

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 lives 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, work 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.
 - Progressive 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.

Period 8 (1945-1980)

Key Concept 8.1

The United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and working to maintain a position of global leadership, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences.

- A) United States policymakers engaged in a Cold War with the authoritarian Soviet Union, seeking to limit the growth of Communist military power and ideological influence, create a free-market global economy, and build an international security system.
- Foreign policy – bolster non-Communist nations.
 - Containment – Korea, Vietnam
 - Cold War fluctuated between periods of hostility and detente
- B) Cold War policies led to public debates over the power of the federal government and acceptable means for pursuing international and domestic goals while protecting civil liberties.
- Americans debated methods to expose communists in the U.S.
 - Vietnam inspired protests.
 - Debates over the military-industrial complex, power of the executive.

- Middle East oil crises

Key Concept 8.2

New movements for civil rights and liberal efforts to expand the role of government generated a range of political and cultural responses.

- A) Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political successes in ending segregation, although progress toward racial equality was slow.
 - MLK, variety of strategies – legal challenges, direct action, nonviolent protest tactics.
 - *Brown v. Board of Education*, Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Debates about nonviolence increased after 1965

- B) Responding to social conditions and the African American civil rights movement, a variety of movements emerged that focused on issues of identity, social justice, and the environment.
 - Feminist and gay and lesbian movement – ERA, *Roe v. Wade*, Stonewall Rebellion.
 - Latinos, American Indians
 - Persistence of poverty – (Michael Harrington – *The Other America*)
 - Environmental problems and accidents lead to an environmental movement (EPA, Earth Day, Three Mile Island)

- C) Liberalism influenced postwar politics and court decisions, but it came under increasing attack from the left as well as from a resurgent conservative movement.
 - Liberalism – anticommunism abroad, belief in the ability of government to achieve social goals at home. Reached a high point in the mid-1960s.
 - LBJ's Great Society – attempt to end racial discrimination, eliminate poverty
 - Conservatives challenged liberal laws, they perceived a moral and cultural decline, wanted to limit the role of the federal government.
 - Public confidence in the government declined in the 1970s due to economic challenges, political scandals and foreign policy crises (Watergate, Oil Embargo, Gas lines, Iran Hostage Crisis)

Key Concept 8.3

Postwar economic and demographic changes had far-reaching consequences for American society, politics, and culture.

- A) Rapid economic and social changes in American society fostered a sense of optimism in the postwar years.

- Growth of private sector, technology, baby boom spur economic growth.
- Much of the middle class moves to the suburbs.
- Many Americans also move to the South and West (Sun Belt)
- Immigration Act of 1965 – reduced quotas, led to more immigration from Latin America.

B) New demographic and social developments, along with anxieties over the Cold War, changed U.S. culture and led to significant political and moral debates that sharply divided the nation.

- Mass culture became increasingly homogeneous, leads to challenges to conformity from artists, intellectuals, and rebellious youths.
- Counter culture of the 1960s rejects their parents' values and advocated changes in sexual norms.
- Rise and substantial growth of evangelical Christian churches.

Period 9 (1980-Present)

Key Concept 9.1

A newly ascendant conservative movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980s and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades.

A) Conservative beliefs regarding the need for traditional social values and a reduced role for government advanced in U.S. politics after 1980.

- Reagan's victory allows conservatives to cut taxes and deregulate many industries.
- Conservatives argue that liberal programs are counter productive in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth.
- Policy debates continue (free-trade, scope of the government social safety, calls to reform the U.S. financial system)

Key Concept 9.2

Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes.

A) New developments in science and technology enhanced the economy and transformed society, while manufacturing decreased.

- Economic productivity increased due to improvements in digital communications
- Access to information is improved.
- Employment in the service sector increased, manufacturing and union membership decreased.
- Real wages for the working and middle classes stagnated amid growing economic inequality.

B) The U.S. population continued to undergo demographic shifts that had significant cultural and political consequences.

- After 1980, the influence of the South and West increased as population continued to shift to those areas.
- Debates continued about immigration, diversity, gender roles, and family structures.

Key Concept 9.3

The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and role in the world.

A) The Reagan administration promoted an interventionist foreign policy that continued in later administrations, even after the end of the Cold War.

- Reagan asserts opposition to communism.
- Increase military spending, diplomatic initiatives, political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe lead to the end of the Cold War.
- After the Cold War, debates continued about the appropriate use of American power in the world (First Gulf War)

B) Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, U.S. foreign policy efforts focused on fighting terrorism around the world.

- After the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. launched military efforts against terrorism (Afghanistan/Iraq)
- The war on terror led to efforts to improve security but also brought questions about civil rights (Department of Homeland Security, Patriot Act)
- Challenges in the Middle East led to concerns about climate change and the U.S. dependence on fossil fuels.