



# Encyclopedia of the Clinton Presidency:

By Peter B. Levy

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First president of his generation. Second president to be impeached. Bill Clinton led the nation during eight years of unprecedented economic prosperity and peace, creating millions of new jobs, swapping deficit for surplus, and advancing his agenda of social programs. Yet he was riddled with scandal. This encyclopedia of more than 230 alphabetical entries covers all the major events, issues, and personalities of the Clinton administration, including full treatments of his impeachment, Whitewater, Travelgate, Monica, key members of his administration, Congressional opponents, foreign and domestic policy, elections, laws, terms and catchphrases, and national and foreign events that impacted Clinton's presidency. This balanced account is a perfect reference for students of, detractors from, and supporters of, William Jefferson Clinton.

Among the domestic issues covered are health care reform, gays in the military, abortion, gun control, and welfare reform. Also included are the many foreign policy issues Clinton dealt with such as Bosnia, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East. Numerous charts, tables, and graphs provide vital statistical information about legislation, the economy, federal spending, election returns, and crime during the Clinton years. A chronology of events and many photos accompany the text. Thorough cross-referencing will aid researchers, as will bibliographies of print and Internet sources following each entry.

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## **Encyclopedia of the Clinton Presidency: By Peter B. Levy Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From Library Journal

Clinton seemed to bring out both the best and the worst in himself and others, and his presidency will remain fiercely contested political terrain. Here, Levy (history and political science, York Coll. of Pennsylvania) does an admirable job of presenting a thorough, comprehensive, "encyclopedic" examination of the people, politics, policies, controversies, and scandals of the Clinton years. With over 230 short entries, this work is balanced and fair in its treatment of Clinton and the president's critics (no easy task). A useful, if short, chronology of Clinton's two tumultuous terms is presented at the back of the book. Here, the parts do not quite give form to the whole, and readers will have to look elsewhere to find the true meaning of the Clinton presidency. But as a reference work, this book is a unique and valuable guide to the presidency of William Jefferson Clinton. Recommended for public libraries. Michael Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles

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#### From Booklist

The press release for this title describes it as a "spin-free" source on the Clinton presidency, one that offers an unbiased look at our forty-second president. It is designed to provide readers with in-depth information on major figures such as Al Gore, Janet Reno, and Ken Starr; insights into Clinton's role as a politician and pop icon; coverage of domestic policy issues such as health-care reform, gays in the military, and gun control; scandals from Whitewater to Travelgate to Monica Lewinsky; and foreign policy issues including the Middle East, the Balkans, and Northern Ireland. Author Levy also wrote *Encyclopedia of the Reagan-Bush Years* (Greenwood, 1996).

The 230-plus entries are presented with boldface cross-references, *see also* references, and brief lists of suggested readings. Depending on the complexity and importance of the subject, entry length runs from a half page for Jacob A. Stein (attorney for Monica Lewinsky) to more than two full pages for his famous client. Broad topics such as foreign policy receive the longest treatment. Other entries cover people (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Rush Limbaugh, George Stephanopoulos), themes (*Assassination attempts, Campaign finance reform* ), major legislation (*Family Medical Leave Act, Internal Revenue Overhaul Act* ), and specific historical events (*Election of 1992*). The volume contains a relatively small number of graphs, charts, and black-and-white photos. It concludes with a six-page time line and an index.

Undoubtedly, other specialized encyclopedias covering the Clinton years will be published in the future, and authors of those works will benefit from a historical perspective that comes with time. However, at present, this source has no competition, and it will lend solid reference support to academic, public, and secondary-school libraries. *RBB*

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#### Review

"Levy's volume will help researchers address the contradictions in the life and times of the US's 42nd president. It includes more than 230 entries on all aspects of Clinton's two administrations. As Levy notes, "a high proportion of the entries deal either with Clinton's presidency or one of the many scandals that surrounded his presidency." A substantial portion of the entries focus on the US economy and foreign policy and other substantive issues. The book includes a very useful time line and an excellent index. The publisher claims that this book "is a perfect first-stop reference for students and others seeking information about the Clinton presidency." That is a fair assessment, and as such, the volume is a useful addition for public and

academic libraries."-CHOICE

... "if it happened between 1992 and 2000, it is probably in this book."-VOYA

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"A perfect first-stop reference for students and others seeking information on this subject."-Hispanic Outlook

"If your school covers current politics and government, this will be a good addition to the collection. Public libraries will want to purchase a copy because their adult patrons will be interested."-Gale Reference for Students

... "Peter Levy has provided a solid introduction to research on the Clinton administration...this volume will serve students well as a basic guide to the key events and figures of his administration. Appropriate for public and academic libraries."-Gale-Lawrence Looks at Books

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