

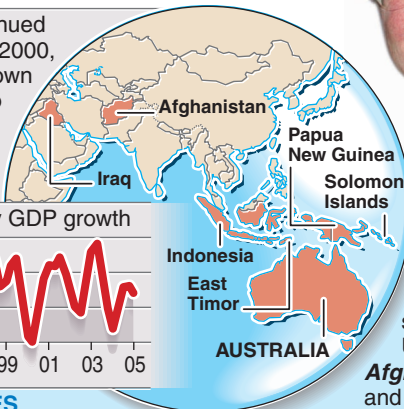
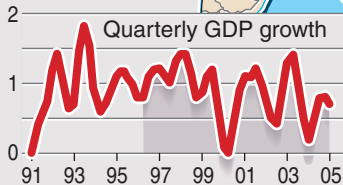
Howard's 10 years in power

John Howard, poised to become only the second Australian Premier to achieve 10 years in office, has presided over a period marked by economic prosperity, security issues and firm foreign policy



John Howard, 66

ECONOMY: Continued **growth** since Dec 2000, **unemployment** down from 8% in 1996 to 5%, low **inflation** driving consumer spending



FOREIGN POLICY

► **War on terror:** Australia one of first nations to send troops to aid U.S.-led invasion of **Afghanistan** in 2001 and **Iraq** in 2003

SECURITY ISSUES

► **Asylum seekers:** Since 2001, Australia's navy has been ordered to turn boatloads of illegal immigrants away from Australian waters

► **Bali bombings:** Improved ties with **Indonesia** through joint cooperation over investigation into terror attacks

► **Law and order:** Sent troops and police to quell unrest in **Papua New Guinea** and **Solomon Islands**

► **Peacekeeping:** Australia led UN mission to **East Timor** in 1999 to curb violence after Timorese people voted for independence from Indonesia