Early Relationship with Bush

• When did you first meet George H.W. Bush? Tell us about your friendship with Bush. How did your relationship with President Bush change after he entered the White House?

Joining the Bush Administration

• How did you prepare for your work as Secretary of State? How did your experience in the Reagan Administration as White House Chief of Staff and Treasury Secretary help prepare you to serve as Secretary of State?
• Discuss the set up and organization of the State Department. Tell us about your relationship with your top aides, as well as with the career State Department officials.
• Tell us about your relationship with other members of Bush’s foreign policy and national security team, such as Dick Cheney and Brent Scowcroft. Did you work well together as a team? Did any turf battles arise?
• How did you go about setting priorities for the foreign policy agenda? Tell us about the President’s role in this process. How often would you meet with the President to discuss foreign policy?

Foreign Policy Issues

• Important foreign policy issues that arose during your time as Secretary of State include:
  - U.S.-Soviet relations, arms control, NATO reform, and the end of the Cold War
  - Central America
  - The Middle East peace process
  - China/Tiananmen Square
  - Panama
  - U.S.-South African relations and the end of Apartheid
  - The Gulf War
  - The collapse of the Soviet Union
  - Bosnia-Herzegovina
• Which foreign policy issues demanded the most of your time? Which important issues did you tend to delegate more to other State Department officials such as Larry Eagleburger?
• Which were the most difficult foreign policy issues you confronted as Secretary of State? Which issues did you enjoy working on the most?
• Did you have any favorite foreign leaders or foreign ministers to work with? Who were the hardest to work with? Comment on the President’s relationship with foreign leaders and his regular use of “telephone diplomacy.”

Stepping Down as Secretary of State

• Tell us about the decision for you to take over Bush’s reelection campaign in August, 1992. Did you have any reservations about leaving your position as Secretary of State?
The Bush Presidency in Retrospect

- Discuss Bush’s effectiveness as a world leader. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Bush Administration in foreign affairs?
- How would you evaluate your effectiveness as Secretary of State? What do you consider to be your most significant contributions during your years in the Bush Administration?
- Comment on the U.S.’s standing in the world as you left office.
- How should the Bush presidency be viewed by future historians? Almost twenty years have passed since Bush left office. How well have the historians done so far in evaluating the Bush presidency? How do you think George W. Bush’s time in office will affect the way that his father’s administration is viewed by future historians?
TIMELINES


SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS


- Michael Kramer, John Stacks and Christopher Ogden interview with James Baker, “I Want to Be the President’s Man,” *Time, 2/13/1989.*
NEWSPAPER PROFILES OF BUSH AND BAKER


EARLY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR


THE GULF WAR


THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

