

One Hundred and Fourth Congress

Jan.4, 1995-Oct. 4, 1996

First Administration of William J. Clinton

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Historical Background

The midterm Congressional elections of 1994 dealt a significant blow to the Presidency of President William J. Clinton. After the stinging defeat of his comprehensive health care reform legislation, Republicans presented Clinton as an example of big government liberalism that is a drag on U.S. industry and flirts with a socialist sort of policymaking that is anathema to the American republic. Capitalizing on concerns over the rising Federal debt, Republicans, led by Georgia Representative Newton Gingrich, effectively nationalized the election with their Contract with America: a document released by the Republican Party adumbrating a list of pledges promised by the documents signatories. The Contract included specific legislation to be introduced by a Republican-controlled Congress as well as a list of specific actions to be taken on the first day of a Republican-controlled House of Representatives. These include requiring all laws that apply to the rest of the country apply to the Congress, that a major auditing firm will be selected to conduct a comprehensive audit of the Congress to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, requiring a three-fifths majority to approve any tax increases, among others. Introduced six weeks ahead of the 1994 elections, the Contract with America resonated with voters. In the House, Republicans picked up 54 seats, giving them a total of 230 seats, a majority in the 435-seat chamber. In the Senate, Republicans picked up eight seats, giving them a bare majority of 52 seats out of 100. Perhaps most importantly, Newton Gingrich would be elected Speaker of the House and bête noire to President Clinton.

In his January 24, 1995 State of the Union Address President Clinton articulated his vision for a New Covenant, a set of understandings on how to equip the American people to meet the challenges of a new economy, change the way government works to fit a different time, and repair the damaged bonds in society to come together behind a common purpose. He asked for



President
William J. Clinton

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (230 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (52 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (204 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (48 seats)
Other Parties: 0	Other Parties: 0
Speaker of the House: Newton Gingrich	Majority Leader: Robert Dole

line item veto authority to aid him in reducing unnecessary government spending.

During January 1995 the Clinton Administration sought to provide financial assistance to Mexico which was in the midst of a severe economic crisis following a period of political unrest. On January 31 President Clinton announced that he would provide \$20 billion in swaps and securities guarantees and his aid proposal was subsequently approved by the Mexican Congress.

In April 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed, and in his January 23, 1996 address President Clinton asked Congress to approve anti-terrorism legislation proposed in response to the 1995 bombing.

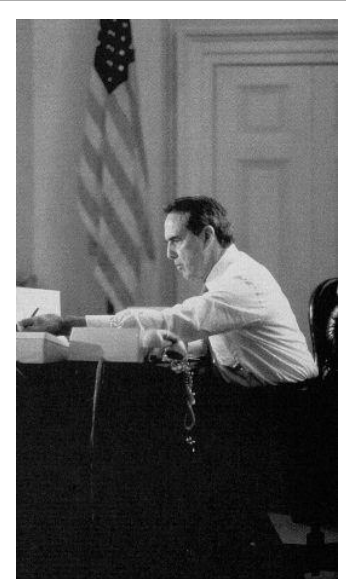
In both his 1995 and his 1996 addresses, President Clinton urged the Senate to ratify the START II Treaty with Russia to reduce nuclear stockpiles by 25%. He challenged the Congress to send him a bipartisan welfare reform bill and consolidate job training programs to facilitate the ability of underemployed or unemployed workers to enroll in community college or other training programs.

In 1996 President Clinton announced that he would sign an executive order to deny Federal contracts to firms that hire illegal immigrants and stressed the importance of taking a strong stand against illegal immigration by strengthening border controls and increasing inspections to prevent the hiring of illegal immigrants. He called on Congress to pass a requirement that would allow parents to control the TV programming their children watch. He supported an increase in the minimum wage and supported a proposal to prohibit insurance companies from dropping individuals when they changed jobs or denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

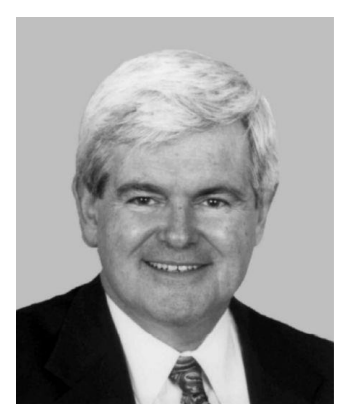
Threats seen as posing a danger to the nation included terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, drug trafficking, ethnic and religious hatred, aggression by rogue states, and environmental degradation.

In both 1995 and 1996 President Clinton commented on the strength of the economy, reporting in 1996 that the economy was the healthiest it had been in three decades, with the combined unemployment and inflation rates the lowest in 27 years.

Two partial shutdowns of the Federal Government occurred. The first, from Nov. 13-19, 1995, furloughed an estimated 800,000 employees. It was set in motion by the expiration of a continuing funding resolution agreed to on Sept. 30, 1995, and President Clinton's veto of a second continuing resolution and a debt limit extension bill. A continuing funding resolution enacted on Nov. 20, 1995 funded the government through Dec. 15, 1995. A partial shutdown of the Federal government took place from Dec. 16, 1995 until Jan. 6, 1996 when President Clinton and Congress reached an agreement. A series of funding resolutions covering brief periods of time



Senate Majority Leader
Robert Dole



Speaker of the House
Newt Gingrich

were enacted until an omnibus resolution covering the rest of FY96 was signed on Apr. 26.

During the 104th Congress the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters continued to investigate matters of inquiry regarding failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association of McCrory, Ark., and Whitewater Development Corp., a 1978 Arkansas real estate venture in which Madison Guaranty Chairman James B. McDougal and President and Mrs. Clinton were partners.

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War or Peace?

War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia

In May 1994, during the 103rd Congress, the United States conducted air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) organized to stem the genocidal civil war in the former Yugoslavia. The situation originated in the breakup of the former Yugoslavia that followed on the heels of the death of longtime Socialist leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980 and the collapse of the Eastern Bloc states after 1989. As each of the various south Slavic ethnic and religious groups comprising the erstwhile political portmanteau scrambled to consolidate its territory, there were inevitably losers.

In early 1992 Serb forces gained control in the village of Srebrenica in the far eastern part of the Republika Srpska autonomous zone of Bosnia and Herzegovina and began expelling its Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) residents. The village was a tiny Bosniak island in Republika Srpska's otherwise uniformly Serbian demographic ocean. The Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina therefore had used the village as a base from which to attack Serb forces. In early 1993, Serb forces managed to cut off Srebrenica's connections to the rest of Bosnia and Herzegovina, creating siege conditions for the tiny mountain enclave. The United Nations declared the village a safe area, allowing for the delivery of supplies and giving aid convoys access to the residents, but by early-1995 the situation had deteriorated, with fewer and fewer convoys reaching the village. In March, Republika Srpska

President Radovan Karadžić issued a secret order for Serb forces to seal off the remaining humanitarian corridor to the city, creating catastrophic conditions not only for the residents but also for the UN peacekeepers patrolling the safe area. In July, as residents in the now fully-blockaded village began to succumb to starvation, Serb forces began their assault on Srebrenica. UNPROFOR commanders operating the patrol of Srebrenica desperately called for NATO air support, though NATO ultimately backed down when Serb forces threatened to kill French and Dutch hostages. By July 11, Serb forces had taken control of the village. Roughly 25,000 Bosniak refugees from Srebrenica gathered in nearby Potočari, where some of the UNPROFOR contingent was headquartered, hoping to find refuge there. Beginning July 12, Serb soldiers began circulating through the crowds of refugees gathered outside the UNPROFOR headquarters, summarily executing men and raping and murdering women and children, often while Dutch soldiers looked, doing nothing to stop the slaughter and rapine. Serb soldiers began systematically separating Bosniak men and boys and holding them in separate locations. Over the next several days, small groups of these segregated men were transported first to a secondary location, often an abandoned school or other building, where they were forced to wait several hours before being transported to a remote execution site where they were systematically lined up, shot, and interred in mass graves. In all, over 8,000 Bosniaks, largely men and boys, were murdered during the Srebrenica massacre. The incident would lead to the prosecution of several of the top Serb leaders, including Slobodan Milošević, Ratko Mladić, and Radovan Karadžić. Members of the Dutch UNPROFOR forces came under fire for their inaction in the days leading up to the massacre.

Troubles in the Middle East

On June 25, 1996, terrorists linked to the government of Iran and styling themselves Hezbollah al-Hejaz, detonated a truck bomb outside Khobar Towers building #131, near the city of Khobar, Saudi Arabia. The building was being used as a barracks housing U.S. Air Force airmen who were involved in monitoring the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. The attack killed 19 U.S. airmen and one Saudi and injured hundreds of others. The members of Hezbollah al-Hejaz came from the Saudi Arabia's Shia minority, largely located in the eastern portion of the country, where Khobar is situated. Other evidence pointed to the involvement of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, though that seemed to contradict the involvement of Shia-majority Iran and other Arab Shia Muslim activists.

Two months later, in August 1996, a civil war was raging in the northern Kurdish areas of Iraq between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The government of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad on August 31 against the Kurdish city of Erbil hoping to exploit Kurdish disunion in order to reestablish control over the region. Fears that Saddam might use genocidal tactics, including chemical weapons against the Kurds as he had in the past, as well as repeated Iraqi attacks against U.S. aircraft prompted President William J. Clinton to launch Operation Desert

Strike, a series of cruise missile attacks against air defense placements in southern Iraq.

Revolution in Afghanistan

After the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan in 1989 and the toppling of the Soviet-allied communist government of Mohammad Najibullah in 1992, the remaining factions of Afghan freedom fighters turned their weapons on each other in their respective bids for influence in any new Afghan regime. Over the next four years, the already war ravaged country was subjected to increasingly severe depredations. In 1994 in Kandahar Province, a local Pashtun preacher named Mullah Mohammed Omar and several of his students formed an organization called the Taliban—the Pashto word for “students”—who aimed to stop the fighting among warlords and other factions, aid ordinary Afghans who were suffering under the civil war, and institute Islamic law in Afghanistan. Within weeks of its founding, the Taliban attracted thousands of new recruits, largely taken from Pashtun Afghan refugees studying in madrasahs in neighboring Pakistan. With amazing speed, the Taliban raced through one district of Afghanistan after another, securing the country from warlords and establishing an environment of relative peace unknown in the country for nearly 20 years. By 1995, the Taliban were consolidating their gains and pushing toward the Afghan capital of Kabul. Throughout that year, as the Taliban would establish a position outside the capital from which it would commence shelling the city, the forces of the ethnic Tajik warlord-cum-Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud would push them back.

In September 1996, the Taliban returned to Kabul, this time seizing the capital and pushing Massoud’s forces toward their stronghold in the Panjshir Valley in the far north of the country. In less than two years, this ragtag bunch of seminarians had come from nowhere to put an end to years of fighting among deeply entrenched interests. The reintroduction of peace and effective justice was welcomed by many among the Afghan public, especially among ethnic Pashtuns. Be that as it may, upon securing control of the country, the Taliban, most of whom grew up in refugee camps and spent virtually all of their time in rural religious schools, began to implement their version of Islamic law, which was liberally peppered with elements of the complex Pashtun social code known as Pashtunwali. In the Taliban’s Afghanistan, women and girls were forbidden from attending school and largely from working outside the home. Moreover, when venturing in public, women were required to wear the full body and face covering burqa. Harsh punishments were meted out for anything from engaging in homosexual sex, to wearing pants that were too long or beards that were too short. Soon, the relief over the seeming tranquility the Taliban brought to Afghanistan turned to concern over the plight of women and girls and non-Pashtun Afghans. Particularly worrying was relocation of Usama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda organization to Afghanistan after being asked to leave Sudan. Though bin Laden relocated to the country without an invitation on the part of the new Taliban government in Kabul, the Qaeda leader found ways to ingratiate

himself with his sometimes-reluctant hosts by providing money and helping in their continued fight with Massoud.

Source:

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Economic Trends and Conditions

At the beginning of 1995 in many ways the economy was as strong as it had ever been. During 1995 the so-called “misery rate”—the sum of inflation and unemployment rates—fell to its lowest level since 1968. Equipment investment and merchandise exports were soaring, having climbed more than 25% since the beginning of 1993. The Administration perceived the economic challenge for the future as the need for productivity growth and policies to ensure that all Americans participated in the prosperity and asserted the importance of health care cost containment.

During 1995 the Federal deficit continued to decline. The moderate growth and reduced pace of job creation during the year were perceived as evidence that the economy had entered a new phase, moving from recovery following the 1990-91 recession into a period of sustained growth.

At the end of 1996 the economy was still strong and growing. The unemployment rate had fallen below 5.5%, the deficit was coming down, and core inflation was only 2.7%.

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Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

U.S. v. National Treasury Employees Union, finding it unconstitutional to apply the honoraria ban to certain Federal employees, [513 U.S. 454](#) (1995)

United States v. X-Citement Video, Inc., held that the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act of 1977 use of the word “knowingly” was all encompassing in its application to the text of the law and the Act is properly read to include a scienter requirement for age of minority, [513 U.S. 64](#) (1995)

McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission, held that an Ohio statute that prohibits the distribution of anonymous campaign literature abridges the freedom of speech in violation of the First Amendment, [514 U.S. 334](#) (1995)

Rubin v. Coors Brewing Company, held that the Federal Alcohol Administration Act, which prohibited the displaying of alcohol content on beer labels, violates the First Amendment's protection of commercial speech, [514 U.S. 476](#) (1995)

United States v. Lopez, holding that Congress does not have authority under the commerce clause of the Constitution to prohibit possession of a gun near a school because gun possession in and of itself does not involve interstate commerce, [514 U.S. 549](#) (1995)

Hubbard v. U.S., holding that the statute prohibiting false statements to agencies of the Federal Government applies only to statements made to executive branch agencies, [514 U.S. 695](#) (1995)

U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, holding that State law cannot set term limits on Members of Congress, [514 U.S. 779](#) (1995).

Wilson v. Arkansas, held that the common-law knock and announce principle of the search and seizure clause forms a part of the Fourth Amendment reasonableness inquiry, 514 U.S. 927 (1995)

Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña, holding that all Government race-based classifications must be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling Government interest, [514 U.S. 200](#) (1995)

Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group, held that the Massachusetts courts' application of the state's public accommodations law to require private citizens who organize a parade to include among the marchers a group imparting a message that the organizers do not wish to convey violates the First Amendment, [513 U.S. 64](#) (1995)

Vernonia School District 47 v. Acton, granting school administrators the discretion to implement a policy of random drug testing for students participating in high-school sponsored athletics, [515 U.S. 646](#) (1995)

Missouri v. Jenkins, held that a remedial educational desegregation program providing greater educational opportunities to victims of past de jure segregation than provided anywhere else in the country, satisfies the Fourteenth Amendment solely because student achievement in the District, as measured by results on standardized test scores, has not risen- to some unspecified level, [515 U.S. 70](#) (1995)

Capital Square Review Board v. Pinette, held that the State must allow a private group to erect a large, unattended Latin cross directly in front of the Ohio Statehouse, on the ground that a private organization's display of a religious symbol in a public forum, even a public forum closely associated with the seat of government, can never violate the Establishment Clause, [515 U.S. 753](#) (1995)

Rosenberger v. University of Virginia, holding that universities cannot discriminate against religious groups when making available funds from student dues to secular groups when both groups otherwise qualify under the same funding scheme, [515 U.S. 810](#) (1995)

Miller v. Johnson, held that Georgia's congressional redistricting plan was an example of racial gerrymandering and violated the Equal Protection Clause, [515 U.S. 900](#) (1995)

Seminole Tribe of Florida v. Florida, held that the Eleventh Amendment prevents Congress from authorizing suits by Indian tribes against States to enforce legislation enacted pursuant to the Indian Commerce Clause, [517 U.S. 44](#) (1996)

Zicherman v. Korean Airlines, holding that the Death on the High Seas Act of 1920, which recognizes only economic damages applies to lawsuits stemming from aircraft crashes at sea, [516 U.S. 217](#) (1996)

44 Liquormart, Inc. v. Rhode Island, held that Rhode Island may not prohibit truthful, non-misleading price advertising regarding alcoholic beverages, as it violates the First Amendment, [517 U.S. 484](#) (1996)

BMW of North America, Inc. v. Gore, held that a \$2,000,000 remitted punitive exaction, which is 500 times respondent's compensatory damages, was grossly excessive in violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, [517 U.S. 559](#) (1996)

Romer v. Evans, holding that the State of Colorado violated the rights of lesbians and homosexuals when it adopted an amendment to the State Constitution rescinding State and local laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and barred enactment of laws protection such civil right in the future, [517 U.S. 620](#) (1996)

Shaw v. Hunt, held that North Carolina's racially gerrymandered redistricting plan violated the Equal Protection Clause because the State's reapportionment scheme is not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest, [517 U.S. 899](#) (1996)

Bush v. Vera, held that Texas' redistricting plan was an example of racial gerrymandering and thus violated the Equal Protection Clause, [517 U.S. 952](#) (1996)

United States v. Virginia, holding that the male-only admissions policy of the Virginia Military Institute violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause and that offering separate but equal military training facilities did not provide a sufficient remedy, [518 U.S. 515](#) (1996)

Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee v. Federal Election Commission, held that the party expenditure provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 violated the First Amendment when it's applied to expenditures not tied to a candidate's campaign, [518 U.S. 604](#) (1996)

Felker v. Turpin, held that the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 does not preclude this Court from entertaining an application for habeas corpus relief, although it does affect the standards governing the granting of such relief and does not violate the Constitution's Suspension Clause, [518 U.S. 651](#) (1996)

Denver Area Educational Telecommunications Consortium, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission, the Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act's section 10(a) explicitly content- and speaker-based censorship scheme is immune from First Amendment scrutiny as not "state action" because it delegates censorship decisions in part to cable operators, where petitioners challenge a congressional statute, not a cable operator's specific censorship decisions, though provisions 10(b) and 10(c), which allow cable operators to ban indecent programming, as well as blocking entire channels, on public access channels is unconstitutional , [518 U.S. 727](#) (1996)

U.S. v. Winstar Corporation, in which the Court ruled that U.S. had breached contracts made by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board with various savings and loan institutions, [518 U.S. 839](#) (1996)

1995 Events

- **Jan. 1:** [World Trade Organization established](#)
- **Jan. 8:** [Russia and Iran sign an agreement under which Russia may build up to four nuclear power reactors in Iran](#)
- **Mar. 16:** [US Astronaut Norman Thagard comes aboard the Russian space station MIR as part of the US- Russia cooperative shuttle-MIR rendezvous program](#)
- **Mar. 20:** [Japanese religious cult Aum Shinrikyo launches terrorist attack with sarin nerve agent on a subway trains in Tokyo, Japan](#)
- **Mar. 25:** [An Iraqi court sentences 2 Americans, William Barloon and David Daliberti, to 8 years in prison for allegedly entering Iraq without permission](#)
- **Mar. 31:** Singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez is murdered in Texas by her fan-club president

- **Apr. 19:** [Alfred P Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is destroyed by a bomb in a domestic terrorist incident killing 168 people](#)
- **May 15:** China conducts a nuclear test, its fourth since Sept. 1992
- **July 11:** [Bosnian Serbs execute Bosnian Muslim civilians, following the surrender of the UN-designated safe area of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- **July 17:** [Americans William Barloon and David Daliberti are released from prison by Iraq President Saddam Hussein following meeting with Representative Bill Richardson](#)
- **Aug. 30:** [NATO launches Operation Deliberate Force air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets around Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia](#)
- **Sept. 19:** [The Washington Post and New York Times publish the Unabomber's manifesto](#)
- **Oct. 3:** [O.J. Simpson is acquitted on both counts of murder](#)
- **Oct. 16:** [Million Man March rally in D.C., organized by National of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, draws over 400,000 African American men to the U.S. Capitol for the purpose of rededicating themselves to family, personal responsibility, and community](#)
- **Nov. 1:** [International negotiations sponsored by the U.S., Russia, and the European Union are officially launched at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in the U.S., with delegates from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia attending](#)
- **Nov. 4:** [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated](#)
- **Nov. 13-Nov 16:** [Partial shutdown of the Federal government resulting from partisan budget disagreements](#)
- **Dec. 14:** [Dayton peace agreement, brokered by U.S. leadership, is signed, bringing to an end civil war between Bosnians and Serbs](#)
- **Dec. 16:** [Partial shutdown of the Federal government begins](#)

1996 Events

- **Jan. 6:** [Partial shutdown of the Federal government ends](#)
- **Jan. 6-8:** [The Blizzard of 1996 is a nor'easter that blankets the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states in record snowfall](#)
- **Jan. 19:** [The North Cape oil spill leaks home heating oil in the Block Island Sound near Rhode Island](#)
- **Jan. 27:** [France conducted the 6th in a series of nuclear tests](#)
- **Jan. 29:** [French President Jacques Chirac announces a moratorium on French nuclear tests](#)
- **Feb. 6:** John Miranda takes hostages at his former place of employment, the Seal Masters of Hawaii building
- **Feb. 24:** [Cuban Air Force shoots down two U.S.-registered civilian aircraft operated by Brothers to the Rescue in international airspace north of Cuba. The four crew members—including three American citizens—were killed](#)

- **Mar. 10:** [People's Republic of China begin conducting ballistic missile exercises near Taiwan](#)
- **Mar. 25:** [Armed standoff begins at the Clark Farm in Garfield County, Montana between "Freemen" members and law enforcement officers, following the arrest of two Freemen leaders](#)
- **Apr. 3:** Theodore Kaczynski is arrested at his cabin in Montana as the suspected Unabomber
- **June 13:** [Sixteen remaining Freemen surrender to the FBI, ending the 81-day armed standoff](#)
- **June 25:** [Terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers U.S. military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia kills 19 members of the U.S. Air Force](#)
- **Aug. 31:** [Iraq military moves into Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq](#)
- **Sept. 3:** [US begins launch of cruise missiles against southern Iraq targets, and President Clinton announces steps to be taken against Iraq until it abandons its policy of aggression](#)
- **Sept. 13:** Tupak Shakur dies from injuries sustained after being shot on Sept. 7
- **Sept. 27:** [Taliban militia captures Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan](#)
- **Nov. 5:** Pakistan President Farooq Laghari dismisses the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and dissolves the Pakistan national Assembly, citing charges widespread corruption and nepotism in the affairs of the government
- **Dec. 25:** JonBenét Ramsey is discovered dead in her Boulder, Colorado home

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Committee on International Relations. House. [Resolution Expressing Concern About the Deterioration of Human Rights in Cambodia And \[...\] the Military Stability of Taiwan Straits and U.S. Military Forces Should Defend Taiwan in the Event of Invasion, Missile Attack, or Blockade by the People's Republic of China](#). Mar. 13, 1996. 104th Congress, 2nd Session. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1996-HIR-0045

Committee on International Relations. House. [Shoot Down of U.S. Civilian Aircraft by Castro Regime](#). Feb. 29, 1996. 104th Congress, 2nd Session (Y4.IN8/16:C49). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1996-HIR-0008

Committee on International Relations. House. [U.S. Policy Towards Bosnia](#). Nov. 30, 1995. 104th Congress, 1st Session, 104th Congress, 1st Session (Y4.IN8/16:B65/2/995). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1995-HIR-0088

["Effects of the Federal Shutdown."](#) Congressional Record Daily Edition, 104th Congress, 2nd Session (Jan. 4, 1996) Vol. 142, p. H153. ProQuest Congressional, 142 Cong Rec H 153

["France's Cessation of Nuclear Testing in the South Pacific."](#) Congressional Record Daily Edition, 104th Congress, 2nd Session (Jan. 31, 1996) Vol. 142, p. S572. ProQuest Congressional, 142 Cong Rec S 572

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Major Acts

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. Provides for improved disclosure of lobbying activities undertaken to influence Federal government officials and Members of Congress. Approved Dec. 19, 1995. ([109 Stat.691; PL104-65](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Amends the Securities Exchange Act and other acts to revise rules governing certain the right to file suit under federal securities laws, with the intent of curbing frivolous lawsuits. Approved Dec. 22, 1995. ([109 Stat. 727; PL104-67](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Telecommunications Act of 1996. Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce regulation of telecommunications and broadcast markets to increase competition and encourage the rapid deployment of new telecommunication technologies, including Internet technologies. Approved Feb. 8, 1996. ([110 Stat. 56; PL104-104](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996.

Strengthens sanctions against Cuba. Approved Mar. 12, 1996. ([110 Stat 785; PL104-114](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Line Item Veto Act. Provides the President with line item veto authority with respect to appropriations, new direct spending, and limited tax benefits. Approved Apr. 9, 1996. ([110 Stat 1299; PL104-130](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. Contains various provisions intended to deter terrorism and provide justice for victims, including provisions to tighten habeas corpus laws. Approved Apr. 24, 1996. ([110 Stat 1214; PL104-132](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996.

Makes appropriations for fiscal year 1996. Authorizes budget rescissions to balance the Federal budget and begin paying down the national debt. Approved Apr. 26, 1996. ([110 Stat 1321; PL104-134](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2. Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections. Approved July 30, 1996. ([110 Stat 1452; PL104-170](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. Amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) to revise EPA regulation of pesticides. Approved Aug. 3, 1996. ([110 Stat. 1489; PL104-170](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. Provides tax relief for small businesses; increases take home pay of workers; increases the minimum wage; and provides flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements in order to prevent job loss. Approved Aug. 20, 1996. ([110 Stat. 1755; PL104-188](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Amended the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in group and individual markets; combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery; promote the use of medical savings accounts; improve access to long-term care service and coverage; and simplify the administration of health insurance. Approved Aug. 21, 1996. ([110 Stat. 1936; PL104-191](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Provides for comprehensive reform of the welfare system, including provisions to establish incentives for work and disincentives for illegitimate births. Approved Aug. 22, 1996. ([110 Stat. 2105; PL104-193](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Defense of Marriage Act. Prohibits Federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Approved Sept. 21, 1996. ([110 Stat 2419; PL104-199](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997. Authorized appropriations for the operation of the Federal government during fiscal year 1997. Included provisions providing for a ban on gun sales to persons convicted of domestic violence offenses, to prevent the production and spread of child pornography, to improve accessibility to technology and library services, and other purposes. Approved Sept. 30, 1996. ([110 Stat 3009; PL104-208](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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