

Bill Clinton's dangerous world

President Clinton inherits a world which may make it difficult for him to fulfil his campaign pledge to concentrate on domestic matters. With seventy-three world flashpoints counted this month alone, ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are likely to claim his immediate attention

Former Soviet Union

U.S. under pressure to further the dismantling of nuclear arms and to commit funds to prop up struggling economies

Asia

Clinton is determined that China improve its human rights record. Japan concerned over proposed U.S. trade policies. Vietnam and Cambodia are possible areas of unrest, while North Korean nuclear arms development is cause for concern

Eastern Europe

Clinton must define U.S. standpoint on conflict in Bosnia and other areas of ethnic unrest in the post-Cold War era

Somalia

U.S. marines have begun to pull out in spite of claims that the region is still not secure. Conditions of future U.S. intervention are not clear

Middle East takes office with the U.S. in conflict with Iraq. Supportive of Bush's actions in his last days in office, his own resolve will be tested by Baghdad.

Middle East peace talks continue with Arab nations wary of Clinton's pro-Israeli campaign messages. Arms build-up in Iran further threatens stability in the region

Latin America

Refugee crisis in Haiti threatens to erupt. Removal of trade barriers with Mexico will boost U.S. exports but may cost jobs at home. Doubts over stability of some democracies. Drug trafficking and illegal immigration still rife

How the world has changed since Democrats last held power in the United States

Population	Reported cases of AIDS	CO ₂ in atmosphere	Tropical forest areas
1980 4.478 billion	1980 114	1980 338.5 parts per million	1980 4.655 billion acres
1990 5.423 billion	1990 611,600	1990 354.0 parts per million	1990 4.235 billion acres
Infant mortality	Wheat production	Petroleum reserves	Value of dollar
1975-80 86 per 1,000	1980 487m tons	1980 649 trillion barrels	1980 203.30 yen
1985-90 70 per 1,000	1990 655m tons	1990 997 trillion barrels	1990 126.65 yen

Defunct nations

German Democratic Republic, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yugoslavia, Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia

New members of United Nations

Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brunei, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, North Korea, St Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan