

U.S. History – Regents Review Packet

1. Colonial America (1607-1763)

Main Facts to Remember

- The earliest colonies in North America were:
 - JAMESTOWN, Virginia – settled by businessmen from England who sought to make money by growing and selling tobacco; the area had fertile soil and Virginia grew into a powerful colony of tobacco **plantations** (large farms where slaves did most of the work).
 - MASSACHUSETTS BAY (sometimes called Plymouth) – settled by Puritans from England who were seeking religious freedom for themselves; the Puritans built towns, with small farms on the outskirts.
 - NEW AMSTERDAM – settled by Dutch traders who settled on Manhattan island; in the beginning they mainly traded furs; New Amsterdam was later taken over by the British and renamed “New York”.
- Each of these colonies was built on the Atlantic Coast, close to the water (better for trade).
- The policy that the British followed toward the colonies was called **mercantilism** – this means that a “mother country” (like England) had colonies (like America) for two main reasons: 1. to get raw materials; 2. to create new markets (places to sell their products); it also meant that the colony was not allowed to compete economically with the mother country.
- The British also followed a policy of **salutary neglect** toward the American colonies – this meant that the British pretty much left the Americans alone in their day-to-day lives, as long as raw materials kept being shipped to England and as long as Americans bought only British-made products.
- Early examples of democracy in the American colonies:
 - The **Mayflower Compact**: An agreement made by the first Puritan settlers in Massachusetts – it said that they would follow the idea of self-government.
 - The **House of Burgesses**: In Virginia, this was the first elected legislature in the American colonies; it was a first step towards representative government (a government where people could elect their own representatives).

Important Terms & People

mercantilism

Puritans

House of Burgesses

salutary neglect

Mayflower Compact

plantation

Study Questions

1. What was the main goal of the British policy of mercantilism toward the American colonies?
2. What were the main differences between the Massachusetts and Virginia colonies?
3. In what way was the Mayflower Compact an early example of democracy in America?
4. What was the House of Burgesses?
5. Who did the work on the early plantations in Virginia?
6. How was the British policy of salutary neglect good for both the British king and the American colonies?

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2. Declaration and American Independence (1763-1776)

Main Facts to Remember

- 1763 marked the end of the **French and Indian War** – a war where the Americans and British fought against the French and Indians; the Americans and British won, but the war had a negative effect on their relationship (see next bullet point).
- After 1763 the British abandoned their policy of salutary neglect – because they felt that they had spent a lot of money on the French and Indian War and that the Americans should pay the cost; for this reason, the British put lots of new taxes on the Americans – for example, the **Stamp Act**, the **Sugar Act**, and the **Tea Act**.
- The American colonists thought the new British taxes were unfair because they had no one to represent them in the British government (“**No taxation without representation!**”).
- Eventually, the American colonists became so unhappy with the British taxes that they began to protest – some examples: the Stamp Act Congress, boycotts of British products, the Sons of Liberty, the Boston Tea Party, the First Continental Congress, the Second Continental Congress.
- The Second Continental Congress decided that America should break away from England and become an independent country; they assigned Thomas Jefferson the job of writing a document that described the reasons for American independence – this document was called the **Declaration of Independence**.
- The main ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence are:
 - “All men are created equal” – every human being has **natural rights** – rights that they are born with and which are “**unalienable**,” meaning they can’t be taken away (“life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”); this idea comes from John Locke and the European Enlightenment.
 - Another Enlightenment idea contained in the Declaration is **social contract** – it says that people owe loyalty only to a government that acts in their best interests.
 - The Declaration says that the main job of the government is to protect people’s natural rights; if the government fails to do this, then the people have the right to “**alter or abolish**” (change or get rid of) that government and create a new one.
 - Lastly, the Declaration of Independence argues that the government gets its power from “**the consent of the governed**.” In other words, the government gets its power from the people; they must give their “consent” (permission) to be governed.

Important Terms & People

natural rights	consent of the governed	Thomas Jefferson
unalienable rights	democracy	John Locke
social contract	republic	

Study Questions

1. Why did the British decide to raise taxes on the American colonists? How did the Americans react? Give specific examples for both questions.
2. How did Enlightenment ideas influence the Declaration of Independence?
3. What are natural rights and what do they have to do with government?
4. Where does the government get its power from, according to the Declaration?
5. According to the Declaration, what is the primary responsibility of the government? What do people have the right to do if the government fails to live up to this responsibility?

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3. The Constitution (1787-1791)

Main Facts to Remember

- After the American Revolution, the leaders of the new United States decided to set up a weak government because they feared a government that was too strong. The document that created this new, weak government was called the **Articles of Confederation**. The government of the Articles of Confederation had a few important characteristics:
 - There was only one branch – legislative (Congress). There was no executive branch to enforce laws → this made a weak government.
 - Congress had no power to collect taxes, therefore the government had no money → this also made a weak government.
 - The states had most of the power → the result was a weak central government.
 - Since it had no money or power, the government under the Articles of Confederation was unable to defeat **Shays' Rebellion** without the financial help of wealthy Americans → yet another sign of a weak central government.
- The one positive accomplishment of the Articles of Confederation was called the **Northwest Ordinance** – this was a law that defined the procedure for adding new states into the nation.
- In 1787, American leaders decided the government they had created was too weak – they decided to write a new document that would build a stronger government. The meeting where they wrote this document was called the **Constitutional Convention**; the document they wrote is the **Constitution**. Those who wrote the Constitution are called the Framers.
- At the Constitutional Convention there was a debate about representation in Congress (how many representatives each state would have in Congress). Large states wanted **proportionate representation** – where the number of representatives would be based on a state's population; but the small states wanted **equal representation** – where each state would have the same number of representatives.
- The small and big states reached a compromise – called the **Great Compromise** – which created a **bicameral legislature** (a two-house Congress) with a House of Representatives (proportionate representation) and a Senate (equal representation).
- Another argument at the Constitutional Convention was over how much power the new government should have. One group called the **Federalists** wanted a strong central government; another group (the **Anti-Federalists**) wanted a weaker government. The Anti-Federalists demanded that a **Bill of Rights** be added to the Constitution to protect people against government abuse. In the end, each side got what it wanted: the Constitution *did* create a stronger federal government *and* a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.
- The Constitution has a number of important main ideas [make sure you study these!]:
 - **limited government** – the idea that the gov't should not have too much power
 - **separation of powers** – there are three branches (executive, legislative, judicial)
 - **checks and balances** – each branch has the power to limit the power of the others
 - **flexibility** – the Constitution is adaptable to change (the “elastic clause” [Congress has the power to make laws about any issue it sees as necessary], amendments)
 - **federalism** – power is shared between state governments and the federal government

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Important Terms & People

Articles of Confederation	checks and balances	<i>Federalist Papers</i>
Northwest Ordinance	Great Compromise	veto
Shays' Rebellion	bicameral legislature	amendment
Constitutional Convention	equal representation	elastic clause
limited government	Three-Fifths Compromise	Electoral College
separation of powers	Federalists & Anti-Federalists	Bill of Rights

Study Questions

1. What were the main weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation?
2. The Northwest Ordinance was the one positive achievement of the Articles of Confederation. What did it do?
3. Why did the Framers decide to write a new Constitution?
4. What were the main differences between the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation?
5. What issue did the Great Compromise resolve? How did it do so?
6. What are the ways that the Constitution prevents the government from becoming too powerful?
7. What are the three branches of government? Explain the main job of each.
8. Name and explain some examples of checks and balances.
9. What are the different ways that the Constitution provides for flexibility (ability to change) in the government?
10. How does the Bill of Rights guarantee people's civil liberties? Name at least five rights guaranteed to people by the Bill of Rights.

4. Early American Government (1792-1820)

Main Facts to Remember

- The early period of American government was a time when things that were left unclear in the Constitution began to be worked out.
- George Washington was the 1st president; his presidency is remembered for these reasons:
 - GW said that the **foreign policy** of the US should be **isolationism** – that the US should stay out of the affairs of Europe (remain neutral) and concentrate on its own problems.
 - After two terms (8 years), GW stepped down from the presidency, even though he could have run as many times as he wanted. His action created a tradition that every president followed until FDR in 1940.
 - A National Bank was created to help the US economy.
- Also important during this time was the fight between **Alexander Hamilton** and **Thomas Jefferson**, who were Washington's closest advisors. Jefferson was a **strict constructionist** – he believed that the words of the Constitution should be followed very strictly (closely); he feared a government that was too strong. Hamilton was a **loose constructionist** – he thought the Constitution should be more flexible; he believed in a strong government. One example of their disagreement was the creation of the National Bank – Hamilton wanted it and Jefferson didn't (since it's not mentioned in the Constitution). Hamilton won that fight – the National Bank was created.
- The fight between Hamilton and Jefferson caused the creation of the first political parties.

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- During this time the idea of the **unwritten Constitution** came up – this idea says that there are certain customs and traditions that the government is going to follow even though they are not written as laws in the Constitution. Some examples:
 - the president will run for only two terms (see above).
 - there are two main political parties (see above).
 - The President has the power to create a “cabinet” – a committee of advisors (for example, the Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, etc.)
 - **judicial review** – the idea that the Supreme Court has the right to declare laws unconstitutional; this idea was created by Chief Justice John Marshall in the *Marbury v. Madison* case. This increased the power of the Supreme Court and the federal government.
 - **lobbying** – to lobby means that any group in the US has the right to try and influence members of Congress to vote in a certain way.

Important Terms & People

foreign policy	unwritten Constitution	John Marshall
isolationism	judicial review	lobbying
Hamilton vs. Jefferson	unconstitutional	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>

Study Questions

1. How do you think George Washington reacted to a conflict between England and France?
2. What does the power of judicial review allow the Supreme Court to do?
3. The two-party system, lobbying, and the president’s two-term tradition are examples of what idea?
4. Why was Thomas Jefferson against Alexander Hamilton’s proposal for a National Bank?
5. What was a main result of the fighting between Jefferson and Hamilton?
6. How did the actions of Chief Justice John Marshall change the US government?

5. Westward Expansion (1800-1900)

Main Facts to Remember

- **Westward expansion** refers to the time in the 1800s when the US territory spread from the original 13 states on the East Coast all the way to the Pacific Ocean.
- The idea of **manifest destiny** was important in westward expansion – this idea said that God had given the US the right to expand all the way to the Pacific Ocean, even if it meant taking the territory of other people.
- These are some of the most important examples of US territorial growth:
 - **Louisiana Purchase** (1803) – Thomas Jefferson bought a huge territory from France (it doubled the size of the United States). The US gained new territory and also New Orleans (an important port on the Gulf of Mexico), as well as control of the Mississippi River (important for the transportation of goods and people).
 - **Texas Annexation** (1845) – Texas broke away from Mexico and was eventually annexed (added on to) the US.
 - The **Mexican Cession** (1848) – As a result of the Mexican-American War (which the US won), Mexico was forced to give up over 1/3 of its territory (the modern-day states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada).
- Other important factors in territorial growth were: the **Erie Canal** (which connected the Hudson River with Lake Erie), Andrew Jackson’s policy of “**Indian removal**,” the

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Homestead Act, the **transcontinental railroad**, and the **California Gold Rush**. You should be familiar with how each of these contributed to westward expansion.

- As the 1800s progressed, westward expansion eventually resulted in a growth in **sectionalism** (divisions between North and South) and increased tensions over the issue of slavery – the North and South began to fight more and more over whether or not to allow slavery in the new territories of the United States.

Important Terms & People

manifest destiny	Trail of Tears	Mexican Cession
Louisiana Purchase	reservation	Homestead Act
Erie Canal	Texas Annexation	transcontinental railroad
Andrew Jackson	James Polk	California Gold Rush
Indian Removal Act	Mexican-American War	sectionalism

Study Questions

1. What were the main steps in US territorial growth during the 1800s?
2. In what ways did the US government encourage westward expansion in the 1800s?
3. How was the idea of manifest destiny used to justify US westward expansion?
4. What advantages did the US gain with the Louisiana Purchase?
5. What was Andrew Jackson’s policy of Indian removal, and how did it affect Native Americans during the period of westward expansion?
6. Why did westward expansion lead to increased tensions over slavery in the US?

6. Civil War and Reconstruction (1820-1877)

Main Facts to Remember

- As the US expanded westward, disputes between the North and South over slavery increased. The two sides tried to resolve the issue through a number of compromise laws, such as: the **Missouri Compromise**, the **Compromise of 1850**, the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**, and the passage of a **fugitive slave law**. You should be familiar with each of these laws. In the end, these compromises failed to prevent civil war.
- In the **Dred Scott** decision, the Supreme Court said that slaves were not citizens and therefore had no rights and that the “property rights” of slave owners could not be violated – in effect, they said that slavery would always be legal in the US. This was a major push towards the Civil War because it caused greater division between the North and the South.
- In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president – soon after, the South **seceded** because they feared that he would try to get rid of slavery.
- Lincoln refused to allow the South to secede. he send military troops to the South in order to force them to remain part of the U.S. This was how the Civil War started.
- After the Civil War ended, three important Amendments were added to the Constitution – the 13th, 14th, and 15th. You must know what these amendments said and how they attempted to protect the rights of African-Americans in the South.
- But the Southern states did not want to follow these Amendments (they wanted to deny African Americans their rights) so they passed **Jim Crow laws** to prevent blacks from voting – for example, literacy tests, the “grandfather clause” and the poll tax.
- In 1894, the Supreme Court upheld [supported] Southern **segregation** laws in the **Plessy v. Ferguson** case. They said that “separate but equal” facilities were legal.

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Important Terms & People

abolition	Abraham Lincoln	sharecropping
Missouri Compromise	secession/secede	Civil War Amendments
Compromise of 1850	Confederacy	equal protection
Kansas-Nebraska Act	emancipation	Jim Crow laws
fugitive slave law	freedmen	segregation
<i>Dred Scott</i> case	Reconstruction	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>

Study Questions

1. What compromises did the North and South try to make over the issue of slavery? Why didn't they work?
2. How did the *Dred Scott* case and the election of Lincoln help lead to the Civil War?
3. What reason did the Southern states give for secession?
4. How did the Civil War Amendments attempt to protect the rights of newly freed slaves?
5. What were the main methods used by state governments in the South to deny African Americans their constitutional rights?
6. How did most former slaves in the South make a living in the years following the Civil War?
7. What did the Supreme Court say about segregation in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case?

7. Industrialization (late 1800s – early 1900s)

Main Facts to Remember

- These were the main reasons (causes) for industrial growth in the late 1800s:
 - US **population was increasing** rapidly, helped by a revolution in agriculture which produced much more food for more people. As the population increased, so did the demand for products – the economy got stronger.
 - **Advances in transportation** – first the canal system, later on the railroads and automobiles. These were especially important for trade.
 - **Advances in communication** – the telegraph and, later, the telephone made communications over long distances much faster and easier.
 - **New sources of energy** – such as oil and electricity made new kinds of factory production possible.
 - The **rise of corporations** – huge groups of companies with lots of money; some became **monopolies**.
 - The government's **open immigration policy**, which fed industry's need for labor.
- Two important IDEAS associated with industrialization were:
 - **laissez-faire capitalism** – the idea that government should not interfere in business; in other words, the government shouldn't make a lot of regulations (rules) for businesses to follow. This idea allowed businesses to pretty much do whatever they wanted – including forming monopolies, using child labor, giving workers low pay and dangerous conditions, and selling unsafe food and medicine to the public.
 - **social Darwinism** – also known as “survival of the fittest.” This idea said that the rich were rich because they deserved to be rich (they were the “fittest”), while the poor were blamed for being poor (it was their own fault). Social Darwinism was used to justify large economic inequalities (big differences between rich and poor).
- One important result of laissez-faire was the growth of **monopolies** and **trusts**, headed

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by business leaders such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller. Some people called these business leaders **robber barons**, because of their unfair business practices.

- Workers who suffered during industrialization eventually formed **labor unions** – organizations of workers who united in order to have more power to fight the bosses. This led to strikes and violence – for example, the Railroad Strike of 1877, the Haymarket Riot, the Homestead Strike, and the Pullman Strike.
- The **Populist Party** rose in the 1890s, mainly to protect the interests of farmers who were economically hurt by the railroad monopolies and corrupt banking practices.
- Most industrial workers were “**new immigrants**” (people from Southern and Eastern Europe). They were culturally different from “**old immigrants**” (mostly people from Northern and Western Europe), and suffered a high amount of **nativism** (prejudice against immigrants). The worst example of anti-immigrant feeling was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which outlawed all immigration from China, for reasons of race.

Important Terms & People

Gilded Age	J. P. Morgan	Haymarket Riot
laissez-faire capitalism	Interstate Commerce Act	Homestead Strike
social Darwinism	Sherman Antitrust Act	Pullman Strike
corporation	mass production	Populists
monopoly / trust	assembly line	urbanization
robber baron	labor union	old & new immigrants
Andrew Carnegie	strike	nativism
John D. Rockefeller	Railroad Strike of 1877	Chinese Exclusion Act

Study Questions

1. Why was the late 1800s in the US sometimes called the “Gilded Age”?
2. What were the main causes and results of industrial growth in the mid- to late-1800s?
3. What were some of the results of the idea of laissez-faire capitalism?
4. How did the philosophy of Social Darwinism justify economic inequalities?
5. Why were some industrial leaders of the late 1800s called “robber barons”?
6. Why are monopolies bad for the economy? What were early examples of US monopolies?
7. How did the government finally try to control monopolies? Were they successful?
8. What were the problems that labor unions were most concerned with fixing?
9. What were some examples of conflict between corporations and workers in the late 1800s?
10. Why did the US follow a policy of open immigration during most of the 1800s?
11. What was the difference between “old” and “new” immigrants?
12. Where did most immigrants to the US settle in the late 1800s and early 1900s? Why?

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8. The Progressive Era (1890-1920)

Main Facts to Remember

- Social **reformers** of the Progressive Era wanted the government to fix many of the problems caused by rapid industrialization and urbanization. This chart shows the main social improvements that reformers wanted to make, along with actions the government took:

Desired Reform	Description	Reform Actions	New Legislation
consumer protection	People buying food and medicine were always in danger of getting sick or dying because of unsanitary conditions in the making and packaging of these products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • muckraker Upton Sinclair writes <i>The Jungle</i> • Prez Teddy Roosevelt demands new consumer protection laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat Inspection Act • Pure Food and Drug Act
child labor	Children as young as six or seven were working in factories, as house cleaners, in street jobs – conditions were dangerous and many died.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social reformer Jacob Riis publishes photos of child labor in his book <i>How The Other Half Lives</i> • soon after, government investigations begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most states pass laws outlawing child labor (making it illegal)
working conditions	Jobs in many industries were incredibly dangerous and if a worker got hurt it often meant losing the job; pay was low.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triangle Shirtwaist fire and protests • photos by Jacob Riis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new minimum wage laws • laws about worker safety
living conditions	Conditions in the cities were extremely dirty, overcrowded and full of disease; most immigrants lived in small, dark tenements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Addams opens the first “settlement house” (city community center) • Riis photographs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new building safety laws
expanding democracy	Government corruption was widespread and regular people had little say in government decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln Steffens and other muckrakers expose how businesses controlled the gov’t 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th Amendment (direct election of senators) • referendum, recall, secret ballot
business corruption	Monopolies and trusts existed in many industries – consumers suffered from high prices and low-quality products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teddy Roosevelt proclaims himself the “trust-busting” President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clayton Antitrust Act • Federal Trade Commission Act • Federal Reserve Act
women’s suffrage	Women in most states still did not have the right to vote.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protests led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th Amendment passed in 1920 (women’s right to vote)
conservation	Much of the forest land in the US was being destroyed by development and industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teddy Roosevelt tells America its natural resources and forests must be protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creation of the National Forest system – which sets aside land which can never be developed (built on)

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Important Terms & People

reform	Meat Inspection Act	temperance
muckraker	Pure Food and Drug Act	Susan B. Anthony
Teddy Roosevelt	Jacob Riis	conservation
trust-busting	Jane Addams	referendum
child labor	Lincoln Steffens	recall
minimum wage	tenement	secret ballot
consumer protection	settlement house	17 th Amendment
Upton Sinclair	suffrage	Federal Reserve Act

Study Questions

1. What were the main social problems that reformers of the Progressive Era cared about?
2. What was a “muckraker” and who were some important examples of muckrakers?
3. How did Jacob Riis and Jane Addams try to help the urban poor?
4. Which consumer protection laws were inspired by the muckraking of Upton Sinclair?
5. Which Progressive laws were passed by the federal government to regulate big business?
6. How did the 17th Amendment attempt to reduce corruption in government? What other changes in government helped to expand democracy?
7. Why did the Progressive Era US government create the Federal Reserve system?
8. Which President is remembered for conservation and the creation of national forests?

9. American Imperialism & World War I (late 1800s-1920)

Main Facts to Remember

- Because of industrialization in the late 1800s, US demand for raw materials and new markets to sell products increased dramatically. Additionally, the growing military power of the US led the government (especially Teddy Roosevelt) to seek new sites for military bases. These factors led to the rise of **imperialism** as the new US foreign policy.
- The **Monroe Doctrine** (1823) was the US telling Europe to stay out of the Western Hemisphere; the **Roosevelt Corollary** (“Speak softly and carry a big stick”) added on to this, saying that the US had the right to be the “policeman” in the Western Hemisphere – in other words, the US gave itself the right to interfere in the affairs of Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- In 1898, the US went to war with Spain – the **Spanish-American War**. Spain was defeated quickly and the US gained the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, as well as control of Cuba. This began a long period of US intervention in Latin America – for instance, the US took over Panama in order to build the **Panama Canal**.
- When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, the US tried to stay out of it by declaring a policy of **neutrality**. But a number of events eventually drew the US into the war – British propaganda, German **submarine warfare** (sinking of the ship *Lusitania*), the **Zimmerman Note**. Be familiar with how these events led the US into involvement in World War I.
- During and after World War I, the US government restricted the civil liberties of citizens (took away some of their rights) – for example, laws such as the **Espionage Act** and the **Sedition Act** basically made it illegal to publicly criticize the government. In the **Schenck v. United States** case, the Supreme Court said that speech could be a crime if it presented a “**clear and present danger**” to national security.

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- After WW I ended, President Wilson presented his **14 Points** for peace – one idea was that the US should join the newly-created League of Nations; but the Senate rejected this because it feared that this could get the US involved in more European conflicts.

Important Terms & People

imperialism	Spanish-American War	Wilson's 14 Points
Monroe Doctrine	Panama Canal	League of Nations
Roosevelt Corollary	neutrality	Espionage & Sedition Acts
yellow journalism	Zimmerman Note	<i>Schenck v. United States</i>
"Remember the Maine!"	the <i>Lusitania</i>	"clear and present danger"

Study Questions

1. How was US imperialism related to industrialization and the rise of big business?
2. What did the Roosevelt Corollary say the US had the right to do?
3. Which territories did the US gain after victory in the Spanish-American War?
4. How did America's role in the world change after the Spanish-American War?
5. Why was the US interested in building a canal across Panama?
6. At the beginning, what was the US attitude toward World War I?
7. What factors drew the US into entering World War I?
8. What did Wilson's "14 Points" say about the League of Nations? Did Congress agree?
9. What effect did the *Schenck v. United States* case and its "clear and present danger" test have on the Bill of Rights' protection of freedom of speech?

10. The Roaring Twenties (1920s)

Main Facts to Remember

- The 1920s – also known as the **Roaring Twenties** – are remembered as a period of great change in America – the time when America became a truly "modern" nation. At times, new, modern ideas came into conflict with traditional ideas. Some examples:
 - **jazz music** was seen by many people as kind of evil – especially the dancing.
 - the **flapper** was a symbol of freedom for many young women, but other people saw the flapper as a sign that America was headed down the wrong road.
 - the **Scopes Monkey Trial** was a symbol of the battle between science and religion in the US at the time; new scientific ideas (like "**evolution**") challenged traditional religious beliefs (like "**creation**").
 - the failure of **Prohibition** (the 18th Amendment): banning liquor was supposed to "clean up" America; instead it created problems (e.g., the rise in organized crime).
- The 1920s are known as a time of an "economic boom" – a strong economy fueled by developments such as Henry Ford's innovations in factory production (the **assembly line**) and the tremendous growth in the market for new consumer products.
- The 1920s are also remembered as a period that saw an increase in **nativism** (prejudice against immigrants); examples: the rebirth of the KKK; the Sacco and Vanzetti Trial; the Red Scare; and the Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924.
- The **Harlem Renaissance** was a movement of African American arts and culture; the center of this movement was in Harlem, where many African American writers, artists, musicians, and actors came to live and work. Langston Hughes and Duke Ellington were main figures.

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Important Terms & People

Jazz Age	Scopes (Monkey) Trial	Prohibition
consumer goods	nativism	18 th Amendment
mass consumption	Ku Klux Klan	21 st Amendment
installment buying	Red Scare	Harlem Renaissance
mass media	Sacco and Vanzetti	Langston Hughes
flapper	quota	false prosperity

Study Questions

1. What new kinds of consumer products were introduced in the 1920s? How did the production of new consumer goods affect the economy in the 1920s?
2. How were the Sacco and Vanzetti case, the Scopes Trial, and the debate about “flappers” examples of a conflict between traditional and modern cultures in the 1920s?
3. Why did Prohibition fail? What were the main effects of its failure?
4. What were the main results of the rise in nativism during the 1920s?
5. What were the goals of the immigration laws of 1921 and 1924?
6. How did the Red Scare threaten the civil liberties of American citizens?
7. What was the Harlem Renaissance and how did it reflect the experiences of African-Americans in the 1920s? Who were the main figures of the Harlem Renaissance?
8. During the 1920s farm crops were overproduced. What affect did this have on farmers?
9. Explain how the “boom” economy of the ‘20s was actually an example of “false prosperity.”

11. The Great Depression (1929-1941)

Main Facts to Remember

- The main **causes of the Depression** were:
 - **overproduction of consumer goods:** by the late 1920s people weren’t buying as many toasters, washing machines, cars, etc. anymore; but the factories kept on making them in high numbers – many companies went bankrupt (out of business).
 - **overproduction of farm crops:** as Europe recovered from WW I, they didn’t need food from the US anymore, but US farmers kept growing many crops; this led to an oversupply of farm crops and very low prices –many farmers had trouble surviving.
 - **too much credit** – many people and businesses were buying the new consumer products on credit; when the economy slowed, many couldn’t pay their debts.
 - **speculation on the stock market** –people got rich in the 1920s buying risky stocks “on margin” (with credit); when the stock market crashed, many lost their life savings.
- President Herbert Hoover did not respond well to the Depression – he ignored people’s suffering and kept telling the country that things would get better soon. Homeless people built villages of shacks they called “**Hoovervilles.**” Sometimes newspapers were called “Hoover blankets” – since people who couldn’t afford blankets used newspapers instead.
- Here are some other important effects of the Great Depression:
 - Many people were hungry, they did not have money for food; **bread lines** formed in order to feed people.
 - Thousands of **hobos** roamed the US, wandering from city to city by hitching on

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- railroad cars, searching for food and work.
- In the Great Plains, drought (no rain), combined with overfarming, led to the **Dust Bowl** – when the sky of the Great Plains was filled with so much dust that many farmers had to leave their farms and flee (many went to California).
- The **Bonus March**: WW I veterans marched on Washington, demanding the bonus that the government had promised them; they camped out in city parks – eventually, military troops were used to chase them out; the violence used against the Bonus Marchers was seen by many Americans as wrong, another bad mark for Hoover.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President in 1932, the worst year of the Depression. He began the program known as the **New Deal** – a combination of **work relief** (jobs in public works projects), **direct relief** (money, such as the Social Security program), and **bank reform** (improvements in the banking system, such as FDIC insurance of savings accounts).
- FDR's New Deal is remembered as a big success in helping the US survive the Depression.
- The one negative for FDR in the '30s was the **court-packing scandal** – when FDR tried to increase the number of Supreme Court justices from 9 to 15. He wanted to appoint new justices who would be more friendly to his New Deal programs, but Congress stopped him.

Important Terms & People

overproduction	bread line	FDR
speculation	soup kitchen	relief programs
credit	hobo	bank reform
stock market crash	Dust Bowl	FDIC
Hooverville	Bonus March	Social Security
Hoover blanket	New Deal programs	court packing

Study Questions

1. What did overproduction of consumer goods and farm products have to do with the beginning of the Great Depression?
2. What were other main causes of the Great Depression?
3. How did the Depression affect the everyday lives of Americans?
4. What was the Dust Bowl? How did it affect farmers in the Great Plains?
5. How was FDR's response to the Depression different from that of Herbert Hoover?
6. What was the New Deal? What has been a major lasting effect of the New Deal?
7. Give some examples of New Deal programs and how they tried to help Americans survive the Great Depression.
8. Why did some people think that the New Deal went too far in the direction of socialism?
9. Why did FDR try to "pack" the Supreme Court, and how did this action challenge the principle of checks and balances?

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12. World War II (1941-1945)

Main Facts to Remember

- When WW II broke out in Europe in the late 1930s, the US maintained a policy of **neutrality** – Congress passed a number of laws called the **Neutrality Acts** which said the US couldn't take sides in the war.
- But slowly the US began to take the side of England against Germany – the **Lend-Lease Act**, “**cash and carry**,” the **Atlantic Charter** were all signals that the US was moving away from neutrality. FDR said the US would be the “arsenal of democracy” [arsenal = weapon supply].
- The US officially entered the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.
- These are the important things that happened inside the US during World War II:
 - in order to build the first atomic bomb, the government pursued a top-secret program called the **Manhattan Project**; the first A-bomb was exploded in 1945.
 - Japanese-Americans were placed in **internment camps** during most of the war; the Supreme Court ruled that this was legal in the **Korematsu v. United States** case (1944).
 - wartime industries employed many women (since many men were away at war); the symbol of the woman wartime worker was **Rosie the Riveter**.
 - in order to support the war effort, Americans at home followed a **rationing** program – supplies of most products were limited so that there was more for soldiers; people also showed support by buying **war bonds** and planting **Victory gardens**.
- WW II ended when the US dropped **atomic bombs** on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
- After the war, the US government helped US veterans with the **GI Bill** – a law that gave veterans a free college education and money towards buying a house.
- Also important after the war: the **Nuremberg trials** of Nazi War criminals; and the creation of the **United Nations**.

Important Terms & People

Neutrality Acts	Rosie the Riveter	atomic bomb
Lend-Lease Act	internment camp	Hiroshima
“cash and carry”	<i>Korematsu v. United States</i>	Nuremberg Trials
Pearl Harbor	rationing	GI Bill
Manhattan Project	Victory garden	
	war bonds	

Study Questions

1. Why and how did the US seek to remain neutral at the beginning of World War II?
2. How were the Lend-Lease Act and the idea of “cash and carry” the first steps toward US involvement in World War II?
3. What event led America directly into involvement in World War II?
4. What was rationing and how did it help the war effort?
5. Who was Rosie the Riveter and what did she represent during World War II?
6. What happened to Japanese Americans during World War II? What did the Supreme Court say about this?
7. How did President Harry Truman justify the use of atomic bombs against Japan?

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13. The Cold War (1945-1991)

Main Facts to Remember

- At the end of WW II there were two **superpowers**: the US and the Soviet Union.
- The USSR was a communist dictatorship, while the US was a capitalist democracy; the Cold War involved these 2 countries competing to see whose way of life would rule the world.
- During the Cold War, the main US foreign policy was called **containment** – its goal was to stop the spread of communism. Some examples of how containment was used are: the **Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine, Berlin Airlift, Korean War, Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War**. Be sure to review details of these examples!
- During the Cold War, the US and USSR were involved in an **arms race** and a **space race**. After the USSR launched the first satellite (Sputnik), the US was determined to be the first to the moon, which it was in 1969.
- Inside the US, the Cold War was a time of fear – the two main fears were:
 - the **fear of communism**: McCarthyism and the “witch hunt” for communists inside the US (people who were called **subversives**) illustrated that sometimes fear can lead to the violation of people’s rights
 - the **fear of atomic war**: the US was obsessed with atomic war – people built bomb shelters in their back yards and schoolchildren were told to “**duck and cover**.”
- Besides being remembered as a time when the Cold War was at its height, the 1950s are also remembered as a time of economic prosperity; automobiles became even more important after a **US highway system** was built; many people from the cities moved out to the newly-constructed **suburbs**.

Important Terms & People

containment	arms race	subversive
Marshall Plan	space race	witch hunt
Truman Doctrine	Sputnik	blacklist
Berlin Airlift	domino theory	bomb shelter
Bay of Pigs	McCarthyism	“duck and cover”
Cuban Missile Crisis	HUAC	

Study Questions

1. How did World War II lead to the Cold War?
2. What was the primary US foreign policy during the Cold War? What was the main goal of this policy?
3. What was the Marshall Plan? What was its main purpose?
4. What did the Truman Doctrine say and where was it first implemented [used]?
5. Describe the events of the incident known as the Berlin Airlift.
6. Name and describe the two examples where the US got caught up in a Cold War conflict involving Cuba.
7. What was McCarthyism? Why was it called a “witch hunt” and how did it damage the rights of individuals in the US during the 1950s?
8. What did the government tell Americans about the dangers of atomic weapons during the Cold War? What was the government’s main goal?

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14. Civil Rights Movement (1950s - 1960s)

Main Facts to Remember

- The 14th Amendment was very important for the civil rights movement because it guaranteed African-Americans **equal protection of the law**.
- In the ***Plessy v. Ferguson*** case in 1896 the Supreme Court had ruled that **segregation** was legal – they said that “**separate but equal**” facilities were constitutional. But this ruling was overturned (reversed) by the ***Brown v. Board of Education*** case which made school segregation illegal.
- After the *Brown* decision, the movement for African-American rights gained strength and Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as a leader. He promoted tactics of **civil disobedience** and **nonviolence**. Events such as the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, **Freedom Rides**, and the **March on Washington** are important examples of civil disobedience.
- The two main issues for the civil rights movement of late 1950s and early 1960s were desegregation (getting rid of segregation) and voting rights.
- The three major laws that were made because of the civil rights movement were:
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 – made segregation everywhere officially illegal
 - Voting Rights Act of 1965 – made literacy tests and other voter restrictions illegal
 - 24th Amendment – made the poll tax illegal
- As time progressed, the civil rights movement became somewhat divided between those who followed MLK’s ideas of civil disobedience and nonviolence versus those (such as Malcolm X) who promoted **black power** – the idea that African Americans should be more forceful in demanding equality and maybe even use violence as a means of self-defense.
- One lasting effect of the civil rights movement is **affirmative action** – the legal program that sets aside educational and job positions for minority groups as a way of making up for past inequalities.

Important Terms & People

equal protection of the law	nonviolence	Martin Luther King, Jr.
“separate but equal”	integration	Malcolm X
segregation	desegregation	black power
WEB DuBois	Freedom Rides	Civil Rights Act of 1964
Booker T. Washington	Montgomery Bus boycott	Voting Rights Act of 1965
civil disobedience	March on Washington	24 th Amendment

Study Questions

1. Explain the main differences in the philosophies of WEB DuBois & Booker T. Washington.
2. Which constitutional principle was tested in the cases of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. Board of Education*? How was the outcome of these two cases different?
3. What were the major events of the Civil Rights movement?
4. How did Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers try to attain integration and equality?
5. Explain the ways that different groups or people in the civil rights movement had common goals but had different ways of attaining [achieving] those goals.
6. What kinds of legislation did the US government pass in order to support civil rights?
7. How does the affirmative action program try to correct past racial injustices?

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15. The 1960s

Main Facts to Remember

- The 1960s (similar to the 1920s) were a time of great change in the US. For example:
 - the government became more active in citizen’s well-being; President Lyndon Johnson’s **Great Society** program aimed to make a “**War on Poverty**” – with results like Head Start, Medicaid, Medicare, housing projects.
 - Women’s rights movements became active again – the idea of **women’s liberation** led to events such as the formation of the **National Organization for Women (NOW)**, the movement to pass an **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**, and the **Roe v. Wade** decision legalizing abortion. Other groups also began to demand equality, such as the Chicanos/Latinos led by Cesar Chavez.
- The Supreme Court of the 1960s made decisions on many cases where people’s civil liberties [rights] were expanded: **Mapp v. Ohio; Engel v. Vitale; Gideon v. Wainwright; Miranda v. Arizona; Tinker v. Des Moines** [see handout: “Landmark Supreme Court Cases”].
- The **Vietnam War** was a major part of the 1960s. Here are the main facts:
 - the US government said the war needed to be fought to stop the spread of communism (containment, the **domino theory**); over 50,000 Americans died.
 - many people inside the US were against the war (the **peace movement**); protests against the war often became violent (usually by the authorities).
 - one effect of the war: people began to have less trust in the government.
- Other important results of the Vietnam War were: the **26th Amendment**, the **War Powers Act** of 1973, and the **New York Times v. United States** Supreme Court case.

Important Terms & People

Peace Corps	Betty Friedan	hippies/counterculture
Lyndon Johnson	women’s liberation	26 th Amendment
Great Society	Equal Rights Amendment	Pentagon Papers
War on Poverty	<i>Roe v. Wade</i>	<i>New York Times v. U.S.</i>
Medicare/Medicaid	Chicanos	War Powers Act
NOW	César Chavez	
	peace movement	

Study Questions

1. How did Johnson’s Great Society program attempt to end poverty in the US?
2. How was the domino theory used to justify US involvement in Vietnam?
3. How did public opinion inside the US affect the Vietnam War?
4. How did US participation in the Vietnam War lead to the 26th Amendment?
5. In the *New York Times v. United States* case, what did the Supreme Court say about the right of the press to publish “secret” government documents?
6. Why did Congress pass the War Powers Act of 1973?
7. Who were the main people, events, and organizations of the women’s rights movement?
8. How did Latinos, Native Americans, and the handicapped use the civil rights movement as an inspiration for their own demands for equality?
9. How did Supreme Court decisions of the 1960s strengthen civil liberties? [look at *Mapp v. Ohio; Engel v. Vitale; Gideon v. Wainwright; Miranda v. Arizona; Tinker v. Des Moines...*]

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16. The U.S. Since 1970

Main Facts to Remember

- These are the main **international** issues involving the US since 1970:
 - **détente**: early 1970s; a slowing down of the Cold War; Nixon visited China (1st prez to do so); signed SALT treaty with the USSR, limited nuclear weapons on both sides
 - **Camp David**: 1979; Jimmy Carter negotiated peace treaty between Israel & Egypt
 - **end of Cold War**: 1980s; President Reagan increased the arms race (Star Wars program); some give him credit for “defeating” the USSR; Berlin Wall torn down 1989
 - **Persian Gulf War**: US sent 500,000 troops to defeat Iraq after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait; Hussein let to remain in power, until 2003 invasion
 - **NAFTA**: a “free-trade” treaty between US, Mexico, and Canada; makes trade easier
 - **global interdependence**: also called “globalization” – the idea that the US economy has become more entwined and interdependent with the economies of other countries
- These have been the main **domestic** issues:
 - **Watergate** – scandal involving President Richard Nixon when he tried to cover up a burglary committed by people working for him; when Nixon refused to hand over tapes he made of his office conversations to Congress (as the Supreme Court ordered him to in **United States v. Nixon**), the House of Representatives impeached him; but before the Senate could vote to expel him, Nixon resigned (the first & only president to do so)
 - **oil crisis/inflation**: mid-1970s oil shortage caused high prices and long lines at gas stations; this combined with high **inflation** to cause bad economic times in the US
 - **supply-side economics**: Reagan’s idea that tax cuts for the rich combined with cuts in government spending would generate wealth for all Americans; unfortunately, Reagan’s policies seemed to make things worse for poor people, not better
 - **election of 2000**: George Bush won even though Al Gore received more popular votes, because of the way the Electoral College votes came out (also happened in 1876)

Important Terms & People

Richard Nixon	inflation	Iran-Contra Affair
détente	Jimmy Carter	Persian Gulf War
SALT	Camp David Accord	Bill Clinton
Watergate Scandal	Ronald Reagan	NAFTA
impeachment	supply-side economics	globalization
oil embargo & crisis	Star Wars	Election of 2000

Study Questions

1. What actions were taken to support the foreign policy of détente?
2. What has been a lasting effect of the Watergate Scandal on US politics and government?
3. How did President Ronald Reagan’s idea of supply-side economics work? Why did most rich people favor the idea, and why did most poor people oppose it?
4. What were the causes and effects of the Persian Gulf War?
5. In the 2000 presidential election, George Bush won the election even though Al Gore received more votes. How was this possible?
6. How is the aging of the baby boomers affecting the Social Security system today?
7. What are the two main things the Federal Reserve system does?
8. What is America’s role in today’s era of “globalization”?