

CHAPTER 20
SECTION 4

Section Summary
BUSH AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

READING CHECK

What problems did President Bush face at home following the invasion of Iraq?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *priority* in the underlined sentence. The word *insignificant* is the antonym of the word *priority*. The word *insignificant* means “of lesser importance.” Use context clues and the meaning of *insignificant* to figure out the meaning of *priority*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Which event in Bush’s presidency has had the greatest influence on later events? Explain.

In 2000, the Democrats nominated Vice President Al Gore, Jr., to replace President Clinton. Gore faced Green Party candidate Ralph Nader and Republican candidate **George W. Bush**. The margin in the Electoral College vote was razor thin. The winner of Florida would win the election. Democrats demanded a hand recount. Republicans sued to prevent it. In *Bush v. Gore*, the Supreme Court decided to stop the recount and Bush won.

Bush’s domestic agenda was overshadowed when the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. Osama bin Laden’s al Qaeda network was blamed for the attacks. Bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders were believed to be hiding in **Afghanistan**. Bush demanded they be turned over, but the nation’s Islamic fundamentalist **Taliban** government refused. Bush then sent American forces, which overthrew the Taliban and captured several al Qaeda leaders.

At home, improving national security became a priority. Congress passed the **Patriot Act**. It gave law enforcement broader powers to monitor suspected terrorists. Congress also created a Cabinet-level **Department of Homeland Security** to coordinate domestic security matters.

Bush next asserted that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)** and was a threat to U.S. security. In March 2003, American and British military forces invaded Iraq. Later, Bush’s popularity waned as violence against U.S. troops in Iraq escalated and the cost of the war increased. The 2008 election is historic. Barack Obama wins the election and becomes the nation’s first African American President.

Review Questions

1. What role did the Supreme Court play in the 2000 presidential election?

2. How did the terrorist attacks on the United States affect domestic policies?
