and smoke that coal produces is expensive. Also, fossil fuels, such as petroleum and coal, take thousands of years to form. Renewable resources are energy resources that are more easily restored by nature. Water, solar, and wind power can be turned into electricity. But water power is available only in areas with plentiful rivers. The equipment for solar energy takes up too much space to be used on a large scale. Wind power is not a steady source. Nuclear power plants can provide near-limitless energy, but they are costly and produce radioactive waste. Accidents in nuclear plants in Pennsylvania and the Soviet Union showed the world the danger of radiation. ✓

The Question of Global Warming

Global warming is a worldwide rise in temperatures. Many scientists blame the current trend of global warming on gases such as carbon dioxide emitted by cars, factories, and homes. The United States signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. President Bush rejected this protocol in 2001, arguing that the evidence for global warming was not enough to justify the cost to American businesses. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. Why did some American companies turn to outsourcing?

2. What were some responses to the OPEC oil embargo of 1973?

✓ Checkpoint

List three areas of focus for the environmental movement.

✓ Checkpoint

Name three renewable energy resources.

✓ Checkpoint

Name the source that many scientists believe is responsible for the increase in global temperatures.

↑
HOT !!

Section 3**Science and Technology****Section 3 Focus Question**

How have science and technology transformed modern society?
To begin answering this question,

- Learn how computers led to an information revolution throughout the world.
- Read about important advances in medical science.

Section 3 Summary

The emergence and improvement of computer technology as well as advances in medical science have contributed to many important changes in American life.

The Computer Age

The computer has revolutionized daily life in America, making it possible to store, analyze, and share vast amounts of information in a flash. Before the 1970s, most computing was done by machines called mainframes. They were very large, expensive, and used mostly by governments, universities, and big business. The invention of transistors, or circuits on tiny silicon chips, made smaller computers possible. In 1977, Apple introduced the first computer for home use. International Business Machines (IBM) marketed its own personal computer four years later. During the 1970s, Bill Gates developed software to help ordinary people run computers. He cofounded Microsoft, today one of the world's most successful businesses. By 1990, Americans were buying 7 million computers every year.

In 1969, the U.S. Department of Defense began to link its computers with those in several American universities. This electronic network formed the basis for the Internet. The Internet helped to create an information revolution. The World Wide Web was first proposed in 1989 by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee. By 2003, more than half of all Americans used the Internet to search for information, to communicate, and to purchase goods. E-commerce, or buying and selling online, grew rapidly as companies used the Internet to advertise and conduct business. Satellite technology also added to the information revolution. Telecommunications satellites orbit the Earth, carrying millions of radio and television signals.

Not all of the changes caused by technology have been positive. Privacy can be threatened by "hackers" who tap into computers, contributing to a new crime known as identity theft. The use of cellular phones, introduced in 1973, also threatened the privacy of bystanders who are forced to listen to other people's

cell phones introduced in 1973

Key Events**1970**

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Vocabulary Builder

Suffixes change word forms. The noun *computer* and the verb *compute* share the same base word. The suffix *-ing* is added to the verb form to show a gerund, which names an action. Use your knowledge of words to define *computing*.

✓ Checkpoint

List three examples of technology that has been available in American homes for less than 40 years.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Is this right?
Should it be allowed?

✓ Checkpoint

Name two recently developed tools that help doctors diagnose and treat illnesses.

1. _____
2. _____

conversations. Many Americans favor restrictions on cell phone use in public places and when driving, because cell phone use has been blamed for many auto accidents. ✓

Medical Advances

Technology has helped doctors to detect and treat many medical problems. A laser is a powerful beam of focused light. Lasers have become critical tools for surgeons because they are more flexible than scalpels and can be focused on very small areas. Doctors use lasers to perform delicate eye and skin surgery. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) provides an accurate view of internal organs and helps doctors identify injuries or illnesses and reduce the need for surgery.

Since Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) first appeared in the 1980s, the AIDS epidemic has killed millions of people in the United States and worldwide. In some African countries, 20 percent of the population is infected with the virus that causes AIDS. New drugs have extended the lives of many AIDS sufferers, but they are too expensive for most people in developing countries. In 2003, President Bush promised a \$15 billion program to distribute these medicines worldwide.

Cloning is the process of making a genetic double of a plant or an animal. This controversial scientific process made headlines in 1997 when a Scottish researcher cloned a sheep named Dolly. In 2004, South Korean scientists cloned a human embryo. Cloning research may help find cures for people with serious medical conditions. However, many people worry about the biological and ethical dangers that could result if this led to the cloning of human beings. In 1997, President Clinton prohibited federal funding of the cloning of human cells. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. Explain what is meant by the phrase "information revolution."

2. How has AIDS affected the global population?
