

Period 7 (1890-1945)

Key Concept 7.1

Growth expanded opportunity, while economic instability led to new efforts to reform U.S. society and its economic system.

- A) The United States continued its transition from a rural, agricultural economy to an urban, industrial economy led by large companies.
- New technologies and manufacturing techniques = improved standard of living.
 - By 1920, the majority of the country lived in cities.
 - Credit and market instability (Great Depression) led to calls for more financial regulation.
- B) In the Progressive Era of the early 20th century, Progressives responded to political corruption, economic instability, and social concerns by calling for greater government action and other political and social measures.
- Progressive journalists attack political corruption, social injustice and economic inequality.
 - Middle class reformers, including many women, worked to make changes in cities and help immigrants.
 - At the national level, Progressives push for laws and Constitutional Amendments. (19th – women’s suffrage)
 - Preservationists/conservationists support the establishment of national parks.
 - Progressives were often divided.
- C) During the 1930s, policy makers responded to the mass unemployment and social upheavals of the Great Depression by transforming the U.S. into a limited welfare state, redefining the goals and ideas of modern American liberalism.
- FDR’s New Deal – relief to the poor, stimulate recovery, reform the American economy.
 - Criticism from the left (Huey Long – share the wealth) and the right (Supreme Court)
 - New Deal did not end the Depression.
 - Led to political realignment – African-Americans and working-class support the Democratic Party

Key Concept 7.2

Innovations in communication and technology contributed to the growth of mass culture, while significant changes occurred in internal and international migration patterns.

- A) Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity.
- Mass media (radio/cinema) led to a spread of national culture
 - Migration led to new forms of art and literature – Harlem Renaissance
 - Restrictions of freedom of speech during WWI, Red scare, attacks on labor/immigrants.
 - Americans debate gender roles, modernism, science, religion, race, immigration.
- B) Economic pressures, global events, and political developments caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both international and internal migrants.
- Immigration reaches peak before WWI, immigration restricted after WWI.
 - Increased industrial production during WWI/WWII and economic difficulties of the 1930s led many Americans to move to cities.
 - Great Migration after WWI (African-Americans move to the N and W)
 - Migration to the U.S. from Mexico increased despite contradictory gov. policy)

Key Concept 7.3

Participation in a series of global conflicts propelled the United States into a position of international power while renewing domestic debates over the nation's proper role in the world

- A) In the late 19th century and early 20th century, new U.S. territorial ambitions and acquisitions in the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific accompanied heightened public debates over America's role in the world.
- 1890 – perception that the Western frontier was “closed”
 - Americans look outward
 - Arguments of Anti-imperialists (self-determination/racism)
 - Victory in Spanish-American War, suppression of nationalism in the Philippines.
- B) World War I and its aftermath intensified debates about the nation's role in the world and how best to achieve national security and pursue American interests.
- After initial neutrality, the U.S. intervened.
 - Wilson – humanitarian and democratic principles.
 - The American Expeditionary Forces helped tip the balance in favor of the allies.
 - After WWI, the U.S. pursued a unilateral foreign policy (peace treaties) while maintaining isolationism
 - Many Americans were concerned about fascism and totalitarianism in the 1930s but opposed taking military action until after Pearl Harbor.

C) U.S. participation in World War II transformed American society, while the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers vaulted the U.S. into a position of global, political and military leadership.

- Americans viewed the war as a fight for the survival of freedom and democracy.
- This was later reinforced after the discovery of Nazi concentration camps.
- Mass mobilization of American society – ended the G.D, helped win the war.
- Opportunities for women, debates over segregation, internment of Japanese Americans
- Victory was achieved through Allied cooperation, technological and scientific advances.
- Military – “island hopping” and D-Day invasion, debates over atomic weapons.
- The U.S. emerged as the most powerful nation in the world.