

THE CLINTON LEGACY: A DOCTRINE OF ENGAGEMENT

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Foreign Policy Bulletin

10th Anniversary Double Issue

A Note from the Editors

Slightly more than a decade separates the period covered by this issue of the *Foreign Policy Bulletin* from that covered in our first issue dated July-August 1990. This decade was bounded on one end by the close of the Cold War, and on the other by the start of a new millennium. During this time, many regions of the world moved toward increased economic integration and stability, while elsewhere centuries-old conflicts erupted into grim violence. As the world adjusted to seismic geo-political shifts, the United States experienced an era of economic and political dominance unprecedented in this or any nation's history.

During this decade, at least as much as any other, change resulted from complex cascades of choices made by many people distributed across the globe, not merely from the actions of the few in formal positions of power. Yet, again as in any era, the influence of some leaders was particularly significant. Nelson Mandela. Boris Yeltsin. Slobodan Milosevic. Kofi Annan. Aung San Suu Kyi. There are others. In this issue of the *Foreign Policy Bulletin* we seek to sketch the contours of a decade through the words of one: former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

For our 10th anniversary double issue we have compiled a collection of the former president's speeches, press conferences and statements illustrating the evolution of both the events themselves and the president's views from 1991 to 2001. The opening section of this feature, titled "The Clinton Legacy: A Doctrine of Engagement," presents a selection of Clinton's major foreign policy addresses, beginning with the 1992 presidential campaign and ending with the close of the president's second term. We then present seven collections addressing the following broad topics:

- the transformation of Europe in the post-Cold-War decade;
- the Middle East peace process;
- the stalemate in the conflict with Iraq;
- the evolution of a policy of engagement with China;
- the international response to the Rwanda genocide;
- arms control progress and setbacks; and
- trade liberalization and globalization.

Two caveats are in order. First, we do not attempt to thoroughly document the flow of events in any of the above cases, as far more complete documentation is already available in back issues of the *Bulletin*. Rather, we offer, in their entirety, some of the best expressions of the president's public remarks on these critical topics.

Second, we recognize that our list of topics is far from complete. The Clinton "doctrine of engagement" also extended importantly to the Northern Ireland peace process, the offer of financial assistance to Mexico, strengthened relations with Japan, renewed dialogue with India, participation by the U.S. in negotiations over global warming and the environment, among other areas. We look forward to addressing some or all of these topics in a future book length documentary treatment of the Clinton legacy.

Given these caveats, we hope that this 10th anniversary double issue of the *Foreign Policy Bulletin* will prove an enduring resource to scholars, students, policymakers and diplomats seeking to better understand this remarkable decade of transition.

—Philip E. Auerswald and Christian M. Duttweiler