

Chapter 17 Notes: New Challenges

Section 1: The Reagan Presidency

The Reagan Revolution

President Reagan brought a new conservative approach to government.

- Ronald Reagan's election to the presidency in 1980 marked a significant conservative shift in America.
- After his firm response to the air traffic controller's strike, the public felt that Reagan would stand firm and use his presidency to carry out the policies in which he believed.
- As part of his promise to reduce government, Reagan pursued a policy of **deregulation**.
- In 1981, Reagan appointed **Sandra Day O'Connor** as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.
- Supporters called Reagan's economic policy **supply-side economics** because it aimed to boost the economy by increasing the supply of goods and services.
- While Reagan cut domestic programs, he sharply increased military spending.
 - ✓ The government had to borrow money because of this spending, which increased the **federal debt**.

Reagan's Foreign Policy

The Reagan administration believed that the United States should take strong action to resist Communist influences overseas.

- To carry out his policy against communism, Reagan launched a massive buildup of the military.
- He defended these actions by **quoting** George Washington's advice: "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace."
- Reagan committed U.S. forces and aid to the fight against communism, especially in nearby Latin America.
- Reagan's policies were less successful in the Middle East, where he withdrew all U.S. forces from Lebanon after repeated terrorist attacks.

Reagan's Second Term

During Reagan's second term, the United States continued to act against communism but also held talks with a new Soviet leadership.

- By 1984, the economy was booming and spirits were high in America.
- President Reagan and Vice President **George H.W. Bush** continued this optimistic **theme** in their campaign for reelection.
 - ✓ They won by a landslide against Democrats Walter Mondale and **Geraldine Ferraro**—the first woman to run for vice president on a major political party ticket.
- Despite his popularity, the Iran-Contra scandal cast a shadow over part of President Reagan’s second term.
- In 1985 **Mikhail Gorbachev** became the new Soviet leader and called for a policy of glasnost—opening Soviet society to new ideas.

Section 2: The Bush Presidency

The End of the Cold War

During Bush’s presidency, significant global events led to the end of the Cold War.

- In 1988 Vice President George H.W. Bush was elected president.
 - ✓ However, the Democrats **retained** control of the House and the Senate.
- Bush’s presidency occurred during a time of sweeping change in world affairs.
 - ✓ Bush and Soviet leader Gorbachev—who wanted to end the arms race so he could focus on reforms within his country—agreed to destroy some existing nuclear weapons.
 - ✓ In late 1989, the iron curtain that had divided Eastern and Western Europe began to crumble, and in 1990 East Germany and West Germany were finally reunited.
 - ✓ The defeat of a coup in the Soviet Union brought a tidal wave of democracy and on December 25, 1991, Gorbachev announced the end of the Soviet Union.

A New Foreign Policy

After the Cold War’s end, Bush administration officials set out to develop a new foreign policy.

- In 1989 Bush sent U.S. troops to Panama to overthrow dictator Manuel Noriega.
- Bush and other world leaders condemned the killings of Chinese protesters in **Tiananmen Square**.
- In 1990, Iraqi dictator **Saddam Hussein** sent his army to Kuwait.
 - ✓ President Bush persuaded other nations to join the United States in a **coalition**.

- ✓ Generals **Colin Powell** and **Norman Schwarzkopf** commanded the U.S. forces in **Operation Desert Storm**.
- ✓ Missiles and bombs destroyed Iraqi military and civilian **sites**, and, after a short ground war, Kuwait was freed and Iraq was forced to accept a cease-fire.
- In 1991, a civil war in Yugoslavia resulted in thousands of deaths.
 - ✓ After NATO took military action, the participants signed a peace plan in 1995 known as the Dayton Accords.

Domestic Issues

The federal debt and an economic slowdown were challenges for the Bush administration.

- During the 1980s, the Reagan administration cut regulations in many industries, and the new laws eased limits on savings and loan associations.
 - ✓ When many borrowers could not repay their loans and real estate values declined, the government had to pay out billions of dollars to customers of failed savings and loan associations.
- In 1990 the economy began to slow.
 - ✓ Cuts in military spending led to job losses in defense-related businesses.
 - ✓ Companies began to **downsize** to become more efficient.
 - ✓ Some businesses and individuals who had borrowed money had to declare **bankruptcy**.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 banned job discrimination against people with disabilities.
- In 1989 President Bush created the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Section 3: A New Century

The Clinton Administration

President Clinton struggled with Republicans in Congress and faced impeachment, but he achieved several major economic and social reforms.

- For the 1992 presidential election, the Democrats nominated Arkansas governor **Bill Clinton**, with Tennessee senator **Al Gore** as his running mate.
- A **grassroots movement** put Texas business leader H. Ross Perot on the ballot as a third-party candidate.

- ✓ Perot called for an end to the government's **deficit spending**.
- Voters elected Clinton, the first president born after World War II.
- One of the new president's goals was reducing the **budget deficit**, but his plans faced opposition from Republicans in Congress.
- Clinton faced stronger opposition to his plan for health-care reform.
 - ✓ His goal was to control rising health-care costs and provide **adequate** health insurance for every American.
- The president succeeded in passing the Brady Bill of 1993 and the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.
- Popular support for a Republican plan known as the Contract with America resulted in Republican control of both houses of Congress in 1994.
- During Clinton's second term, the economy continued to grow, as evidenced by growth of the **gross domestic product**.
- The strong economy kept Clinton's popularity high, but scandals threatened his presidency.
 - ✓ Kenneth Starr widened the **scope** of his investigation into scandals in the Clinton administration and claimed that Clinton had committed **perjury** and obstructed justice.
 - ✓ In February 1999, the Senate acquitted the president of both charges.
- In 1993, Clinton persuaded Congress to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement, eliminating trade barriers among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.
- Clinton also worked to establish peace between Israel and Palestine, but opposition to the plan emerged on both sides and violence in the area continued.

A New President for a New Century

As the 2000s began, the United States enjoyed economic prosperity but was deeply divided politically.

- In the presidential election of 2000, Texas governor **George W. Bush** and his running mate **Richard Cheney** faced Vice President Al Gore and his running mate, Senator Joseph Lieberman.
- After a partial recount of the votes in Florida, Bush became the 43rd president of the United States on January 20, 2001.
- When assembling the cabinet, Bush sought people from different career backgrounds and ethnicities.

- **Condoleezza Rice**, the first woman in history to hold the job of national security adviser, was one of five women in Bush's cabinet.
- In June 2001, Congress passed and Bush signed into law the 10-year, \$1.3 trillion tax-cut bill.
- Bush also proposed reforms in education, leading to the No Child Left Behind Act.
- In foreign affairs, Bush pushed for new military programs, such as a National Missile Defense System.

Section 4: The War on Terror

The Events of 9/11

On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered the worst terrorist attack in its history.

- The acts of **terrorism** against the United States on September 11, 2001, shocked Americans, but they responded rapidly to the crisis.
- The United States government quickly identified the attacks as the work of a Saudi Arabian man named **Osama bin Laden** and his terrorist organization, al-Qaeda.
- Although the majority of Muslims worldwide reject terrorism, some **fundamentalists** like bin Laden do not.
- Al-Qaeda grew out of the Muslim struggle against the Soviet Union in the Southwest Asian country of Afghanistan.
- Bin Laden then decided that all Westerners should be pushed out of the Muslim world and began a series of terrorist attacks.

Fighting Terrorism

After the 9/11 attacks, the United States launched a massive effort to eliminate international terrorism.

- President Bush created the Office of Homeland Security in order to coordinate **counterterrorism** efforts.
- Congress passed and the president signed into law the **USA Patriot Act** of 2001, which permitted agents to conduct secret searches of a suspect's home or office without giving **prior** notice.
- The war on terrorism first focused on Afghanistan, where Taliban leaders refused to hand over bin Laden.
- The attacks of 9/11 raised fears that terrorist groups might acquire nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

- On March 20, 2003, the American military, aided by soldiers from Britain and some other countries, attacked Iraq.
- The U.S. set out to create a democracy in Iraq, which was difficult due to **insurgents** and internal fighting amongst Muslims.

Bush's Second Term

During his second term, President Bush lost much support as a result of the Iraq war and difficult challenges at home.

- In the election of 2004, the Democrats nominated Massachusetts senator John Kerry for president and North Carolina senator John Edwards for vice president.
- Election day saw the highest voter turnout since 1968, and President Bush was re-elected.
- The war on terrorism raised questions about the nation's security and civil liberties, such as what to do with captured terrorists.
- In addition to prisoner's rights, the Bush administration faced challenges about citizen's rights.
- President Bush had to fill two vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court—the Senate confirmed his choices of John G. Roberts and Samuel Alito, Jr.
- On August 29, 2005, **Hurricane Katrina** struck the Gulf of Mexico coast.
- After the hurricane had passed, rising waters broke through the **levees** that protected New Orleans, and many people waited for days to be rescued.
- American voters expressed their unhappiness with the Bush administration's policies in the 2006 midterm elections, where the Democrats won control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1992.
 - ✓ House Democrats elected **Nancy Pelosi** to be the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- House Democrats called for the president to set a **definite** timetable for pulling American troops out of Iraq.

Section 5: Challenges Ahead

The New Global Economy

Advances in technology now link the United States to a global economy.

- In recent years, the United States and other nations have become **interdependent**.
- A major reason for the rise of the global economy is the technology revolution.

- ✓ A few **decades** ago, computers, cell phones, cable television, and compact discs had not been invented or were not widely available.
- The technology revolution has contributed to the rise of **globalism**, and the United States is a key player in this economy.
- The United States imports more than it exports, resulting in a massive **trade deficit**.
- To further American economic growth, Republican and Democratic administrations since World War II have supported **free trade**.
- As the world economy becomes more interconnected, Americans debate whether ending trade barriers helps or hinders the United States.

The Environment

Concern about the environment has become a serious political issue in recent years.

- Globalism has made people **aware** of issues that affect the world as a whole.
- **Urban sprawl** has created many problems, such as loss of farmland and wilderness areas.
- The U.S. faces several environmental challenges, such as air and water pollution.
 - ✓ Pollution from the burning of fossil fuels mixes with water vapor in the air to make **acid rain**.
- Some scientists worry that **global warming** will lead to changing weather patterns and could melt the polar ice caps.

A Changing Society

As the 2000s begin, immigrants and the elderly make up a larger share of the American population.

- As America enters the twenty-first century, its population is changing.
 - ✓ The number of older Americans has risen.
 - ✓ Ways of living and working have changed as a result of new technologies.
 - ✓ Changes in U.S. laws and unstable conditions worldwide have led to a dramatic rise in the number of immigrants to the United States.
- Many Americans call for illegal immigrants to be **deported**, while others are willing to grant **amnesty** to those who are already here.
- Immigration, as well as natural population increase, contribute to population growth.
- Despite health advances, the rates of cancer in the United States have risen.

- Recently, most of the nation's population growth has taken place in the West and South.



▲ First section of Berlin Wall torn down, November 10, 1989

Presidential candidate Bill Clinton at campaign rally ▼

California teens clean up trash and litter ▼

▲ Worker walks through the rubble of the World Trade Center, September 11, 2001

Russia and the Independent Republics

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



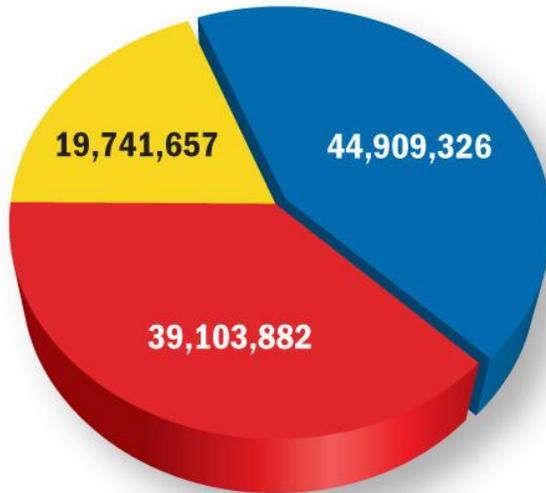
Persian Gulf War, 1991

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



By the Numbers / The 1992 Election

Popular Vote



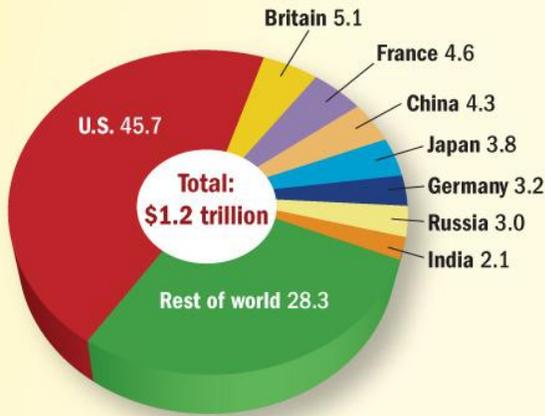
Bill Clinton Ross Perot
George Bush

www.presidentelect.org

Three-Way Race Democratic candidate Bill Clinton won the electoral vote by more than a 2-to-1 margin over incumbent President George H.W. Bush. Clinton, however, did not win a majority of the nation's popular vote, but he did beat Bush by six percentage points.

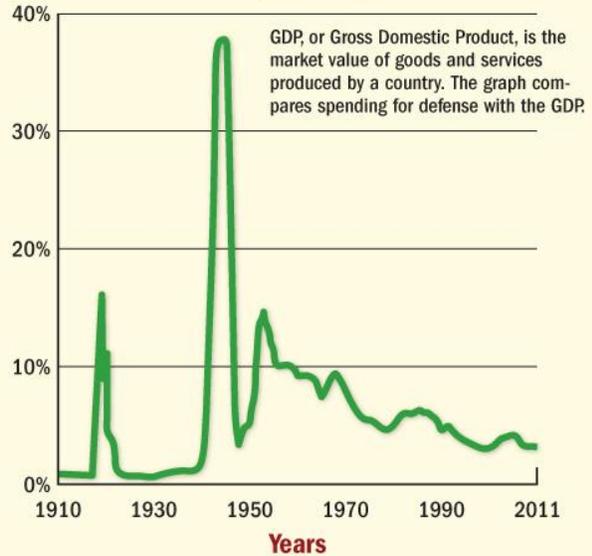
National Defense, Selected Nations

**Defense Spending, 2006
(% of world total)**



Sources: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; International Institute for Strategic Studies

U.S. Defense Spending as % of GDP



National Defense, Selected Nations

Comparing the Military, Selected Nations The U.S. military has about 1.5 million personnel on active duty. An additional 1.3 million men and women serve in the reserves.

	Armed forces* in millions	Nuclear warheads, est.	Aircraft carriers
U.S.	1.5	5,163	12
Britain	0.2	200	3
China	2.3	400	0
France	0.3	350	2
India	1.3	50	1
Japan	0.2	0	0
Russia	1.0	5,830	1

*Not including reservists

Election of 2000

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



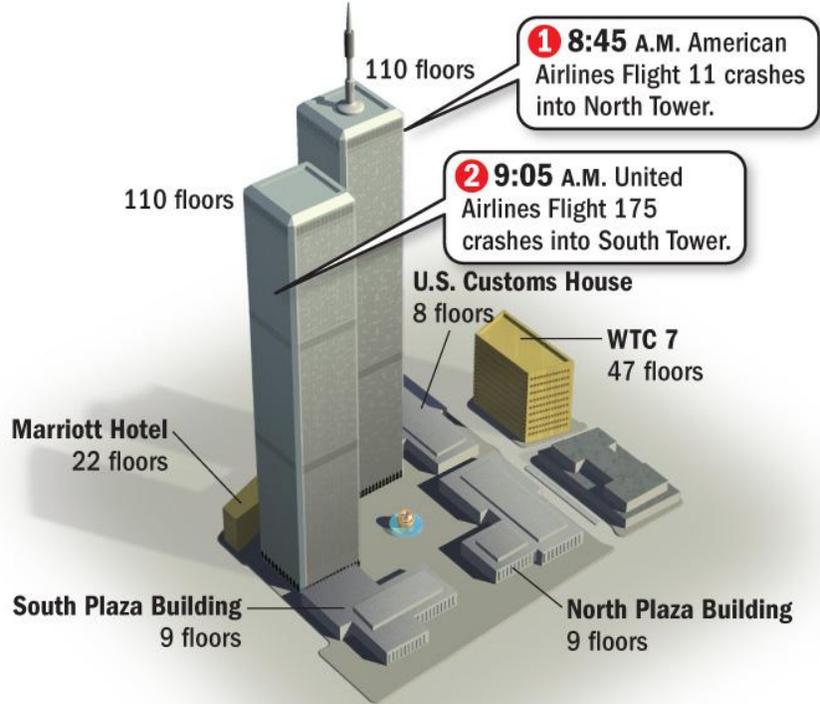
Candidates	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	Political Party
Bush	271	50,456,002	Republican
Gore	266	50,999,897	Democrat
Nader	0	2,882,955	Green

One elector from Washington, D.C., abstained.

Gore and Bush supporters outside the U.S. Supreme Court ▼



World Trade Center



Primary Source Remembering September 11, 2001

The Victims and Heroes

"I knew that in an instant we might all be dead. I remember saying the same prayer over and over: 'Oh God, let us escape. Oh God, let me get back to my two boys.'"

—Alison Summers, WTC survivor

"Make no mistake: The United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

—President George W. Bush

"This massive attack was intended to break our spirit; it has not done that. It's made us stronger, more determined and more resolved."

—NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani

"I told God that I didn't know what I'd done to be in his grace. . . . I just didn't know."

—Michael Benfante, WTC survivor

World Trade Center

Total Injured	2,261
Total Deaths (ground, including firefighters and police)	2,752
American Airlines Flight 11 Deaths—WTC North Tower	92
United Airlines Flight 175 Deaths—WTC South Tower	65

Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania

Total Injured—The Pentagon	76
Total Deaths—The Pentagon (ground)	124
American Airlines Flight 77—The Pentagon	64
United Airlines Flight 93—Shanksville, Pennsylvania	40

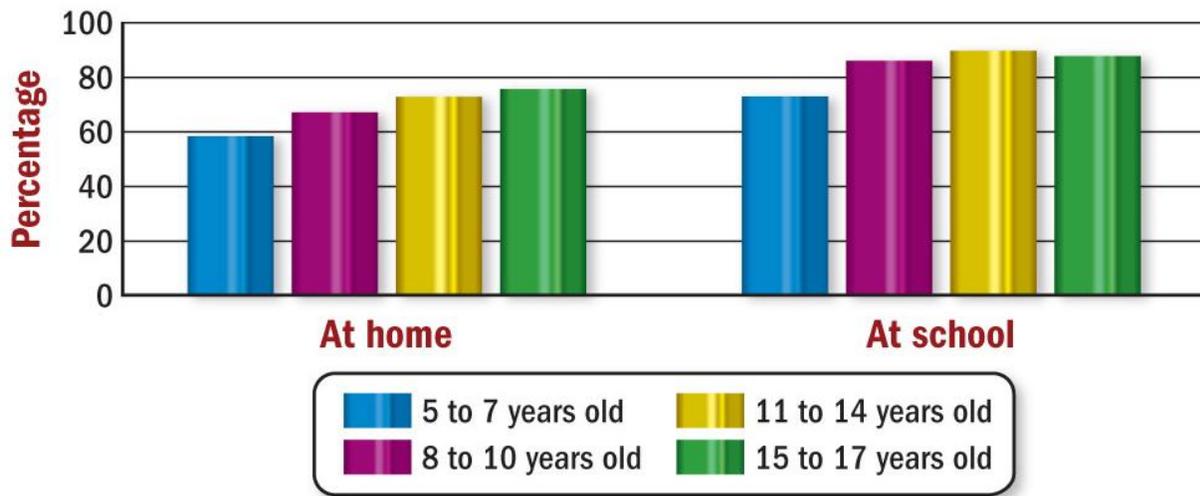
Global Terrorism



1	1979	Fifty-two Americans held hostage in Iran
2	1983	U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon bombed, 241 killed
3	1985	TWA flight hijacked; hostages held in Lebanon
4	1988	Pan Am flight explodes over Scotland, 270 killed
5	1993	World Trade Center bombed in New York, 6 killed
6	1995	Bombing of federal office building in Oklahoma City, 168 killed, more than 500 injured

7	1996	U.S. complex in Saudi Arabia bombed, 19 U.S. soldiers killed
8	1998	U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania bombed, 200 killed
9	1999	Chechen separatists bomb apartments in Russia, 300 killed
10	2000	USS Cole bombed in Persian Gulf, 17 U.S. soldiers killed
11	2001	Hijacked airliners crash into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in rural Pennsylvania
12	2002	Bomb explodes at resort in Bali, Indonesia, more than 200 killed
13	2002–present	Attacks in Afghanistan against troops and civilians
14	2003–present	Attacks in Iraq against coalition troops and civilians
15	2004	Beslan school hostage crisis, 344 killed, mostly children
16	2004	Train system in Madrid, Spain, bombed, 191 killed
17	2004	U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, attacked, 5 killed
18	2005	London subway bombed, 52 killed
19	2007	Car bomb attempt at Glasgow, Scotland, airport

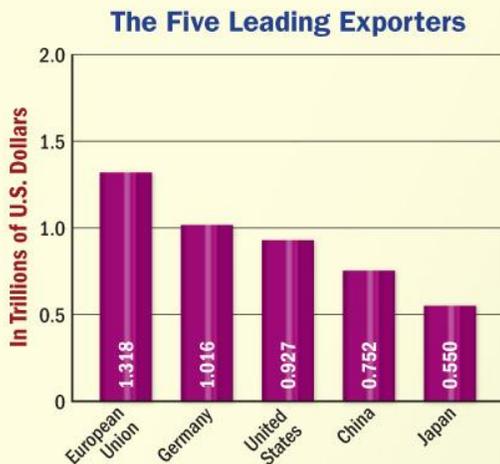
By the Numbers Computer Access



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006*; U.S. National Center for Education Statistics

Economics & History

The United States imports many manufactured goods from Japan. Automobiles are the largest single category. ▶



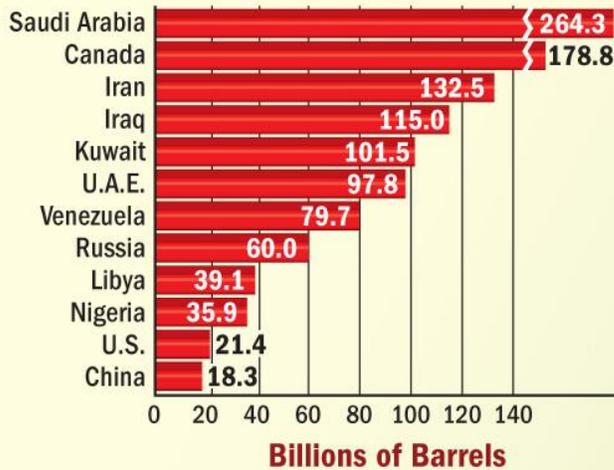
Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006



Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006

Economics & History

Proved Oil Reserves by Country, 2006*

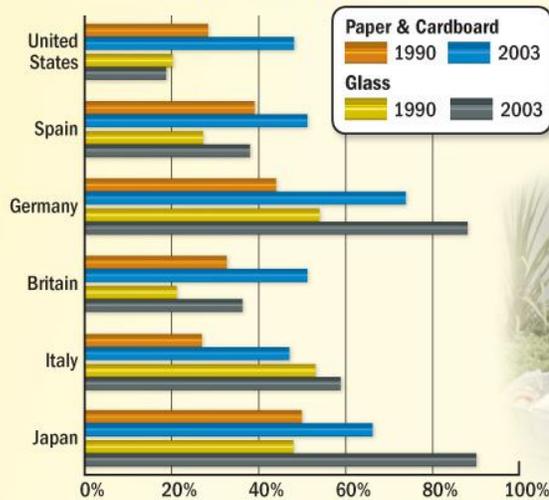


Source: *Oil & Gas Journal*; U.S. Energy Information Administration

*Proved reserves are estimated with reasonable certainty to be recoverable with present technology and prices.

How Much Do We Recycle?

Recycling Rates

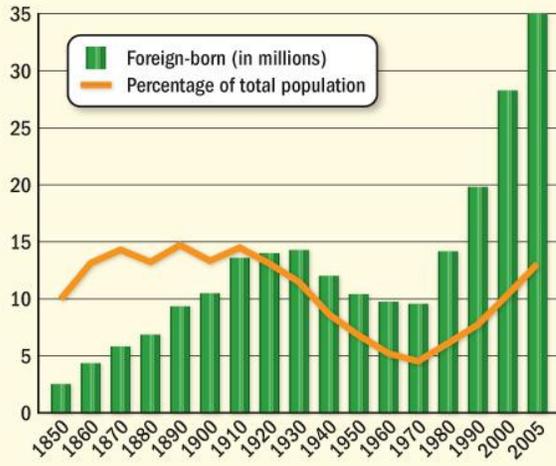


Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; UN Statistical Division

Why Recycle? What happens to trash? Most ends up in landfills. Some is burned in incinerators. Some is dumped into lakes, rivers, and oceans. All of these methods create pollution and harm living things. Recycling your trash can help. About 80 percent of household trash can be recycled.



U.S. Foreign-Born Population, 1850-2005



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Urban Institute

Three generations
of the Solano
family from San
Antonio, Texas ▶

