

One Hundred Eighth Congress

Jan. 7, 2003-Dec. 8, 2004

First Administration of George W. Bush

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Historical Background

During President George W. Bush’s State of the Union address, delivered on Jan. 28, 2003, he said the economy was recovering, but not growing fast enough and that unemployment was rising. He asked that Congress to make previously enacted tax reductions permanent, to reform the Social Security system by allowing younger workers to invest in private securities markets, enact a comprehensive energy conservation program, and to provide Medicare recipients with a prescription drug plan. The resulting Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 was signed into law on Dec. 8, 2003.

The President made good on a key campaign promise when he signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 on November 5th of that year. The Act banned a particular type of rare abortion procedure generally employed after late-term miscarriages or for certain, late-term abortions in cases where the life and health of the mother is at risk. The procedure, known as intact dilation and extraction, involves a preliminary artificial dilation of the cervix to between 2-5 cm, after which time the fetus is removed in the breech position. The technique was especially controversial among anti-abortion activists who preferred the term “partial-birth abortion” ostensibly to encourage public opposition to the procedure. The following month Congress delivered the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004 to the President for his signature. Viewed as another victory for anti-abortion activists, the Act established separate Federal criminal penalties in cases of crimes which inflict bodily injury or death on a human fetus during the commission of a Federal crime against a pregnant woman.



George W. Bush
President of the United States

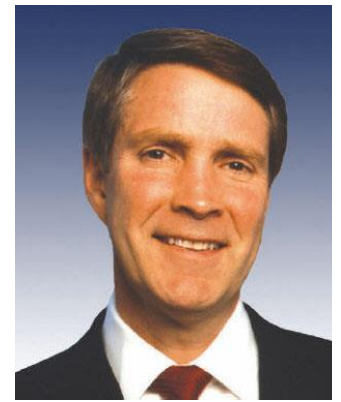
President
George W. Bush

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (229 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (51 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (205 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (48 seats)
Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)	Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)
Speaker of the House: J. Dennis Hastert	Majority Leader: William H. Frist

In matters of national security, Bush reported that over 3,000 terrorists had been arrested in many countries and described the war on terror as the gravest danger the nation faced. He asserted that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was secretly pursuing the development of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons in defiance of his agreement to disarm, and vowed that the U.S. would go to war with Iraq if Saddam did not disclose the location of his weapons and disarm.

President Bush's focus on Saddam Hussein's Iraq as a major national security threat to the United States predated the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. With the enactment of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 during the 105th Congress, the removal of the regime of Saddam Hussein became the official policy of the United States. After the attacks of September 11, the President viewed the threat posed by Iraq's historical biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons programs—so-called weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—and their potential to be diverted to international terrorists as an unacceptable national security risk. In a televised address before both houses of Congress given ten days after the terrorist attacks, President Bush inaugurated his administration's "Global War on Terror," stating that while these specific attacks may have been carried out by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, the U.S. response wouldn't stop there: "Our war on terror begins with [al-Qaeda], but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." This address, too, planted the seeds of the foreign policy doctrine that would guide Bush's Presidency. The Bush Doctrine embodied President Bush's insistence on the United States' right to defend itself against any nations that might provide safe harbor for terrorists or which facilitate their global operations. Controversially, the Bush Doctrine advocated a policy of preemption: that the United States had the right to engage any perceived threats to national security, unilaterally and preemptively, if necessary.

After the initial successes of the invasion of Afghanistan in defeating the Taliban regime and organizing a new Afghan government embodying democratic institutions, the Bush Administration shifted its focus on Iraq and what it insisted were Saddam Hussein's continuing WMD programs. U.S. policymakers pointed to Saddam Hussein's failure to cooperate with UN-sponsored weapons inspections programs, beginning with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in 1991-1997, followed by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) from 1999, as evidence that the Iraqi dictator had something to hide. As the U.S. pressed its case for action in Iraq, the United Nations scrambled to find a solution that would avoid conflict, culminating with the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 in November 2002, which compelled the Iraqi government to allow UNMOVIC inspectors access to weapons sites to verify compliance with UN disarmament resolutions. Though Saddam Hussein relented and UNMOVIC inspectors conducted their work beginning that month, the momentum was decidedly headed in the direction of armed conflict. By March 2003, war seemed all but inevitable and the UNMOVIC inspectors, who had yet to uncover any evidence of WMD in Iraq, were recalled. In a televised address on March 19,



Senate Majority Leader
William H. Frist



Speaker of the House J.
Dennis Hastert

2003, President Bush announced that he had ordered “military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.”

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, just as the Bush Administration shifted its focus to Iraq, scattered elements of the defeated Taliban regime, led by Taliban leader Mullah Muhammed Omar began to regroup. On October 9, 2004, the first national elections in post-Taliban Afghanistan were held, giving interim President Hamid Karzai, who garnered 55% of the vote, a mandate to continue the work of reforming and rebuilding the country. Karzai’s formidable task was complicated just weeks later when Taliban leader Mullah Omar issued a message announcing an insurgency against the U.S. and NATO-led occupation forces and the newly reconstituted Afghan government and calling on faithful Afghans to rise up against the occupiers and their Afghan collaborators.

On Jan. 20, 2004, President Bush opened his State of the Union address by remarking on the contribution U.S. service members deployed in the war on terror were making to keep America secure. He also praised law enforcement personnel, intelligence officers, and Department of Homeland Security personnel for their efforts to protect America. While acknowledging that no terrorist attack had occurred on U.S. soil since 9/11, he cautioned against a belief that the greatest danger from terrorism was past.

President Bush praised Congress for enacting tax relief and asked again that the tax cuts to be made permanent, asserting that tax relief had driven the U.S. economy forward and was responsible for high rates of housing construction and home ownership, increases in manufacturing, and a rise in employment. He lauded the success of No Child Left Behind Act and requested Congress pass a workforce training bill—the proposed Jobs for the 21st Century Act—to help older students and adults gain the skills they need to find employment. To address immigration problems, he asked that a temporary worker program be established. To address health insurance coverage problems, he requested enactment of a refundable tax credit to help individuals purchase health insurance. Despite the ongoing war, he also asked Congress to curb spending in order to cut the deficit by 50 percent within five years.

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War or Peace?

The Iraq War

After the invasion of Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of September 11th and the defeat of the Taliban government, the Bush Administration turned its attention to Iraq and the threat posed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's WMD programs. Iraqi disarmament was one of the key demands of the international community in the aftermath of the Gulf War, which liberated Kuwait after the government of Saddam Hussein invaded and occupied its Gulf Arab neighbor. The United Nations created two weapons inspections programs after the war to verify Iraqi compliance with UN demands for disarmament. However, beginning with UNSCOM in 1991-1997 and then with UNMOVIC from 1999, Saddam Hussein refused to cooperate with UN-sanctioned inspections regimes, creating deep suspicion throughout the global community that the Iraqis were defying orders to disarm. As President Bush and members of his administration made clear, the threat of Iraqi WMDs falling into the hands of international terrorists such as those who launched the September 11th attacks was simply unacceptable in a post-9/11 world.

Aside from the issue of Iraq's WMD programs, policymakers in Washington also raised suspicions regarding collusion between al-Qaeda and the government of Saddam Hussein. Though the evidence uncovered during the investigation into the September 11th attacks consistently pointed to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda allies as the sole perpetrators of the attacks, the suggestion that Saddam Hussein may have played a role in the attacks proved compelling to American voters and a majority were in favor of military operations against Iraq in early-2003. Skepticism ran high in the international community, however, including from some of the United States' strongest traditional allies, including France and Germany. As the United States continued to press its case, diplomats in the United Nations worked hard to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis and urged patience while the UNMOVIC inspectors completed their work. On February 5, 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell pressed the United States' case for war in the United Nations. Powell's presentation was a carefully choreographed bit of diplomatic theatre, with satellite photos and other hard evidence complemented by compelling props, such as a model vial of the anthrax bacterium.

Opposition in the United Nations was strong, with France, Germany, and Russia opposing military action and strongly encouraging continued diplomacy as the best solution to the crisis. Seeing that an invasion with the imprimatur of a UN resolution would not be forthcoming, focus in the Bush Administration moved to assembling the strongest possible coalition to join with the U.S. and its chief ally in the endeavor, the United Kingdom. The so-called "coalition of the willing" included several NATO allies, such as Spain, Portugal, and Italy, as well as several smaller or developing states, such as the Solomon Islands, Uganda, and Georgia that were not in a position to make a meaningful contribution to the military effort but were rather seen as currying favor with the United States.

On March 19th, 2003 President Bush announced in a televised address that a U.S.-led coalition force had begun to strike targets in Iraq to undermine the ability of Saddam Hussein to wage war. The invasion moved quickly in the early weeks, with the Iraqi Army putting up largely token resistance before dissolving and folding back into the populace. On April 4th, U.S. troops advanced into central Baghdad and on April 21th, Jay Garner, a former lieutenant general, arrived in Iraq to take control. The U.S. occupation of Iraq had begun. American diplomat Paul Bremer replaced Garner as Chief Administrator of Iraq on May 11th and soon after disbanded the Ba'ath Party, the Iraqi Army, the Iraq Department of Defense, and other security institutions associated with the Hussein regime. The 2003 war effort was afforded something of a symbolic punctuation when, on December 13th a U.S. joint special operations team acting on a tip discovered the fugitive former President Saddam Hussein hiding out in a spider hole outside his ancestral home of Tikrit.

By this time, however, the occupation was already experiencing serious problems. Beginning with a report in late-2003 and culminating in a lengthy exposé in the *New Yorker* by veteran investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, revelations of prisoner abuse and mistreatment at the hands of U.S. military personnel staffing Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib prison began to appear. The reports of systematic humiliation and mistreatment of prisoners by U.S. military staff were accompanied by graphic photographs that showed, among other things, naked prisoners being threatened with attack dogs, other prisoners, also unclothed, forced to pose in a human pyramid, and groups of naked prisoners subjected to humiliation and mockery by American soldiers. The violence against the prisoners reportedly included rape and murder. The optics of smiling Americans committing grossly humiliating and degrading Iraqi prisoners in a prison notoriously used by the government of Saddam Hussein to imprison and torture political enemies was disastrous for U.S. policymakers.

Shortly thereafter, the Report of the Special Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence for Strategy Regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs was released on September 30th, 2004. The report documented definitively that the government of Saddam Hussein had largely dismantled its various WMD programs soon after the conclusion of the Gulf War and that no stockpiles of weapons were discovered, compounding the difficulties faced by the United States and its coalition partners.

Military Operations in Afghanistan

The news from Afghanistan in this period was similarly mixed. On January 5th, 2004, a traditional assembly known as a *loya jirga* adopted a new constitution for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. That said, security concerns and infighting delayed Presidential elections there until Oct. 9th, 2004 when they were held with high turnout and minimum violence. Though the elections were largely upheld as free and fair by independent monitors, some opponents of newly-elected Afghan President Hamid Karzai alleged fraud.

Members of the Taliban leadership who were in hiding after managing to survive the invasion and evade capture by coalition forces began to regroup in 2003-2004. Training camps were organized along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and attacks against coalition and Afghan government targets began in earnest in 2003. Their efforts were bolstered when a communiqué issued by the Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar was distributed through a Pakistani media outlet in 2004, renouncing the new Afghan government of Hamid Karzai and calling on all Muslims to oppose the U.S. and NATO-led coalition and their Afghan allies. U.S. and allied forces found themselves in the midst of a well-orchestrated insurgency while contributing to efforts to build an Afghan National Army, patrol Kabul and other cities, disband militias, and secure enclaves for reconstruction efforts.

Elsewhere, the invasion of Iraq had put other, so-called “rogue states” on notice, opening new avenues for diplomacy in once intractable regions. In December 2003, longtime Libyan dictator and global iconoclast Colonel Muammar Qaddafi announced his country’s intention to completely dismantle its WMD programs. This initiative, coupled with Qaddafi’s admission of Libyan culpability in the bombing of a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, began the process of Libya’s rehabilitation in the international community after decades of isolation.

In December 2003, Congress enacted the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003. The Act sought to end Syria’s history of using state-sponsored terrorism as a tool of statecraft and to end the Syrian occupation of Lebanon that originated in the Lebanese Civil War. The Act further cited evidence of Syria maintaining stockpiles of WMD and authorized sanctions and other measures against the government of Syria and certain specific Syrian officials. The Act also presented a road map for Syrian rehabilitation and a full normalization of relations between the two countries. Other major national security and defense legislation enacted during the 108th Congress includes the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 which authorized funding appropriations to private organizations working to promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and market economic policies in North Korea, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 which continued the work of reforming and restructuring the U.S. intelligence apparatus to improve the United States’ ability to thwart and respond to terrorist attacks, and the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004 which expressed the sense of Congress regarding Sudan’s ongoing sponsorship and facilitation of violence and ethnic cleansing in the country’s eastern Darfur region.

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Economic Trends and Conditions

In 2003 the economy continued to recover as business investment expanded and consumer confidence rebounded. During the third quarter of 2003 the gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annual rate of 7.2 percent, the fastest annual growth rate in 20 years. Two Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys reported conflicting estimates of job gain/job loss trends. The unemployment rate declined to 5.7 percent during December after peaking at 6.3 percent in June. Energy prices spiked and showed some volatility in the beginning of the year, and oil and gas prices continued to remain well above recent average prices. The value of the dollar declined by about 9.5 percent against the euro and the yen. Housing activity and refinancing remained at very high levels.

Growth in GDP accelerated to 4.5 percent up from a rate of 4.2 percent during the final quarter of 2003 and continued at more sustainable rates throughout the year. Consumer spending fueled much of the economic growth, driven by gains in wages, salaries, and after-tax income. As of October 2004, manufacturing had increased for 18 consecutive months and activity in the service sector had increased for 19 consecutive months. After a huge increase in 2003, stock prices traded in a relatively narrow range throughout 2004. Business lending conditions eased towards the end of the year, indicating an easing of concerns about geopolitical events and a rise in optimism about the economy. Federal monetary policy continued to focus on inflation control and price stability.

While the President and Republicans in Congress credited the 2001 tax cut for jump starting the process of economic recovery, the pace of recovery was slower than initially hoped. To address this, Congress enacted the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 in May 2003. The Act accelerated some of the tax cuts initiated by the earlier tax law and introduced new cuts to individual income tax rates, capital gains taxes, and the estate tax.

In the realm of health care policy, President Bush and the 108th Congress realized a major achievement with the passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 in December 2003. The Act fulfilled one of President Bush's major campaign promises by allowing for the first time for a Federal prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients. The Medicare prescription drug benefit was a voluntary, opt-in program and was accompanied by tax benefits for those contributing to a health savings account.

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Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Eldred v. Ashcroft, upheld the constitutionality of the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, which added 20 years to terms of existing and future copyrights, [537 U.S. 186](#) (2003)

Ewing v. California, upheld a sentence imposed under California law that requires at least a 25 year sentence for offenders convicted of three felonies, [538 U.S. 11](#) (2003)

Lockyer v. Andrade, upheld a sentence imposed under California law that requires at least a 25 year sentence for offenders convicted of three felonies, [538 U.S. 63](#) (2003)

Smith v. Doe, concluded that because the Alaska Sex Offender Registration Act is nonpunitive, its retroactive application does not violate the Ex Post Facto Clause, [538 U.S. 84](#) (2003)

Virginia v. Black, held that a State may ban cross burning carried out with the intent to intimidate, but that Virginia's statute as-is was unconstitutional, [538 U.S. 343](#) (2003)

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Campbell, concluded that a punitive damages award of \$145 million, where full compensatory damages are \$1 million, is excessive and violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, [538 U.S. 408](#) (2003)

Demore v. Kim, concluded that the Immigration and Nationality Act, which provides for no-bail, civil detention, does not violate a lawful permanent resident alien's liberty interest, [538 U.S. 510](#) (2003)

Nevada Department of Human Resources v. Hibbs, held that the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 did not violate the Fourteenth Amendment because the law was narrowly targeted at sex-based overgeneralization, [538 U.S. 721](#) (2003)

Gratz v. Bollinger, held that the University of Michigan's undergraduate admission policy was unconstitutional, [539 U.S. 244](#) (2003)

Grutter v. Bollinger, upheld the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action admission policy, [539 U.S. 306](#) (2003)

American Insurance Association v. Garamendi, concluded that California's Holocaust Victim Insurance Relief Act interferes with the President's conduct of the Nation's foreign policy and is therefore preempted, [539 U.S. 396](#) (2003)

Georgia v. Ashcroft, held that a Georgia congressional redistricting plan did not violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965, [539 U.S. 461](#) (2003)

Lawrence v. Texas, struck down as unconstitutional Texas anti-sodomy laws because they infringed on privacy guarantees, [539 U.S. 558](#) (2003)

Stogner v. California, concluded that the Ex Post Facto Clause barred the application of California's retroactive extension of the statutes of limitations for sexual offenses committed against minors, [539 U.S. 607](#) (2003)

Federal Election Commission v. McConnell, upheld key provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, including restrictions on the raising and spending of previously unregulated political party funds and a prohibition on the use of certain corporate and labor union funds for campaign-related communications, [540 U.S. 93](#) (2003)

Verizon Communications, Inc. v. Law Offices of Curtis V. Trinko, held that Verizon's failure to provide network access to rival local telephone service providers, as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, was an insufficient basis for finding the company in violation of antitrust laws, [540 U.S. 398](#) (2004)

Locke v. Davey, concluded that the First Amendment's free exercise clause does not require a state to fund religious instruction if the state provides college scholarships for secular instruction, [540 U.S. 712](#) (2004)

Vieth v. Jubelirer, held that the alleged political gerrymandering in Pennsylvania was not unconstitutional, [541 U.S. 267](#) (2004)

Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow, concluded that Newdow did not have standing to bring suit because he did not have sufficient custody over his daughter, however, requiring teachers to lead the Pledge is constitutional, [542 U.S. 1](#) (2004)

Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, decided that neither the Fourth Amendment nor the Fifth Amendment were violated in Hiibel's case, because it was based on reasonable suspicion and Hiibel never argued that telling the officer his name would actually incriminate him of any crime, [542 U.S. 177](#) (2004)

Blakely v. Washington, concluded that because the facts supporting petitioner's exceptional sentence were neither admitted by petitioner nor found by a jury, the sentence violated his Sixth Amendment right to trial by jury, [542 U.S. 296](#) (2004)

Cheney v. U.S. District Court, vacated and sent back to the D.C. Court of Appeals, arguing that the appellate court should have considered separation-of-powers claims and was wrong to conclude it lacked authority to order District Court discovery to stop discovery proceedings, [542 U.S. 367](#) (2004)

Rumsfeld v. Padilla, the Court found that the case had been improperly filed and thus did not reach the question whether the President has authority to detain Padilla militarily, [542 U.S. 426](#) (2004)

Rasul v. Bush, concluded that United States courts have jurisdiction to consider challenges to the legality of the detention of foreign nationals captured abroad in connection with hostilities and incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay, [542 U.S. 466](#) (2004)

Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, vacated and held that although Congress authorized Hamdi's detention, Fifth Amendment due process guarantees give a citizen held in the United States as an enemy combatant the right to contest that detention before a neutral decisionmaker, [542 U.S. 507](#) (2004)

Missouri v. Siebert, determined post-Miranda confession is only admissible if the Miranda warning and accompanying break are sufficient to give the suspect the reasonable belief that she has the right not to speak with the police, [542 U.S. 600](#) (2004)

Ashcroft v. American Civil Liberties Union, held that the Third Circuit was correct to affirm the District Court's ruling that enforcement of Child Online Protection Act should be enjoined because the statute likely violates the First Amendment, [542 U.S. 656](#) (2004)

2003 Events

- **Jan. 24:** [The Department of Homeland Security begins operation](#)
- **Feb. 1:** [The space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates upon reentry, killing all astronauts on board](#)
- **Mar. 7:** [United Nations Weapons Inspector Hans Blix reports that Iraq has increased its cooperation and that no evidence has been found of proscribed biological weapons](#)
- **Mar. 12:** [World Health Organization issues a global alert about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\)](#)
- **Mar. 17:** [President Bush gives Iraqi President Saddam Hussein an ultimatum to leave Iraq or face military conflict](#)
- **Mar. 19:** *Iraq War* - [the U.S. launches the Iraq War with a strike on a location where Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his chief lieutenants were reported to be meeting](#)
- **Mar. 20:** *Iraq War* - the U.S., joined by the United Kingdom, invade Iraq
- **May 1:** *Iraq War* - [President Bush declares an end to all major combat in Iraq](#)
- **May 29:** [The U.S. formalizes a ban on importing Canadian cattle and beef products due to confirmed cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy \(mad cow disease\)](#)

- **May 12:** Suicide bombers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia destroys three housing complexes inhabited by foreign residents, including U.S. military personal and their families
- **June 4:** Martha Stewart and her broker are indicted for securities fraud and obstruction of justice
- **July 14:** [Columnist Robert Novak reveals the identity of covert-CIA agent Valerie Plame, the wife of former U.S. Ambassador Joe Wilson, an outspoken critic of the War in Iraq](#)
- **Sept. 17:** President Bush admits there is no evidence linking Saddam Hussein to the 9/11 attacks
- **Sept. 11-18:** [Hurricane Isabel develops and makes landfall in the mid-Atlantic States, causing significant flood damage to the area](#)
- **Nov. 18:** Anti same-sex marriage laws are determined unconstitutional in Massachusetts by the state's supreme court
- **Dec. 10:** [The New York Times quotes a "senior administration official" that North Korea had added to its store of nuclear weapons and nuclear materials in 2003](#)
- **Dec. 13:** *Iraq War* – [U.S. forces captures former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein](#)
- **Dec. 22:** San Simeon, CA earthquake causes more than \$250 million in damage
- **Dec. 23:** [Cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy \(mad cow disease\) are confirmed in Washington State](#)

2004 Events

- **Feb. 3:** *Iraq War* – CIA admits the 2003 invasion of Iraq was not based upon imminent threat of weapons of mass destruction
- **Feb. 11-Mar. 11:** San Francisco issues approximately 4,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples before the California Supreme Court orders the city and county to cease
- **Feb. 26:** [U.S. lifts 23-year travel ban to Libya](#)
- **Mar. 11:** [A series of coordinated terrorist bombings take place on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain](#)
- **May 7:** [During a House Armed Services Committee hearing, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld takes responsibility for the abuse of prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib Prison](#)
- **May 17:** [Massachusetts becomes the first State to legalize marriage between same-sex couples](#)
- **June 28:** *Iraq War* – [The United States ends its 15-month control of Iraq by transferring sovereignty to the new Iraqi Government](#)
- **July 22:** [Congress passes Senate concurrent resolution 133 declaring that the Government of Sudan's policies in the Darfur region constitutes genocide](#)
- **Sept. 9-16:** [Hurricane Ivan causes significant damage in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico](#)
- **Oct 25:** While visiting China, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says Taiwan is not a sovereign nation and the U.S. supports the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with China

- **Oct. 27:** [Boston Red Sox win the World Series for the first time since 1918](#)
- **Dec. 5:** During a television interview, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharaaf says the U.S. invasion of Iraq was a mistake

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Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights, Committee on the Judiciary. Senate. [Judicial Activism vs. Democracy: What Are the National Implications of the Massachusetts Goodridge Decision and the Judicial Invalidation of Traditional Marriage Laws?](#) GPO, Mar. 3, 2004. 108th Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on the Judiciary Serial No. J-108-59 (Y4.J89/2:S.HRG.108-717). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-2004-SJS-0053

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Subcommittee on European Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Effects of the Madrid Terrorist Attacks on U.S.-European Cooperation in the War on Terrorism](#). GPO, Mar. 31, 2004. 108th Congress, 2nd Session, Congressional Publication Number: S. Hrg. 108-634 (Y4.F76/2:S.HRG.108-634). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-2004-FOR-0029

Major Acts

Clean Diamond Trade Act. Established a system of import and export controls to curtail illicit trading in rough "conflict" diamonds used to finance weapons purchases by insurgent groups and fuel civil wars in Sub-Saharan African countries. Approved Apr. 25, 2003. ([117 Stat. 631; PL108-19](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. Accelerated previously passed tax relief; increased incentives for small businesses to invest in new equipment and plant expansion; and enacted tax relief on dividends and capital gains. Approved May 28, 2003. ([117 Stat. 752; PL108-27](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. Established criminal penalties and civil liability for persons who perform so-called partial-birth abortions, involving the extraction of late-term fetuses, unless the procedure is necessary to prevent maternal death. Approved Nov. 5, 2003. ([117 Stat. 1201; PL108-105](#))

Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. Established procedures to prevent identity theft; improve resolution of consumer disputes; improve the accuracy of consumer records; and improve consumer

access to credit information. Approved Dec. 4, 2003. ([117 Stat. 1952; PL108-159](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. Included provisions to establish a voluntary program for prescription drugs coverage under Medicare, and to provide a tax deduction for amounts contributed to health savings accounts. Approved Dec. 8, 2003. ([117 Stat. 2066; PL108-173](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004. Established criminal penalties for inflicting bodily injury or death on a human fetus during the commission of a Federal crime of violence against a pregnant woman. Approved Apr. 1, 2004. ([118 Stat. 568; PL108-212](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004. Authorized grants to private, nonprofit organizations to support programs promoting human rights; democracy; rule of law; and development of a market economy in North Korea. Approved Oct. 18, 2004. ([118 Stat. 1287; PL108-333](#))

American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. Established tax incentives to increase the competitiveness and productivity of United States' manufacturing, service, and high-technology sectors located within the U.S., as well as those abroad. Approved Oct. 22, 2004. ([118 Stat. 1418; PL108-357](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004. Amended the Controlled Substances Act to include the list of substances regulated as anabolic steroids. Approved Oct. 22, 2004. ([118 Stat. 1661; PL108-358](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Justice for All Act of 2004. Included provisions to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders; improve the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories; and increase collection and use of new DNA testing capacity. Approved Oct. 30, 2004. ([118 Stat. 2260; PL108-405](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Restructured the intelligence community and instituted other measures to improve the United States' ability to respond to terrorist threats. Approved Dec. 17, 2004. ([118 Stat. 3638; PL108-458](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004. Expressed the sense of Congress regarding actions to be taken by the United States and the international community in response to the Sudanese Government's alleged sponsorship of attacks on civilians in the Darfur region of Sudan. Approved Dec. 23, 2004. ([118 Stat. 4012; PL108-497](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))