

Why Gorge W Bush won the 2000 election

It was a close race to begin with. Gore and bush shared several policies that where on major issues such as the death penalty and gun law. Also It was a time of uncertainty with no major enemy to fight against for ten years the two candidates having very little foreign policy policies.

The main reason why Bush won in the year 2000 is because of how close the two candidates where in the Florida election. Up until the Florida votes had been counting Gore was winning with 266 Electoral College votes. Bush then grabbed the 25 votes of Florida's Electoral College reps and subsequently won the election with 274 Electoral College votes. How ever Bush was only ahead with 500 votes this then triggered a recount in several counties through out the state which where sanctioned by the State Supreme Court.

After almost a month of recounts the decision on whether the recounts should continue got passed up to the federal Supreme Court. In which had 5 conservative judges campaigned on the basis of article three of the constitution (which states that the court has no place to interrupt the voting process of any state). While the three liberal judges in the Supreme Court argued on amendment 14. Due to the large conservative majority the recounts stopped.

The second reason why Bush won the election is that he adopted an ethnically diverse campaign team, which included Condalina Rice as National defence advisor and Colin Powel of secretary of state. This helped Bush portray himself as non-aggressive and fatherly character. Where as Gore was seen to be pushy and much more aggressive than Bush.

In the television debates Gore tried to distance himself for Clinton which in American politics is a very unwise idea "I stand here before you as my own man". This speech helped to distance himself from Clinton but also it was seen as Gore running to the left and running away from the New Democrat policies that Clinton and Gore created. This meant that Bush had a chance to run to the centre to be seen as a "compassionate conservative" and campaigned on a platform of tax cuts. Tax cuts to the value of forty billion dollars.

Also Bush was representing a united Republican Party where as in pass years the party had been slit in two. With one Pat Buchanan and speeches at the Republican National Convention in the previous past 2 elections that seriously damaged the chances of the Republicans getting elected. Where as in primaries in the run up to the 2000 election Bush had a moderate running against him called John MacCain this meant Bush was able to broaden his stance and after the primaries was able to introduce some policies that was part of MacCain's campaign.

Through out the campaign Gore was trying to steal votes from the green party, which included some policies, which scared the many moderates, the are in the Democrats. This meant that many of them deserted the Democrats for a candidate that inhabited the centre ground. This made was made a significant subject after the election with the Green Party scoring one hundred thousand votes. May I remind you that the republicans won buy 500 votes.

Bush's campaign team was also much more experienced than Gore's. Bush had selected key members of his father's cabinet to surround him and help him campaign. He also chose a vice president called Dick Cheney. Cheney was part of Bush Sr.'s cabinet and had a large amount of gravitas, this meant Bush was able to present himself as experienced and that he knew what he was doing.

Whereas Gore distanced himself from Clinton completely by selecting a completely inexperienced team. This meant that Gore looked edgy for most of the time and really did not know what he was doing or where he was going with his campaign.