

CHAPTER  
**20**  
SECTION 2

## Section Summary

### THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY

#### READING CHECK

What was the goal of Hillary Clinton's proposal?

---



---



---

#### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *ultimately* in the underlined sentence. The term *finally* is a synonym of *ultimately*. Use this synonym to help you figure out what *ultimately* means in this sentence.

---



---



---

#### READING SKILL

**Summarize** What were the most significant events of Clinton's presidency?

---



---



---

After 12 years of Republicans in the White House, Americans made a change in 1992. The Democrats nominated **William Jefferson Clinton**, governor of Arkansas, to run against President Bush. Texas billionaire **H. Ross Perot** ran as an independent. Clinton carried the election, and Democrats retained control of Congress.

Shortly after taking office, Clinton signed the **Family Medical Leave Act**. It guaranteed most full-time employees time off without pay for personal or family medical reasons. Clinton also signed the **Brady Bill**. That bill placed a five-day waiting period on sales of handguns. Clinton's wife, Hillary, led a task force that proposed a program to provide healthcare for all Americans. Her proposal never won congressional support and was ultimately dropped.

During the 1994 midterm elections, Georgia congressman **Newt Gingrich** introduced his **Contract With America**. It was a plan that attacked big government and emphasized patriotism and traditional values. Republicans won control of the House, the Senate, and most state governorships. Once in office, the Republicans passed much of Gingrich's program. In 1996, Clinton was reelected by a wide margin. However, Congress remained under Republican control.

President Clinton had dodged scandals from his first day in office. One scandal concerned investments the Clintons had made. Special prosecutor **Kenneth Starr** investigated the case. In seven years, he failed to uncover evidence of the Clintons' guilt. In the process, however, he began investigating the President's relationship with a White House intern. Clinton admitted he had lied about the affair, and Starr recommended **impeachment** proceedings. The House of Representatives impeached Clinton on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. He was tried and acquitted on both counts by the Senate in February 1999.

#### Review Questions

1. What two bills did President Clinton sign after taking office?

---



---

2. What was the Contract With America?

---



---