

Foreword

During the first half of 1994, America moved forward to enhance security at home and abroad—creating opportunity, shrinking bureaucracy, and giving our people the means to realize the American Dream. By June 1994, our Administration’s economic plan had helped create close to 4 million new jobs. Fifteen million working families with children and countless small businesses enjoyed a tax cut.

In our efforts to keep our country strong and secure, our government became a better partner with the American people. During a time of great change, our Administration invested in education and training to help all Americans earn the tools they need to compete and win in the global economy. I signed “Goals 2000” into law, setting world-class standards for our schools and giving local communities the flexibility to achieve excellence. I signed the “School-to-Work Opportunities Act,” bringing teachers and businesses together to help non-college bound students move directly from school to work. Across the country, AmeriCorps members earned money for college while serving our country—tutoring young people, cleaning up neighborhoods, and making communities safer for all of us. Thanks to our reforms of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, we were able to come to the aid of families from northern California to southern Florida.

Security at home requires even more of us. To help restore safety in our homes and neighborhoods, we fought for passage in Congress of a tough, smart crime bill, that included provisions for putting 100,000 new police officers on our streets. At our urging, the House of Representatives passed a ban on 19 deadly assault weapons. In an effort central to the strength of our families, our economy, and our future, Americans took up the challenge of health care reform. Together, we engaged in an important debate in Congress and across the country and worked toward bringing health care security to every American.

We worked to keep America strong abroad, as well. As it has been for half a century, our Nation remained the world’s greatest force for freedom and democracy. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy, I had the privilege to join with our allies in remembering a generation who helped preserve the blessings of liberty for us all. This year, Americans and people around the world realized anew the rewards of our leadership. We opened markets from Latin America to Asia to American goods. We supported democracy in Russia, which I visited, and in South Africa, where Vice President Al Gore and the First Lady witnessed the triumph of free and fair elections. And we advanced the cause of peace around the globe.

This volume reflects America’s ongoing commitment to rewarding those who work and study and dream of building a better life. Our citizens can take great pride in their progress. Their accomplishments assure us that America’s best days are still to come.

William Clinton