President George W. Bush
Significant Events

1. **March 31, 2001**: *Bush's First International Crisis*—On the day that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarek arrived in Washington for Middle East talks, a Chinese fighter jet "bumps" into one of the country's EP-3 reconnaissance planes, forcing it, along with the 24-person crew, to make an emergency landing in China. The resulting crisis completely overshadows the visits of both Mubarek and Jordan's King Abdullah II (on April 10). After King Abdullah II speaks with Christian leaders, members of Congress, and others to get behind the :land for peace" initiative, he visits the White House on April 10 and then returns home to Jordan. On the very next day. China agrees to release the "detained" airmen from the downed plane.

2. **May 22, 2001**: *Bush's First Political Crisis*—On this day, President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell publicly endorse the Mitchell Report, calling for Israel to give up land in exchange for peace. Concurrently, Vermont Senator James Jeffords confirmed he was leaving the Republican Party. On the same-day, the Dali Lama arrives in Washington, angering China, and the Chinese Premier calls Bush "unfit" to be President. For scheduling reasons, Senator Jeffords officially leaves the Republican Party on May 25, becoming an Independent and allowing the Democrats to obtain a majority in the Senate, throwing judicial and diplomatic nominations into question. Also on the same day, Daniel Kurtzer is nominated for Ambassador to Israel and is endorsed by pro-land giveaway Reform and Conservative Jews, making up 85% of American Jewry.

3. **June 8, 2001**: *Bush's First Natural Disaster*—Reuters News Service reports that United States CIA director George Tenet and a special envoy from Washington have spearheaded an international effort on Friday "to strengthen a fragile Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire" plagued by fresh violence. The Central Intelligence Agency director hosted talks between senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials in Ramallah, while Assistant Secretary of State William Burns met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank. At the same time, catastrophic flooding overnight brings the Houston area to a near standstill, with nearly 10,000 people left homeless and 3,000 homes and businesses affected, Gov. Rick Perry declares a state of emergency in the Houston area and 28 southeast Texas counties. More than two feet of rain falls at Bush Intercontinental Airport causing flights to be cancelled until early Sunday morning.

4. **September 11, 2001**: *Largest Terrorism Event in History*—The World Trade Center and Pentagon terror attacks produced the most expensive insurance event in U.S. history ($30 to $50 billion estimate). At the same time the Bush administration, in cooperation with the Saudis, was completing the most comprehensive plan and message ever to be offered on Israel's covenant land by an American President, and to be presented by Secretary of State Powell to the United Nations General Assembly. Saudi Arabia's Prince Bandar bin Sultan stated he went from being "the happiest man in the world" on Monday night, September 10, to experiencing the worst crisis of his career on September 11. Dreams of a new Middle East peace initiative evaporated. The realization that most of the hijackers were Saudis "fell on me ... like the whole house collapsed over my head," Bandar said later. He couldn't imagine a way to "do more damage or worse damage to Islam or to Saudi Arabia."

5. **October 2, 2001**: *First Anthrax Case in 25 Years*—On the same day that the first anthrax case in 25 years breaks out, President Bush endorses a Palestinian state.. The cases increase and end up costing the U.S. government billions of dollars along with destabilization of government offices for a few months.