

# George W. Bush

## The story of America's most controversial president — and why he's hated so much.

**George W. Bush** is America's story of despair and embarrassment. The 61-year-old president has tarnished America's reputation on the world stage by invading Iraq and losing ground to terrorists. The GOP isn't that grand anymore, and the future of the United States is at stake while the war drags on and countries are pulling out or crossing onto the opposition side.

The citizens aren't happy either. The country's approval of his handling (see box) has dipped to 26% for adults overall. Republicans still believe in him, but that support should end soon. The war, costing billions each week and nearing a total cost of \$1,000,000,000,000, is dying. And with the Democrats leading politics overall, Bush will have a hard time making it without increased scrutiny.

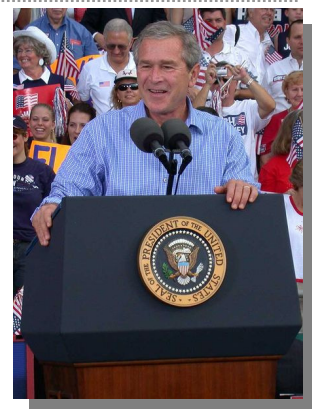
### CITIZENS IN FAVOR BUSH'S HANDLING OF THE IRAQ WAR

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Republicans.....  | 58%        |
| Democrats.....    | 8%         |
| Independents..... | 18%        |
| OVERALL.....      | <b>26%</b> |

Source: CBS News Poll (October 12-16, 2007)

Unlike how most portray him, Bush is not a selfish or evil character. He is clumsy and somewhat unintelligent, mostly for invading the Middle East without any sort of exit strategy. This ignorance has revealed the U.S sore spot — an unorganized and brainwashed government.

There are new threats out there, including negotiations between Iran and Russia, China, and of course North Korea. There might be a new axis of evil forming in this oil-hungry world, and those four countries may be the founders. Bush doesn't know much about controlling an unstable planet, and if something else pops up, he might throw America into the same box as the Soviet Union and the British Empire.



Just keep smiling... just keep smiling

## HIS LIFE STORY

Bush was born to Former President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush on July 6, 1946. He was the first of six children. The Bush family moved to Midland, Texas and later relocated to Houston, Texas, where the President grew up.



Bush's Midland, TX home

As he went through his school years, Bush had mediocre grades. By university, his grade point average was 2.35 (77%), a C+. He was a sports kind of kid, and joined the rugby team. In 1968, Bush graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

For the next ten years, Bush lived his life normally. He continued pursuing his education, joining Harvard Business School in '72, earning himself a MBA by 1975. Two years later, he met Barbara Bush and they married. Now starting a family, Bush needed support and looked to starting his own business. He founded Arbusto Energy in 1979 along with five investors. His two twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, were born in 1981. Now with a developing family, Bush was nearing the end of his investment in the company. When the 1984 energy crisis struck, Bush sold the company. It was eventually dissolved by a cloud of controversies in the 1990s.

Hunting for another occupation, he stumbled across the Texas Rangers baseball team, whom had owners willing to sell. Interested, Bush destroyed the oil company Harken Energy by selling close to \$1,000,000 in stock. With a sufficient amount of cash from the sale and a previous investment, Bush bought the team for \$200,000,000.

After the buyout, Bush ordered a complete makeover for the team, including a new stadium. And as his father was elected, Bush became a well-known name across Texas.

Bush had fumbled with politics in the early 1970s, and was not very experienced. After another unsuccessful run for the House in 1978, he moved on to other ranges of business. In 1994, though, Bush, influenced by his father, ran for Governor of Texas. Aided by a huge staff, he was doing well with the public and his views were regarded as proper. After some controversy with the handling of his staff, Bush won in a landslide of 52% to Ann Richards' 47%.

Bush shaped up Texas into a magnificent state. The education system was vitalized, and a huge tax cut was put into place (after Bush's consideration on creating a much hated business tax). Bush also killed many death-row inmates, 152, a Texas record. Being quite popular for his views, Bush was re-

elected in 1998. It was 1999 when he decided to take his ideas to the White House.

It was 2000. Bush vs. Gore, the race of the year. Bush was well known around the country for his terms as governor, but it was not enough to get him to Washington easily. On that fateful day, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Bush and Gore were nose-to-nose in an intense and unusual election. Florida was the breaking point.

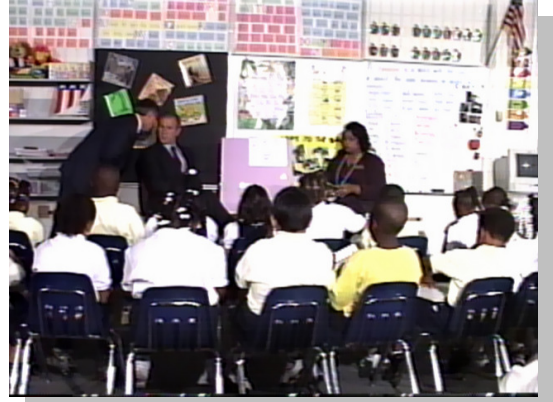
It was early morning the next day when the count came in. It was so close that there were two recounts. After much confusion and annoyance, the Supreme Court voted that Bush was the winner and recounts in Florida were to cease. Gore won the popular vote, but lost the electoral. If he had won one more state, he would probably have been the president.

Bush was inaugurated on a rainy day in Washington, with 10,000 protesters already shouting at him on his first day. For the first eight months of the dastardly year of 2001, Bush was busy sorting out the economy, education and conflicts in North Korea. Then, on the morning of September 11, 2001, Bush learned something that would change America forever.

It was another day for the president; he was sitting in a classroom reading a book to children as part of his *No Child Left Behind* program. Soon after the story began, one of the president's guards or advisers informed him of the attacks. The president was about to cry. It was the turn of the century – starting off with turmoil.

The president immediately responded and everything was either locked down or secured. On September 20, 2001, Bush attended a joint session of Congress where he laid out the foundation for the fight against terror. Through 2003, the U.S. joined its Western allies in invading the Middle East and ending terrorism.

George W. Bush is old and weary now, and his political future is unknown. At 60 years old, he is most likely to retire after 2008. What started out as a smooth road has faded to a bumpy one, and no-one knows what will happen in his last year.



## WHY HE'S HATED

Bush is a very unusual person, and unusual people don't fit in with most of the crowd. Many, many people despise Bush for his actions, specifically for the ones listed here:

- Starting a failing war in extremely unstable countries without a specific target or a much-wanted exit strategy.
- Promising to improve education but failing to do so.
- Hiring unreliable staff and advisers.
- Keeping alleged terrorists in prison for indefinite amounts of time (which is illegal).
- Ignoring the potential of global warming.
- Failing to provide assistance to Hurricane Katrina victims.
- Vetoing increases to the healthcare industry.

**The War on Terror** – This is the main reason of Bush's failure. The War on Terror, first believed to be an easy task, has grown into the second failed war for many Americans. 2,800 have died, and while that may not be close to Vietnam's 11,000+, it still is bad. The U.S. may not be able to squeeze its way out of this one easily, mostly because of Bush's own carelessness. There is no exit strategy; it's nothing but an endless war in the desert. The only way to get out is to admit failure – something which no-one wants to do.

**Education and healthcare** – When Bush took office in 2001, he launched a huge education program (*No Child Left Behind*) which was a huge success for him. After 9/11, Bush practically threw it behind him in the effort to "protect the country" and "fight" terrorism. The program is now terribly under-funded and the Democrats are using it as a weapon against Bush.

Bush pays almost no attention to healthcare in the U.S., and has repeatedly denied the approval of stem cell research after showing some approval in early '01.

**Guantanamo Bay** – This is the ugly part of the War on Terror. Guantanamo Bay holds 355 alleged terrorists from the Middle East, all of which are being held under unusual circumstances. Many prisoners are accusing the government of torture, and 40% of the detainees are being held with unknown futures in the facilities. The issue of the terrible conditions has pounded the administration, and it continues to today.

**Global warming and the environment** – Being that tough Texas guy, Bush is not very mindful – or caring – about the environment. He withdrew the United States from the Kyoto treaty after he was elected, citing terrible economic effects. He does note climate change as a "serious problem," but can't tell if it's natural or

manmade. No matter which, though, limiting emissions would make things a lot better. He has had only a few acts on this issue, the main of which failed to get through Congress.

**Hurricane Katrina and FEMA** – Bush was vacationing in late August of 2005 when Katrina bore down on the soggy city of New Orleans. The president did, in fact, pay much attention to the situation to the disaster before it occurred, and he did order FEMA to help with the situation. It was FEMA's fault for running the lives of the citizens of the city, mostly because of its poor response in the following days. George W., though, still got pummeled for FEMA's carelessness. The idea that Bush "hates black people" is so very, very wrong; but who will look up the facts?

## THE DEATH OF THE REPUBLICANS – AND THEIR REVENGE

Because of Bush's poor invasion of Iraq, the supportive Republicans have been left in shambles. The simple fact that they *support* Bush is killing them, because with all the Democrats in this reversed country, they are sure to lose unless there is some big turnaround.

Currently, the Republicans have a modest but diminishing political base in the country. The war in Iraq has killed over 2,800 soldiers, and while that may seem small for an American war, it is a lot for the families who have to live with the fact that the guy named Bush sent them to their death – and they can't do anything about it.

The Grand Old Party, as the Republicans call themselves, aren't so grand anymore. Bush has removed the "Grand" from the bronze plate and has etched "Grimacing" instead. He has destroyed the grip the Republicans have had on American politics. He showed the world that the US of A isn't the Soviet-killer it was in the 1980s – that a bunch of low-life terrorists can kill off the most powerful country on earth.

In response to Bush's unusual behavior, the Republicans are slowly, but surely, moving to the Democrats for shelter. It is currently taking place in Congress, where the Dems are becoming ever more powerful. The Republicans, though happy to be controlling the White House, despise Bush for creating the new, tired and shaggy America where the snap of a twig can injure you for the rest of your life.

Before anyone knows it, the Republicans will have nothing to brag about anymore, nothing to show off to the people supporting them. The Democrats have plenty to show off, feeding on the dying corpse of the GOP and showing every piece of meat to the viewers. With no choice (and probably fine with it), the GOP's members will join the Democrats in tormenting Bush for the rest of his political life.

## CONCLUSION

It took approximately 1 month to write this report of 2,000 words, and in that time I've learned more about Bush than ever. Before this report, I despised Bush and his actions, but after a while at looking carefully at both sides of the fight, I am not sure which corner to turn to. Bush is a very kind man, and he actually cares about our soldiers and the sufferers of Katrina – but he cares too much; too much to actually look at the situation and notice where it's heading.

I applaud Bush for taking action immediately after the 9/11 attacks, and for invading Iraq. It *would* have been a success if we had done it right – but anger is a strong force, and it can trip the smartest. Bush, obviously, was angry at the terrorists who killed the thousands that day and saw everything as a blur. He rushed to invade the world's most unpredictable country.

As for the other issues including healthcare, education and the environment, Bush somewhat cares – but all his attention is focused on Iraq and Afghanistan. Democrats, who look like angels to many, are actually killing a goodhearted president. I am not a Republican, and I'm not really much of a Democrat. I would like it if George W. Bush would take a look at the country he is protecting and see how depressed they are. How sad the victims are, how mournful the refugees look. I really wish Bush would be a nicer figure – a community president who can manage a war without being too angry, too distraught. Unfortunately, he is not that kind of person. Bush is a rushing war president, the tough man who can do anything – but with a lot of mistakes; like making it through the song *Through the Fire and Flames* on “expert” in *Guitar Hero III* while missing 70% of the notes. He can make things die and explode, but he can not do it at the right time.

There are many good factors about Bush – he cut taxes and knew what to do about many issues. There are so many good things about President #42, but thanks to CNN, nobody notices these great accomplishments. The surge, for example, was a great strategy, and it is working, but the media keeps on reporting the “bloody attacks” and “terrible violence” that rock the region. What would you expect from the Middle East? A field of flowers?!

For now, we should try and accept Bush and his reasons. As I said, he does make unusual choices, sometimes painful to listen to, but he means well. All he is trying to do is to protect the people, and that does not make him a bad person.

We would like to thank all of the sources we took information from. All the text in this article is 100% self-written by News8.

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