

AP US HISTORY STUDY GUIDE

179 High-Yield Concepts

Advanced Placement Course | College Board CED-aligned

- All 9 CED periods: 1491 to the present
- Key events, required documents & Supreme Court cases
- Historical reasoning skills: causation, comparison, periodization
- Perfect for the AP US History exam in May

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How to Use This Guide

This guide condenses the AP U.S. History course and exam description into high-yield concepts. It is not a textbook replacement -- it is the fastest way to review everything the exam covers and to target your weak periods.

The APUSH exam is 3 hours 15 minutes: 55 multiple-choice questions (55 min), 3 short-answer questions (40 min), a Document-Based Question (60 min, including a 15-minute reading period), and a Long Essay (40 min). The 9 periods below map to the College Board Course and Exam Description, with period weights on each section title.

How to use the concepts

- Each concept = term + concise explanation + high-yield exam tip (+ example where useful).
- First pass: read every concept in order. Underline anything unfamiliar.
- Second pass: focus only on the concepts you underlined.
- Two weeks before the exam: rapid-review every tip line (they are the highest-yield).
- Use the Table of Contents to jump straight to your weakest units.

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Total: 179 high-yield concepts

How to use the TOC: work through the units in order on your first pass, then jump back to your weakest units for review. Each concept includes an Explanation, a high-yield exam tip, and where useful an Example. Mark the concepts you miss with a small dot in the margin and revisit them 48 hours later.

Period 1: Period 1: 1491-1607

5% of the APUSH exam. Contact between Native peoples and Europeans; the Columbian Exchange.

1 Pre-Columbian Native Societies

Explanation: Before 1492, North America was home to diverse societies: maize-based farming in the Southwest (Pueblo), mound-building Mississippians (Cahokia), Iroquois Confederacy in the Northeast (matrilineal, political league), and nomadic/seasonal groups on the Plains and Great Basin.

APUSH Tip: *the exam expects 'diverse' -- never describe Native America as one culture. Connect each region's social structure to its environment (maize -> settled towns; buffalo -> mobile bands).*

Example: The Iroquois Confederacy united five (later six) nations in a political league with matrilineal clan leadership -- a major political structure before European contact.

2 Maize (Corn) Cultivation

Explanation: Maize was the most important crop in the Americas: developed in Mesoamerica, it enabled settled agriculture, population growth, and complex societies (Pueblo, Aztec, Inca, Mississippian).

APUSH Tip: *maize = sedentary societies = surplus = social hierarchy. The exam loves the causal chain agriculture -> cities -> specialized labor.*

Example: Cahokia (near present-day St. Louis) supported a population in the thousands thanks to maize surplus along the Mississippi.

3 Worlds Collide: The Columbian Exchange

Explanation: The Columbian Exchange transferred plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres: New World crops (maize, potatoes, tomatoes) to Europe; Old World animals (horses, cattle) and diseases (smallpox, measles) to the Americas.

APUSH Tip: *the Exchange is a 'cause-and-effect' favorite -- most devastating was disease: Native populations fell up to 90% from smallpox, which enabled European conquest.*

Example: Horses transformed Plains Indians into mounted buffalo hunters; smallpox devastated Aztec and Inca populations before armies even fought.

4 Spanish Exploration & the Encomienda System

Explanation: Spain conquered the Aztec (Cortes, 1521) and Inca (Pizarro, 1533) empires seeking gold and glory. The encomienda system granted Spanish colonists control over Native labor (supposedly in exchange for Christianization -- in practice, brutal forced labor).

APUSH Tip: *encomienda = coerced Native labor; it sparked the 'Black Legend' and Bartolome de las Casas' criticism. Contrast with English colonies (which used African slavery + indentured servitude).*

Example: Under encomienda, Native people were forced to work Spanish estates in the Caribbean and Mexico; las Casas denounced the abuses in his writings.

5 Spanish Missions & the Pueblo Revolt

Explanation: Spain established missions and presidios in the borderlands (Florida, New Mexico, California). The Pueblo Revolt (1680) -- led by Pope -- expelled the Spanish from New Mexico for 12 years, the most successful Native uprising against colonizers.

APUSH Tip: *the Pueblo Revolt is THE required example of Native resistance to Spanish colonization -- know the date (1680) and the outcome (Spanish returned but more tolerant).*

Example: After years of forced labor and religious suppression, Pueblo peoples rose up and drove the Spanish out of Santa Fe until 1692.

6 The Atlantic World & Mercantilism

Explanation: European nations competed to extract wealth from colonies under mercantilism: colonies existed to enrich the mother country through favorable trade balances, raw materials, and protected markets (navigation acts).

APUSH Tip: *mercantilism = colonies as economic engines for the mother country. This sets up the colonial-relations theme for Periods 2-3.*

Example: Spain's silver fleets from Potosi and Mexico funded its empire; England would later impose the Navigation Acts on its colonies.

7 The Joint-Stock Company

Explanation: Joint-stock companies pooled investor capital to fund colonies, spreading risk. The Virginia Company (1606) financed Jamestown; the Dutch West India Company funded New Netherland.

APUSH Tip: *joint-stock companies = private profit motive for colonization -- contrast with Spanish crown-funded expeditions and New England religious motives.*

Example: The Virginia Company's investors hoped for gold and a northwest passage; instead they got tobacco -- which ultimately saved the colony.

8 Native-European Interactions (Early)

Explanation: Initial contact ranged from trade alliances to violent conflict: the Spanish sought conquest and conversion; the French formed fur-trade alliances (coureurs de bois); the English initially struggled to establish footholds.

APUSH Tip: *compare the three colonial styles -- Spanish (conquest/convert), French (trade/alliance), English (settlement/displacement). This comparison is a classic LEQ/DBQ prompt.*

Example: French traders married into Native communities and allied with the Huron, while English settlers' demand for land created recurring warfare.

9 The Protestant Reformation's Role

Explanation: The Reformation (Luther 1517, later Calvinism) shattered Catholic unity in Europe and fueled religious competition: Catholic Spain and France vs Protestant England and the Netherlands -- which carried into the Americas.

APUSH Tip: *religion drove colonization motives (God) alongside gold and glory. English Puritans sought to build a 'city upon a hill'.*

Example: England's break with Rome under Henry VIII set the stage for Protestant colonization of North America decades later.

10 The Atlantic Slave Trade Begins

Explanation: Portuguese traders began shipping enslaved Africans to the Americas in the 1500s (initially to sugar colonies). African kingdoms participated in the trade; the Middle Passage was brutal. Slavery in the Americas was racialized and hereditary.

APUSH Tip: *distinguish slavery's development over time -- in Period 1-2 it grew slowly in the English colonies (tobacco); it exploded with cotton in Period 4-5.*

Example: By 1550, tens of thousands of enslaved Africans worked Caribbean sugar plantations -- the model England later copied in its colonies.

11 Historical Reasoning: Causation

Explanation: Causation = explaining WHY events happen: identify multiple causes, rank them, and connect causes to effects with evidence. APUSH asks you to argue which cause is more significant.

APUSH Tip: *causation essays need a clear 'because' chain and a judgment of relative importance -- don't just list causes, weigh them.*

Example: European conquest of the Americas was caused by technology (guns, ships), disease, political competition, and Native fragmentation -- argue which mattered most.

12 Historical Reasoning: Comparison

Explanation: Comparison = analyzing similarities AND differences with a common frame (like both being colonies). The strongest comparisons use categories (economy, religion, government) and explain the significance of the differences.

APUSH Tip: *comparison prompts want at least one similarity and one difference, each developed with evidence -- and a reason WHY the difference matters.*

Example: Compare Spanish and English colonization: both extracted wealth, but Spain relied on Native labor and bullion while England used settlement, trade, and later enslaved labor.

13 Historical Reasoning: Continuity & Change

Explanation: Continuity and change = tracking what persists and what shifts over time. Identify turning points and explain both the change AND what stayed the same across a period.

APUSH Tip: *'continuity AND change' means you must explicitly name something that did NOT change, not just list changes.*

Example: From 1491 to 1607, European-Native contact changed from exploration to conquest, while the goal of extracting wealth from the Americas remained continuous.

14 Historical Reasoning: Periodization & Contextualization

Explanation: Periodization = justifying why historians mark boundaries (1491, 1607, 1754...). Contextualization = situating an event within broader historical circumstances before analyzing it.

APUSH Tip: *the DBQ's contextualization point requires 2-3 sentences of broader context BEFORE the event -- practice this explicitly.*

Example: 1491 marks the start because it precedes European contact; contextualizing Jamestown means describing England's economic and religious turmoil that pushed settlers to America.

15 Sourcing & Argumentation Skills

Explanation: Sourcing = analyzing a document's point of view, purpose, audience, and historical situation. Argumentation = making a defensible claim (thesis) supported by evidence, with reasoning that links evidence to the claim.

APUSH Tip: *for each DBQ document, note the author's POV and purpose -- a 'sourcing' point is earned by connecting POV to the argument.*

Example: A Spanish missionary's account of Native peoples has a religious purpose -- a sourced analysis notes he wanted to justify conversion, so his descriptions are biased.

16 The Northwest Passage & Exploration Motives

Explanation: European explorers searched for a northwest passage to Asia. Motives summarized as 'God, gold, and glory' (spread religion, find wealth, national prestige).

APUSH Tip: *the three motives (God/gold/glory) frame exploration questions; apply them to specific explorers and colonies.*

Example: Henry Hudson searched for the passage for the Dutch, opening the Hudson River valley that became New Netherland.

17 The Columbian Exchange & Demographic Collapse

Explanation: Old World diseases (smallpox, measles, influenza) to which Natives had no immunity killed an estimated 50-90% of the indigenous population of the Americas -- the single largest demographic catastrophe in history.

APUSH Tip: *disease is the single most important factor in European conquest -- it demoralized and depopulated Native societies, easing conquest and labor replacement (African slavery).*

Example: Within decades of contact, epidemics emptied Caribbean islands; the Spanish then imported enslaved Africans to replace the lost labor force.

18 Sugar & the Plantation Complex

Explanation: Sugar production in the Caribbean (and Brazil) created the first large-scale plantation system: capital-intensive, labor-intensive, and dependent on enslaved Africans -- the template for later cotton slavery.

APUSH Tip: *sugar = the bridge between early Native labor systems and African chattel slavery in North America.*

Example: By the 1600s, Barbados sugar plantations -- worked by enslaved Africans -- were the wealthiest English colony and a model for Carolina.

19 The Line of Demarcation & Treaty of Tordesillas

Explanation: The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) divided the non-European world between Spain and Portugal along a line in the Atlantic -- keeping Iberian rivals from clashing over new lands.

APUSH Tip: *Tordesillas explains why Brazil became Portuguese and the rest of Latin America Spanish.*

Example: The treaty gave Portugal the eastern bulge of South America (Brazil) while Spain claimed the rest of the New World.

20 The Columbian Exchange: New Crops Transform Europe

Explanation: American crops (maize, potatoes, tomatoes, beans) boosted European and Asian population growth and nutrition. The Exchange was a global phenomenon, not just transatlantic.

APUSH Tip: *the Exchange is a 'worlds changed both ways' concept -- Europe gained calories, the Americas gained livestock and (tragically) disease.*

Example: The potato fed Ireland's population boom; maize and cassava transformed agriculture in Africa and Asia.

Period 2: Period 2: 1607-1754

10% of the APUSH exam. English colonization, regional divergence, and the growth of slavery.

21 Jamestown & the Virginia Company

Explanation: Jamestown (1607) was England's first permanent colony. Early years were disastrous (disease, starvation -- 'Starving Time'), saved by John Smith's leadership and John Rolfe's tobacco (1612). House of Burgesses (1619) was the first representative assembly.

APUSH Tip: *Jamestown = economic colony (profit) vs Plymouth/Mass Bay = religious. Know the House of Burgesses as the start of self-government.*

Example: Tobacco cultivation made Virginia profitable and created huge demand for labor -- first indentured servants, then enslaved Africans (first arrived 1619).

22 Chesapeake vs New England Colonies

Explanation: Chesapeake (Virginia, Maryland): tobacco economy, dispersed plantations, weak family life (high death rates), Anglican. New England (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island): family-based farming and shipping, town meetings, Puritan Congregationalism.

APUSH Tip: *the Chesapeake/New England comparison is a guaranteed LEQ topic -- contrast economy, religion, family structure, and labor systems.*

Example: New England towns clustered around a meetinghouse and school; Chesapeake plantations sprawled along rivers with few towns or schools.

23 Headright System & Indentured Servitude

Explanation: The headright system granted land to those who paid passage for immigrants, fueling population growth. Most early Chesapeake laborers were indentured servants -- contracted workers who earned freedom dues after 4-7 years.

APUSH Tip: *indentured servitude preceded race-based slavery -- the shift to enslaved labor was driven by servant uprisings (Bacon) and declining servant supply.*

Example: A wealthy Virginian who paid for 10 servants' passage received 500 acres -- building the planter elite.

24 Bacon's Rebellion (1676)

Explanation: Nathaniel Bacon led frontier farmers and servants against Virginia's governor for failing to protect them from Native attacks and for the elite's power. The rebellion burned Jamestown and revealed class tensions.

APUSH Tip: *Bacon's Rebellion is THE turning point -- elites responded by shifting from indentured servants to enslaved Africans (a permanent, controllable labor force) and tightening racial lines.*

Example: After Bacon's Rebellion, Virginia planters increasingly preferred lifetime enslaved labor to rebellious servants.

25 Puritanism & the City upon a Hill

Explanation: Puritans (Calvinists) sought to purify the Church of England. John Winthrop's 'city upon a hill' vision: Massachusetts Bay (1630) as a model Christian community. Congregational churches, covenant theology, literacy for Bible reading (public schools).

APUSH Tip: *Puritan society valued education, hard work (Protestant ethic), and community covenant -- and was less tolerant than the myth suggests (Anne Hutchinson, Roger Williams expelled).*

Example: Massachusetts required towns to maintain schools so children could read the Bible -- the origin of American public education.

26 The Great Migration & Dissenters

Explanation: The Great Migration (1630s-40s) brought ~20,000 English Puritans to New England. Dissenters founded new colonies: Roger Williams (religious freedom, separation of church/state -- Rhode Island), Anne Hutchinson (antinomianism, expelled).

APUSH Tip: *Rhode Island's religious toleration contrasts with Massachusetts' orthodoxy -- a classic comparison detail.*

Example: Roger Williams argued for Native land rights and religious liberty; his Rhode Island colony welcomed Jews and Quakers.

27 The Half-Way Covenant & Declining Piety

Explanation: As Puritan fervor faded, the Half-Way Covenant (1662) allowed partial membership for grandchildren of church members, softening the requirement of a conversion experience.

APUSH Tip: *the Half-Way Covenant = evidence that religious intensity declined as the colony prospered -- a continuity/change example.*

Example: By 1700, church membership had fallen so much that churches admitted 'halfway' members without conversion testimony.

28 The First Great Awakening

- Explanation:** A wave of evangelical revivals (1730s-40s) led by George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards ('Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God') emphasized personal conversion and emotional preaching, challenging established ministers.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Great Awakening fostered a sense of shared American identity, encouraged questioning of authority, and boosted missionary work among Natives and enslaved people.*
- Example:** Whitefield preached to thousands across the colonies, inspiring new denominations (Baptists, Methodists) and splitting old ones (Old Lights vs New Lights).
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29 Salutary Neglect

- Explanation:** England's loose enforcement of trade laws (Navigation Acts) during the early 1700s let colonies develop self-government and smuggling. This 'salutary neglect' ended after the French and Indian War -- sparking colonial anger.
- APUSH Tip:** *salutary neglect explains colonial autonomy and the outrage when Britain reversed course (1763 onward) -- the root of the Revolution.*
- Example:** Smuggling in Boston and New York flourished for decades because customs enforcement was weak -- colonists came to expect the freedom.
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30 The Navigation Acts & Mercantilist Policy

- Explanation:** The Navigation Acts (1651, 1660, 1663) required colonial trade to use English ships and send certain 'enumerated' goods (tobacco, sugar) to England only. Enforcement was lax before 1763.
- APUSH Tip:** *mercantilism produced both benefits (protected markets, naval protection) and resentments (restricted trade) -- colonists resented the tightening after 1763.*
- Example:** Virginia tobacco had to be shipped to England, where it was re-exported -- planters paid English middlemen and lost profits.
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31 The Middle Colonies

- Explanation:** New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware: ethnically and religiously diverse (Dutch, Germans, Scots-Irish, Quakers), breadbasket of the colonies (wheat), fertile land, and Philadelphia as a major port. William Penn's Pennsylvania promised religious freedom.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Middle Colonies = diversity and tolerance -- Penn's 'holy experiment' welcomed Quakers and others; contrast with Puritan exclusivity.*
- Example:** Philadelphia grew into the largest colonial city, a hub of trade, printing, and religious pluralism.
-

32 The Southern Colonies

- Explanation:** Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia: staple crops (tobacco, rice, indigo), plantation agriculture, growing reliance on enslaved labor. Rice cultivation in Carolina (with enslaved African expertise) created a distinct task-labor system.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Carolinas' rice economy directly imported enslaved Africans familiar with rice-growing -- slavery was economic, not just racial, in origin.*
- Example:** Georgia (1732) began as a debtor and buffer colony, banning slavery -- but the ban fell by the 1750s as rice profits demanded it.
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33 The Development of Slavery in the Colonies

- Explanation:** Slavery grew slowly in the 1600s (status ambiguous) then hardened into race-based, hereditary chattel slavery by 1700: slave codes defined enslaved people as property, the transatlantic trade expanded, and the Chesapeake shifted from servants to enslaved labor.
- APUSH Tip:** *chart slavery's trajectory: 1619 first Africans (status unclear) -> 1660s-1705 slave codes -> 1700s slave society in the South. The shift is a key change-over-time argument.*
- Example:** Virginia's 1705 slave code declared enslaved people property, and children inherited the mother's status -- race-based slavery was now law.
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34 The Stono Rebellion (1739)

- Explanation:** Enslaved people in South Carolina rose up along the Stono River, marching toward Spanish Florida. The rebellion was suppressed, and slave codes were tightened.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Stono Rebellion = the largest colonial slave uprising; its aftermath (harsher codes, restrictions on assembly) shows how rebellion tightened control.*
- Example:** After Stono, South Carolina banned enslaved people from gathering, learning to read, or growing their own food -- all to prevent revolt.
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35 Colonial Self-Government

Explanation: Colonies developed representative institutions: House of Burgesses (1619), Massachusetts General Court, town meetings, and colonial assemblies that controlled taxation and salaries -- a tradition of self-rule that the Revolution defended.

APUSH Tip: *'no taxation without representation' rests on this legacy -- colonists believed only their assemblies could tax them.*

Example: By 1750 colonial assemblies routinely clashed with royal governors over taxes and appointments -- and usually won.

36 Colonial Society & the American Enlightenment

Explanation: The Enlightenment (Locke, Newton) emphasized reason, natural rights, and science, shaping colonial elites: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson. Ideas of natural rights and consent fed revolutionary ideology.

APUSH Tip: *Locke's natural rights (life, liberty, property) + social contract appear directly in the Declaration of Independence.*

Example: Franklin's experiments and civic projects (library, fire company) embodied Enlightenment rationalism in colonial Philadelphia.

37 The French Presence in North America

Explanation: France built a vast but thinly settled empire: Quebec (1608), the fur trade, alliances with Native nations (Huron, Algonquin), and Jesuit missions. French-Native relations were more cooperative than English.

APUSH Tip: *French alliance networks + fur trade = the context for the imperial wars that led to the French and Indian War.*

Example: French traders and Native peoples formed economic and military alliances against the expanding English settlements.

38 Imperial Wars & the Iroquois Role

Explanation: Anglo-French imperial wars (King William's, Queen Anne's, King George's) were fought in Europe and America. The Iroquois Confederacy used neutrality and balance-of-power diplomacy to play France and England against each other.

APUSH Tip: *Native peoples were active agents, not just victims -- the Iroquois' strategy of neutrality preserved their power for decades.*

Example: The Iroquois kept both empires bidding for their alliance, extracting trade goods and military concessions until the Revolution split them.

39 Colonial Demographics & Anglicization

Explanation: The colonial population grew explosively (natural increase + immigration: Scots-Irish, Germans), and colonists increasingly identified as British (Anglicization) -- English language, law, and consumer goods -- even as they developed distinct American interests.

APUSH Tip: *Anglicization + growing population = a British identity that the imperial crisis (Period 3) would both mobilize and break.*

Example: By 1775 the colonies' population reached ~2.5 million -- the colonists' sense of 'British rights' fueled their protests.

40 Slavery in New England & the Middle Colonies

Explanation: Slavery existed throughout the colonies, not just the South: Northern merchants (Newport, Salem) profited from the slave trade, and enslaved people worked as domestic servants and urban laborers -- smaller numbers, but slavery was legal everywhere.

APUSH Tip: *'slavery was a national institution' corrects the myth that only the South enslaved people -- the slave trade enriched Northern merchants too.*

Example: Rhode Island merchants ran the triangular trade, shipping rum to Africa, enslaved people to the West Indies, and molasses home.

Period 3: Period 3: 1754-1800

12% of the APUSH exam. The Revolution, the Constitution, and the early republic.

41 The French and Indian War (1754-1763)

Explanation: Britain and France fought over the Ohio Valley (with Native allies). Britain won (Treaty of Paris 1763), gaining Canada and Florida, but doubled its national debt and angered colonists with new taxes.

APUSH Tip: *the war's CONSEQUENCES matter more than battles: debt -> taxation -> colonial resistance; also Britain ended salutary neglect and restricted western settlement (Proclamation of 1763).*

Example: George Washington's defeat at Fort Necessity (1754) began the war; the Albany Plan of Union (Franklin) was rejected but previewed unity.

42 The Albany Plan of Union (1754)

Explanation: Franklin's Albany Plan proposed a colonial confederation with a president appointed by the crown and a grand council -- rejected by both colonies and London, but it established the precedent of colonial unity.

APUSH Tip: *the Albany Plan = an early 'join or die' moment; it failed because neither side wanted to surrender power.*

Example: Franklin's 'Join, or Die' cartoon (severed snake) urged colonial unity against the French and their Native allies.

43 Pontiac's Rebellion & the Proclamation of 1763

Explanation: After the war, Pontiac's Rebellion (1763) united Native nations against British rule in the Great Lakes. Britain responded with the Proclamation Line, barring colonial settlement west of the Appalachians to prevent further conflict.

APUSH Tip: *the Proclamation of 1763 infuriated land-hungry colonists -- it is the first of the 'British actions -> colonial reaction' chain.*

Example: Colonists ignored the Proclamation Line, and land companies kept speculating -- the West became a flashpoint.

44 The Sugar Act & Stamp Act (1764-1765)

Explanation: The Sugar Act raised revenue and tightened enforcement; the Stamp Act taxed all printed materials (the first direct internal tax). Colonists responded with the Stamp Act Congress and 'no taxation without representation'.

APUSH Tip: *distinction -- external (trade) taxes were more accepted than internal (direct) taxes; the Stamp Act crossed the line and united the colonies.*

Example: The Sons of Liberty (led by Samuel Adams) mobbed stamp distributors, and colonial boycotts forced repeal in 1766.

45 The Townshend Acts & Boston Massacre

Explanation: The Townshend Acts (1767) taxed imported goods (glass, paper, tea) and created a customs board. Colonial resistance (boycotts, nonimportation) led to the Boston Massacre (1770), where British soldiers killed five civilians.

APUSH Tip: *each British act + colonial response escalates toward revolution -- the massacre became Patriot propaganda (Paul Revere's engraving).*

Example: After the massacre, colonists boycotted British goods again, and Parliament repealed the Townshend duties -- except tea.

46 The Boston Tea Party & Coercive Acts

Explanation: The Tea Act (1773) undercut colonial merchants; the Boston Tea Party dumped tea into the harbor. Parliament retaliated with the Coercive ('Intolerable') Acts -- closing Boston's port, quartering troops, and expanding royal power in Massachusetts.

APUSH Tip: *the Coercive Acts backfired -- they united the colonies and triggered the First Continental Congress (1774).*

Example: The Quebec Act (extending Quebec's border) was lumped with the Coercive Acts and read as a threat to colonial self-rule.

47 The First & Second Continental Congresses

Explanation: The First Continental Congress (1774) petitioned the king and organized boycotts. The Second (1775) became a de facto government after Lexington and Concord, creating the Continental Army (Washington) and issuing the Declaration of Independence (1776).

APUSH Tip: *the Second Congress = the revolutionary government; it also sent the Olive Branch Petition (rejected by the king).*

Example: After Lexington and Concord (April 1775, 'the shot heard round the world'), the Congress appointed Washington and printed currency.

48 Common Sense & the Declaration of Independence

Explanation: Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776) attacked monarchy and argued for independence in plain language -- hugely popular. Jefferson's Declaration (July 4, 1776) grounded independence in Locke's natural rights and listed grievances against the king.

APUSH Tip: *the Declaration's preamble (all men created equal, consent of the governed) is the exam's most-quoted passage -- note the contradiction with slavery.*

Example: *Common Sense* sold over 100,000 copies in months, shifting colonial opinion from reconciliation to independence.

49 Loyalists, Patriots & the War's Character

Explanation: The Revolution divided Americans: Patriots (~40-45%), Loyalists (~20-25%, strongest among royal officials, Anglicans, and ethnic minorities), and neutral/undecided. The war was also a civil war with confiscations and exiles.

APUSH Tip: *the Revolution was not unanimous -- Loyalists fled to Canada and Britain, and the British recruited enslaved people with promises of freedom.*

Example: Up to 80,000 Loyalists left after the war, and thousands of enslaved people who joined the British were evacuated.

50 Key Revolutionary War Turning Points

Explanation: Key moments: Saratoga (1777) -- the victory that won French recognition and alliance; Valley Forge (1777-78) -- suffering and training; Yorktown (1781) -- the decisive Franco-American siege that ended major fighting; Treaty of Paris (1783).

APUSH Tip: *Saratoga = French alliance (the war-winning diplomatic coup); Yorktown = the endgame; the Treaty of Paris granted independence and territory to the Mississippi.*

Example: France's entry (1778) provided naval power, loans, and troops -- the margin of victory at Yorktown.

51 The Articles of Confederation

Explanation: The Articles (1781) created a weak central government: no executive, no national court, one-house Congress with one vote per state, no power to tax or regulate commerce, and required unanimous amendment.

APUSH Tip: *the Articles' weaknesses (can't tax, can't enforce) are the cause of the Constitutional Convention -- know specific failures (Shays' Rebellion, unpaid debts, interstate squabbles).*

Example: Congress couldn't pay war debts or the Continental Army -- soldiers nearly mutinied in 1783 over back pay.

52 The Northwest Ordinance (1787)

Explanation: The Northwest Ordinance established a process for territories to become states (equal to original states), banned slavery in the Northwest Territory, and protected civil liberties -- the most successful achievement of the Articles government.

APUSH Tip: *the Northwest Ordinance = the Articles' one clear success; it also set the framework for westward expansion and the slavery debates.*

Example: The ordinance's ban on slavery north of the Ohio River set the precedent for the Missouri Compromise's dividing line.

53 Shays' Rebellion (1786-87)

Explanation: Debt-ridden Massachusetts farmers, led by Daniel Shays, shut down courts to stop foreclosures. The national government could not respond -- elites panicked and called for a stronger central government.

APUSH Tip: *Shays' Rebellion is the direct catalyst for the Constitutional Convention ('the crisis of the Confederation').*

Example: Washington, alarmed, agreed to attend the Philadelphia convention; delegates aimed to strengthen national authority.

54 The Constitutional Convention & the Great Compromise

Explanation: The Convention (1787) scrapped the Articles for a new Constitution. The Great Compromise created a bicameral Congress: House by population, Senate with equal state representation. The Three-Fifths Compromise counted enslaved people as 3/5 for representation and taxation.

APUSH Tip: *the Convention's core compromises (Great, Three-Fifths, Slave Trade Clause -- 1808) all balanced power between large/small and North/South.*

Example: Virginia's large-state plan clashed with New Jersey's small-state plan; the Great Compromise resolved the deadlock.

55 Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances

Explanation: The Constitution created three branches (legislative, executive, judicial) with separation of powers and checks and balances (veto, override, judicial review established later, confirmation). Federalism divided power between national and state governments.

APUSH Tip: *'separation + checks' and 'federalism' are the Constitution's structural core -- the exam asks how each check operates.*

Example: The president vetoes laws, Congress overrides with 2/3, and the Supreme Court (via judicial review) can strike laws down.

56 The Federalist Papers & Ratification

Explanation: Federalists (Hamilton, Madison, Jay) argued for ratification in The Federalist Papers (No. 10: factions controlled by a large republic; No. 51: checks and balances). Anti-Federalists feared centralized power and demanded a Bill of Rights.

APUSH Tip: *the Bill of Rights (1791) was the price of ratification -- the first ten amendments protect individual liberties from the national government.*

Example: Federalist No. 10 argued a large republic best controls faction; the Bill of Rights won over reluctant states like Virginia and New York.

57 Hamilton's Financial Program

Explanation: Hamilton proposed: assumption of state debts, a national bank (BUS), tariffs and excise taxes (whiskey), and funding the debt at par -- to build national credit and bind the wealthy to the nation.

APUSH Tip: *Hamilton's plan = loose construction (implied powers via the 'necessary and proper' clause) vs Jefferson's strict construction -- the birth of the two-party system.*

Example: The BUS charter debate produced the constitutional interpretations (loose vs strict) that became Federalist vs Democratic-Republican doctrine.

58 The Whiskey Rebellion (1794)

Explanation: Western Pennsylvania farmers revolted against the whiskey excise tax. Washington mobilized 13,000 militia to crush it -- showing the new government would enforce federal law (unlike under the Articles).

APUSH Tip: *the Whiskey Rebellion = the federal government's first test of authority; contrast with Shays' Rebellion's impotence.*

Example: The rebellion collapsed without a fight, but it cemented the divide: Federalists praised order; Republicans decried tyranny.

59 Washington's Farewell Address & Foreign Policy

Explanation: Washington's Farewell (1796) warned against permanent foreign alliances ('entangling alliances') and political factions. Foreign challenges: the French Revolution's wars, Jay's Treaty (1794, with Britain), Pinckney's Treaty (1795, with Spain).

APUSH Tip: *Washington set precedents -- two terms, neutrality, and the warning against factions and foreign entanglements that shaped 19th-century policy.*

Example: Jay's Treaty avoided war with Britain but angered Republicans; Pinckney's Treaty opened the Mississippi to American trade.

60 The Election of 1800 & the Revolution of 1800

Explanation: Jefferson defeated Adams in 1800 (the first peaceful transfer of power between parties) after bitter conflict over the Alien and Sedition Acts (1798) and the Virginia/Kentucky Resolutions (nullification theory).

APUSH Tip: *the 'Revolution of 1800' = peaceful party turnover; the Alien & Sedition Acts + Kentucky Resolutions preview nullification (Period 4-5).*

Example: Jefferson called 1800 a revolution 'as real a revolution in the principles of our government as that of 1776' -- though Federalists kept the judiciary.

Period 4: Period 4: 1800-1848

10% of the APUSH exam. Jeffersonian democracy, the Market Revolution, Jacksonian democracy, and reform.

61 Jeffersonian Democracy & the Louisiana Purchase

Explanation: Jefferson's presidency (1801-09) aimed to reduce government (small navy, cut taxes) but he used federal power pragmatically: the Louisiana Purchase (1803) doubled the nation's size for \$15 million, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06) mapped the West.

APUSH Tip: Jefferson's 'strict construction' conflicted with the Purchase (not in the Constitution) -- he stretched it anyway, a classic continuity/change moment.

Example: Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific (1805) with Sacagawea's guidance, opening the West to American expansion.

62 Marbury v. Madison (1803) & Judicial Review

Explanation: In Marbury v. Madison, Chief Justice John Marshall established judicial review -- the Supreme Court's power to declare laws unconstitutional -- by striking down part of the Judiciary Act of 1789.

APUSH Tip: Marbury is THE foundational court case (required); it made the Court an equal branch and launched Marshall's nationalist rulings.

Example: Marshall 'gave away' the Marbury case but won the principle: the Court, not Congress, decides constitutionality.

63 McCulloch v. Maryland & Gibbons v. Ogden

Explanation: McCulloch v. Maryland (1819): the BUS is constitutional (implied powers) and states can't tax federal institutions ('the power to tax is the power to destroy'). Gibbons v. Ogden (1824): federal authority over interstate commerce is supreme.

APUSH Tip: both cases (required) = Marshall expanding national power via loose construction -- the constitutional foundation for a growing federal government.

Example: Maryland's attempt to tax the Baltimore BUS failed; the Court's reasoning cemented federal supremacy.

64 The War of 1812 & the Era of Good Feelings

Explanation: The War of 1812 (against Britain) was fought over impressment, trade restrictions, and western expansion. Key results: Battle of New Orleans (Jackson), the Treaty of Ghent (status quo), and a surge of nationalism (Era of Good Feelings under Monroe).

APUSH Tip: the war ended the Federalist Party (Hartford Convention) and fostered American confidence -- and Native resistance in the Northwest collapsed (Tecumseh).

Example: The burning of Washington (1814) was humiliating, but Jackson's New Orleans victory made Americans feel they'd won.

65 The American System & the Tariff

Explanation: Henry Clay's American System: a national bank, protective tariffs (1816 tariff), and internal improvements (roads, canals) funded federally -- to unite the nation's economy. Sectional splits over the tariff grew (South opposed, Northeast favored).

APUSH Tip: the American System = nationalist economic program; the tariff fight previews the nullification crisis.

Example: The Erie Canal (1825) -- built by New York State -- cut freight costs and linked the Great Lakes to New York City.

66 The Missouri Compromise (1820)

Explanation: Missouri's request to enter as a slave state threatened the Senate balance. The Compromise: Missouri slave, Maine free, and slavery prohibited north of the 36-30 line in the Louisiana Territory -- Jefferson called it 'a fire bell in the night'.

APUSH Tip: the Missouri Compromise = the first major sectional crisis over slavery; its line reappears in the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854).

Example: The 36-30 line split the Louisiana Purchase: slavery allowed below, banned above -- until 1854 reopened the question.

67 The Monroe Doctrine (1823)

Explanation: Monroe declared the Western Hemisphere closed to new European colonization and warned against European intervention (enforced by British naval power). It asserted American influence in Latin America.

APUSH Tip: the Monroe Doctrine = the cornerstone of American foreign policy for a century -- know its two parts (no new colonies, no intervention).

Example: The Doctrine had no enforcement power, but Britain's navy backed it in practice -- and later presidents invoked it repeatedly.

68 The Market Revolution

Explanation: The Market Revolution transformed the economy: canals and railroads (transportation), the cotton gin (1793) and textile mills (Lowell), the factory system, and cash-crop agriculture for national/international markets -- linking regions into one market economy.

APUSH Tip: *the Market Revolution = the economic engine of Period 4: faster transport, mechanized production, and a growing gap between North (industry) and South (cotton).*

Example: The Lowell mills hired young women ('Lowell girls') who worked factory looms for wages -- a new industrial labor force.

69 Cotton, Slavery & the Second Middle Passage

Explanation: Eli Whitney's cotton gin made short-staple cotton profitable, fueling cotton's expansion into the Deep South ('King Cotton') and the forced migration of ~1 million enslaved people from the Upper South (the 'Second Middle Passage').

APUSH Tip: *the cotton gin DID NOT reduce slavery -- it expanded it dramatically; slavery grew more entrenched and profitable in the 1800s.*

Example: Between 1790 and 1860, cotton production grew from 3,000 to 4 million bales, and enslaved population rose to nearly 4 million.

70 The Second Great Awakening & Reform

Explanation: The Second Great Awakening (evangelical revivals, camp meetings) stressed personal salvation and moral reform: temperance, prison reform, public schools (Horace Mann), and the abolition movement. Charles Finney was a leading revivalist.

APUSH Tip: *the Awakening = the religious engine of reform; abolition and women's rights grew directly out of its moral energy.*

Example: Temperance societies, Sunday schools, and the American Colonization Society all emerged from Awakening-era moral reform.

71 Abolitionism & Its Leaders

Explanation: Abolitionists demanded immediate emancipation: William Lloyd Garrison (The Liberator, 'immediate and unconditional'), Frederick Douglass (escaped slave, orator), and the Grimke sisters. The American Anti-Slavery Society (1833) organized the movement.

APUSH Tip: *distinguish abolitionism (immediate, radical, Northern) from colonization (gradual, send freed people to Africa) -- Garrison vs the ACS.*

Example: Douglass's autobiography and speeches gave enslaved people a voice in the movement; Garrison burned the Constitution as a proslavery document.

72 The Seneca Falls Convention (1848)

Explanation: The first women's rights convention, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, issued the Declaration of Sentiments -- modeled on the Declaration of Independence -- demanding suffrage and equal rights.

APUSH Tip: *Seneca Falls grew from women's exclusion in abolitionism; the Declaration of Sentiments is the founding document of the women's rights movement.*

Example: 'All men and women are created equal' -- the Declaration of Sentiments listed grievances against male authority, including denied suffrage.

73 Jacksonian Democracy

Explanation: Andrew Jackson's presidency (1829-37) expanded voting (white manhood suffrage), used the spoils system, and championed the 'common man.' The era saw the rise of mass politics: rallies, newspapers, and the Democratic Party.

APUSH Tip: *Jacksonian Democracy = expanded white male democracy + executive power -- while excluding women, Natives, and Black Americans.*

Example: Voter turnout tripled in the 1828 election as property requirements fell and parties mobilized ordinary white men.

74 The Nullification Crisis (1832-33)

Explanation: South Carolina, led by John C. Calhoun, nullified the 1828 'Tariff of Abominations' and threatened secession. Jackson threatened force ('the Union must be preserved'), and a compromise tariff defused the crisis.

APUSH Tip: *the Nullification Crisis = states' rights theory (nullification) vs federal supremacy -- a preview of secession; Jackson defended the Union.*

Example: South Carolina backed down after the Force Bill, but the nullification doctrine lived on into the 1850s.

75 The Bank War & the Panic of 1837

Explanation: Jackson vetoed the Second Bank's recharter ('the Bank is trying to kill me, but I will kill it') and moved federal funds to pet banks, fueling speculation. The Panic of 1837 under Van Buren triggered a severe depression.

APUSH Tip: *the Bank War shows Jackson's executive power and hard-money, anti-elite politics; the Panic of 1837 doomed the Democrats and enabled the Whigs' rise.*

Example: The Specie Circular (1836) demanded gold/silver for land purchases, bursting the speculative bubble and triggering bank failures.

76 The Trail of Tears & Indian Removal

Explanation: The Indian Removal Act (1830) forced Native nations east of the Mississippi to relocate to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). The Cherokee -- who had adopted written language, laws, and a constitution -- were expelled in the Trail of Tears (1838); thousands died.

APUSH Tip: *Worcester v. Georgia (1832, Marshall: Cherokee lands protected) was defied by Jackson ('John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it').*

Example: Cherokee removal in 1838 killed ~4,000 people on the march west -- despite winning their Supreme Court case.

77 The Whig Party & the Log Cabin Campaign

Explanation: The Whigs (Clay, Webster) formed in opposition to Jackson: supported the American System (bank, tariffs, internal improvements), congressional power over the executive, and moral reform. Harrison won 1840 with mass campaigning (log cabin, hard cider).

APUSH Tip: *Whigs = federal power for economic development + moral reform; Democrats = states' rights + territorial expansion (until the 1850s realignment).*

Example: The 1840 'Log Cabin Campaign' used parades, songs, and slogans to elect Harrison -- the first modern mass campaign.

78 Manifest Destiny & Texas

Explanation: Manifest Destiny -- the belief that Americans were destined to expand across the continent -- drove the 1840s. Texas won independence from Mexico (1836, Alamo, San Jacinto) and was annexed in 1845.

APUSH Tip: *Manifest Destiny = ideology of expansion (God-given, racial, economic); Texas annexation led directly to the Mexican-American War.*

Example: The U.S. annexed Texas over Mexican protests, and the Oregon Treaty (1846) set the border at the 49th parallel.

79 The Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

Explanation: Polk provoked war with Mexico over the Rio Grande boundary. The U.S. won decisively; the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ceded California and the Southwest (Mexican Cession) -- reigniting the slavery-extension debate.

APUSH Tip: *the war's legacy = the Mexican Cession -> the Wilmot Proviso -> the Compromise of 1850 -> the road to Civil War. It was also deeply controversial (Lincoln's Spot Resolutions).*

Example: The Mexican Cession added 500,000 square miles and posed the question: would new territories be slave or free?

80 Sectionalism & the Wilmot Proviso

Explanation: The Wilmot Proviso (1846) proposed banning slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico -- it failed in the Senate but exposed the sectional divide. The Free-Soil movement opposed slavery's expansion into the West.

APUSH Tip: *the Proviso is the pivot from the slavery debate to the territorial crisis; the Free Soil Party (1848) captured the anti-extension position.*

Example: Free-Soilers argued free labor must not compete with slavery in the territories -- an economic argument against slavery's expansion.

Period 5: Period 5: 1844-1877

13% of the APUSH exam. The road to Civil War, the war itself, and Reconstruction.

81 The Compromise of 1850

Explanation: California entered free; the Fugitive Slave Act was strengthened; the slave trade (not slavery) ended in DC; and the Utah/New Mexico territories used popular sovereignty. It temporarily settled -- then inflamed -- the crisis.

APUSH Tip: *the Compromise's Fugitive Slave Act outraged the North and radicalized the abolition movement (personal liberty laws, Uncle Tom's Cabin).*

Example: Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) -- a response to the Fugitive Slave Act -- sold hundreds of thousands of copies and changed Northern opinion.

82 The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

Explanation: Stephen Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act applied popular sovereignty to territories north of the 36-30 line, repealing the Missouri Compromise. It spawned 'Bleeding Kansas' -- guerrilla warfare between proslavery and antislavery settlers.

APUSH Tip: *the Kansas-Nebraska Act destroyed the Second Party System, creating the Republican Party (1854) -- an antislavery-extension coalition.*

Example: 'Bleeding Kansas' included the Sack of Lawrence and John Brown's Pottawatomie massacre (1856) -- the prelude to civil war.

83 Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)

Explanation: Chief Justice Taney ruled: Black Americans (free or enslaved) were not citizens, and Congress could not ban slavery in the territories -- striking down the Missouri Compromise. Scott remained enslaved.

APUSH Tip: *Dred Scott (required case) destroyed every compromise line and declared the Republican platform unconstitutional -- it radicalized the North.*

Example: Republicans refused to accept the ruling as final, and Lincoln's debates turned on 'whether Dred Scott is a fixed rule'.

84 The Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)

Explanation: Lincoln challenged Douglas for the Senate, debating slavery's expansion at seven sites. Douglas's 'Freeport Doctrine' (territories could exclude slavery by not passing local laws) cost him Southern support; Lincoln lost the Senate race but won national fame.

APUSH Tip: *the debates crystallized the 'House Divided' speech and the moral/legal contest over slavery's expansion.*

Example: Lincoln argued the nation could not remain 'half slave and half free'; Douglas championed popular sovereignty.

85 John Brown's Raid (1859)

Explanation: John Brown seized the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry to spark a slave insurrection. The raid failed and Brown was hanged -- but he became a martyr in the North and a demon in the South.

APUSH Tip: *Harpers Ferry deepened Southern fears of Northern abolitionism and hastened secession -- the last major spark before 1860.*

Example: Southerners saw Brown's raid as proof the North wanted slave revolt; Northern moderates who condemned him still admired his conviction.

86 The Election of 1860 & Secession

Explanation: Lincoln (Republican, no Southern votes) won the 1860 election over a split Democratic Party. South Carolina seceded in December 1860, followed by six more states; the Confederate States of America formed under Jefferson Davis.

APUSH Tip: *secession was a response to Lincoln's election (perceived threat to slavery); Lincoln's inaugural rejected secession and vowed to preserve the Union.*

Example: By Lincoln's inauguration (March 1861), seven states had left; Fort Sumter (April 1861) began the war.

87 Fort Sumter & the Beginning of the Civil War

Explanation: Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter (April 12, 1861), beginning the war. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers; four more states (Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina) seceded.

APUSH Tip: *Lincoln framed the war as preserving the Union, not ending slavery -- the emancipation shift came later (1863).*

Example: The border states (Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware) stayed in the Union -- critical to its success.

88 Northern vs Southern Advantages

Explanation: The North: larger population, industry, railroads, navy, and established government. The South: better generals, fighting a defensive war on home soil, and cotton diplomacy (which failed -- Britain found other sources).

APUSH Tip: *the North's industrial and demographic advantages won the war of attrition; the South's hopes (cotton diplomacy, quick war) failed.*

Example: By 1865 the Union had blockaded Southern ports, crippling cotton exports and imports of weapons and supplies.

89 The Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

Explanation: Lincoln's proclamation freed enslaved people in Confederate territory only, turning the war into a fight against slavery, discouraging European intervention, and enabling Black enlistment (nearly 200,000 served).

APUSH Tip: *the Proclamation was a military necessity and a moral pivot -- it did not free enslaved people in Union border states, but it redefined the war.*

Example: The proclamation's signing changed the war's meaning; the 54th Massachusetts regiment's assault on Fort Wagner proved Black soldiers' valor.

90 The Battle of Gettysburg & Vicksburg (1863)

Explanation: Gettysburg (July 1863) stopped Lee's invasion of the North -- the war's turning point. Vicksburg (July 1863) gave the Union control of the Mississippi, splitting the Confederacy in two.

APUSH Tip: *both July 1863 victories = the turning point; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address redefined the war as a struggle for equality and 'a new birth of freedom'.*

Example: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, taken together, doomed the Confederacy: the West was cut off and the Army of Northern Virginia was broken.

91 Total War & Sherman's March

Explanation: The Union pursued total war: destroying resources and civilian morale. Sherman's March to the Sea (1864-65) cut a path of destruction through Georgia and the Carolinas; Grant's siege of Petersburg ground down Lee.

APUSH Tip: *total war = targeting infrastructure and will, not just armies -- Sherman's march is the prime example.*

Example: Sherman's troops destroyed railroads, crops, and factories from Atlanta to Savannah, breaking Confederate capacity to fight.

92 Appomattox & the War's Toll

Explanation: Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House (April 9, 1865). The war cost ~620,000-750,000 lives -- more than all other American wars combined -- and ended slavery via the 13th Amendment (1865).

APUSH Tip: *the war's consequences: federal supremacy confirmed, slavery abolished, and 4 million people freed -- but the South lay in ruins and questions of Reconstruction remained.*

Example: Lincoln's generous terms at Appomattox (paroles, no treason trials) aimed at reconciliation -- days later he was assassinated.

93 Lincoln's Plan & Presidential Reconstruction

Explanation: Lincoln's 10% Plan offered amnesty to Southerners who swore loyalty (excluding Confederate leaders) once 10% took the oath. Johnson (1867) continued lenient Reconstruction, pardoning most ex-Confederates and readmitting states quickly.

APUSH Tip: *Presidential Reconstruction = lenient, no Black suffrage, no land reform; it angered Radical Republicans and produced the Black Codes.*

Example: The Black Codes restricted freedpeople's labor, movement, and rights -- sparking the Radical response.

94 Radical Reconstruction & the 14th Amendment

Explanation: Congressional (Radical) Reconstruction overrode Johnson: the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the 14th Amendment (1868 -- birthright citizenship, equal protection, due process), and military districts in the South. Johnson's impeachment attempt failed by one vote.

APUSH Tip: *the 14th Amendment is the most important constitutional change of the era -- equal protection becomes the basis for later civil rights law.*

Example: The 14th Amendment overruled Dred Scott by defining citizenship nationally -- and gave Congress enforcement power.

95 The 15th Amendment & Black Political Power

Explanation: The 15th Amendment (1870) banned voting discrimination based on race. During Reconstruction, Black men voted in large numbers, served in state legislatures and Congress (Hiram Revels, Blanche K. Bruce), and built churches, schools, and families.

APUSH Tip: *Reconstruction's achievements: Black political participation, the Freedmen's Bureau schools, and civil rights legislation -- brief but transformative.*

Example: Revels (Mississippi) and Bruce became the first Black U.S. senators; Black literacy rose sharply under the Freedmen's Bureau schools.

96 Sharecropping & the New South

Explanation: Without land or capital, most freedpeople worked as sharecroppers or tenant farmers -- trapped in debt to landowners. The 'New South' promoted industry (textile mills, railroads) but remained agricultural and poor.

APUSH Tip: *sharecropping replaced slavery with a system of economic dependency -- legal freedom, economic bondage.*

Example: A sharecropper rented land and supplies on credit, then owed a share of the crop -- endless cycles of debt followed.

97 The Ku Klux Klan & Redemption

Explanation: White supremacist groups (KKK, White Leagues) used terror -- whipping, lynching, burning -- to suppress Black voting and Republican rule. 'Redeemer' governments (Democrats) regained power by 1877 via violence and fraud.

APUSH Tip: *the Enforcement Acts (1870-71) and federal troops suppressed the Klan temporarily, but Redemption rolled back Reconstruction state by state.*

Example: The Klan's Colfax massacre (1873) killed over 100 Black men -- a symbol of Reconstruction-era terrorism.

98 The Compromise of 1877 & the End of Reconstruction

Explanation: The disputed 1876 election (Hayes vs Tilden) was resolved by a deal: Hayes became president and federal troops left the South, ending Reconstruction. Southern Democrats regained full control.

APUSH Tip: *the Compromise of 1877 = the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of Jim Crow -- the federal retreat from Black rights lasted ~80 years.*

Example: With troops withdrawn, 'Redeemer' governments dismantled Reconstruction laws and imposed segregation and disenfranchisement.

99 Jim Crow & Disenfranchisement

Explanation: After Reconstruction, Southern states enacted Jim Crow segregation (Plessy v. Ferguson 1896: 'separate but equal' constitutional) and disenfranchised Black voters via literacy tests, poll taxes, and grandfather clauses.

APUSH Tip: *Plessy (required case) legitimized segregation for 60 years until Brown v. Board (1954). The disenfranchisement devices survived to the 1960s.*

Example: Mississippi's 1890 constitution used literacy tests and poll taxes to cut Black voter registration from 90% to near zero.

Period 6: Period 6: 1865-1898

13% of the APUSH exam. The Gilded Age, industrialization, urbanization, and the West.

100 The Gilded Age & Industrial Growth

Explanation: The Gilded Age (Mark Twain's term) saw explosive industrial growth: railroads, steel (Carnegie), oil (Rockefeller), and finance (Morgan). Rapid growth coexisted with poverty, corruption, and labor unrest.

APUSH Tip: *'gilded' = a thin layer of gold over problems; the exam pairs industrial triumph with labor exploitation and political corruption.*

Example: By 1900 the U.S. produced more steel than Britain and Germany combined -- but the top 1% owned most of the wealth.

101 Vertical & Horizontal Integration

Explanation: Vertical integration = controlling every stage of production (Carnegie: mines, mills, railroads). Horizontal integration = consolidating competitors in one industry (Rockefeller: Standard Oil trusts) to control markets.

APUSH Tip: *define both precisely -- vertical = one company does all steps; horizontal = one company owns the whole industry.*

Example: Standard Oil controlled ~90% of U.S. refining by buying rivals (horizontal) and pipelines and barrels (vertical).

102 The Gospel of Wealth & Social Darwinism

Explanation: Andrew Carnegie's 'Gospel of Wealth' argued the rich had a duty to use their fortunes for the public good (philanthropy). Social Darwinism (Spencer, Sumner) applied 'survival of the fittest' to justify inequality and oppose regulation.

APUSH Tip: *both ideologies justified vast inequality -- philanthropy ('stewardship') and laissez-faire -- as natural and moral.*

Example: Carnegie funded libraries and universities (stewardship), while Social Darwinists opposed unions and welfare as 'unnatural'.

103 The Transcontinental Railroad & the West

Explanation: The Pacific Railway Act (1862) subsidized the transcontinental railroad (completed 1869, Promontory Point). Railroads opened the West to settlement, mining, and cattle ranching -- and devastated Native peoples.

APUSH Tip: *the railroad = the key to westward expansion AND the vehicle of Native displacement (buffalo destruction, reservation system).*

Example: The railroad split the buffalo herds; commercial hunting for hides and sport nearly exterminated them by the 1880s.

104 Native American Displacement & the Plains Wars

Explanation: The U.S. confined Plains peoples to reservations (Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1851; 1868), fought wars (Sand Creek 1864, Little Bighorn 1876, Wounded Knee 1890), and destroyed the buffalo. The Dawes Act (1887) broke up tribal lands into individual allotments.

APUSH Tip: *the Dawes Act = assimilation policy (individual land, citizenship); its goal was to 'Americanize' Natives and dissolve tribes.*

Example: After Wounded Knee (1890), armed resistance ended; the Dawes Act then sold 'surplus' tribal land to white settlers.

105 The Dawes Severalty Act (1887)

Explanation: The Dawes Act divided reservations into individual family plots, granting citizenship to those who took allotments and selling remaining land to whites. It aimed to destroy tribal identity and communal landholding.

APUSH Tip: *Dawes = the policy of assimilation through private property; it resulted in massive Native land loss (from 138 to 47 million acres by 1934).*

Example: Land allotments were often arid or undersized, and most were sold or lost to debt -- tribes lost over half their remaining land.

106 New Immigration & Nativism

Explanation: After 1880, 'new' immigrants arrived from Southern and Eastern Europe (Italians, Poles, Jews, Greeks) and Asia, settling in industrial cities. Nativists responded with the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882), the American Protective Association, and literacy test demands.

APUSH Tip: *'new vs old' immigration (origins, religion, culture) plus nativist backlash -- the Chinese Exclusion Act was the first federal restriction of immigration.*

Example: The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) banned Chinese laborers for 10 years (renewed repeatedly) -- driven by Western labor competition and racism.

107 Urbanization & the Growth of Cities

Explanation: Cities exploded (New York, Chicago) with skyscrapers, electric streetcars, and ethnic neighborhoods. Urban life featured tenement housing (Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives*), political machines (Tammany Hall), and new leisure (vaudeville, baseball).

APUSH Tip: *urbanization's problems (housing, sanitation, corruption) + solutions (settlement houses, park movements) are the bridge to Progressivism.*

Example: Riis's photographs of tenement slums shocked middle-class readers and fueled housing reform.

108 The Political Machines & Tammany Hall

Explanation: City machines traded services (jobs, food, help) for votes, often through corruption (Boss Tweed's Tammany Hall). Machines were corrupt but provided immigrants with tangible aid the state did not.

APUSH Tip: *machines = corruption + immigrant services; reformers (Mugwumps, then Progressives) attacked them with civil service reform.*

Example: Tweed's Tammany Hall stole tens of millions from New York's treasury while running a vast patronage network.

109 The Rise of Labor Unions

Explanation: Labor organized against long hours, low pay, and dangerous conditions: the Knights of Labor (all workers, mixed success), the AFL (Samuel Gompers -- skilled craft unions, higher wages/shorter hours), and Eugene Debs's American Railway Union.

APUSH Tip: *AFL = pragmatic craft unionism (skilled, 'pure and simple' wages/hours) vs Knights = broad utopian reform; the AFL lasted, the Knights collapsed.*

Example: The AFL won concrete gains for skilled workers, but excluded most women, Black workers, and unskilled laborers.

110 The Great Railroad Strike (1877) & Haymarket (1886)

Explanation: The Great Railroad Strike (1877) shut down rail traffic until federal troops crushed it. The Haymarket affair (1886) -- a bombing at a labor rally -- turned public opinion against labor and hurt the Knights of Labor.

APUSH Tip: *both events show the federal government siding with capital against labor; Haymarket tarnished the labor movement with anarchism.*

Example: Eight anarchists were convicted after Haymarket -- four hanged -- though no one proved who threw the bomb.

111 The Homestead & Pullman Strikes (1892-1894)

Explanation: The Homestead Strike (Carnegie's plant, Pinkertons vs steelworkers) and the Pullman Strike (Debs's ARU shut western rail traffic; federal injunction + troops broke it) marked labor's defeats in the 1890s.

APUSH Tip: *the Pullman injunction established the use of court orders + federal power against strikes -- a precedent for decades.*

Example: Attorney General Olney used the Sherman Act against the Pullman strikers (claiming they 'conspired' to restrain trade) -- the act was never used against trusts this way.

112 Populism & the Grange

Explanation: Farmers in debt organized: the Grange (social/cooperative) and the Farmers' Alliance pushed for railroad regulation, silver coinage, and government aid. The Populist Party (1892) demanded free silver, an income tax, and direct election of senators.

APUSH Tip: *Populism = rural protest against railroads, banks, and eastern capital; its 1892 platform (Omaha) is a required document.*

Example: The Alliance's cooperative stores and grain elevators fought the crop-lien system and railroad monopolies.

113 The Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)

Explanation: The Sherman Act outlawed contracts and conspiracies in restraint of trade -- the first federal antitrust law. Weakly enforced at first, it was used AGAINST unions (Pullman) before being aimed at trusts under Theodore Roosevelt.

APUSH Tip: *Sherman = the federal government's first anti-monopoly tool; enforcement history matters (used against labor before capital).*

Example: The Supreme Court gutted the Act in *U.S. v. E.C. Knight* (1895), ruling manufacturing was not interstate commerce.

114 The Election of 1896 & the Gold/Silver Debate

Explanation: William Jennings Bryan ('Cross of Gold' speech) championed free silver and rural interests; McKinley (backed by business) won, cementing Republican dominance and ending Populism -- absorbed into the Democratic Party.

APUSH Tip: 1896 = the realignment election: industrial, urban, pro-business Republicans vs agrarian Democrats; Bryan's defeat ended the silver crusade.

Example: McKinley's victory inaugurated a generation of Republican rule and the triumph of industrial capitalism over agrarian protest.

115 Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) & Jim Crow Law

Explanation: Plessy v. Ferguson upheld Louisiana's segregated railroad cars under the 'separate but equal' doctrine -- constitutionalizing segregation for 58 years. Justice Harlan's dissent ('the Constitution is color-blind') became famous.

APUSH Tip: Plessy (required case) + Jim Crow disenfranchisement (literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses) = the South's racial order until Brown (1954).

Example: Homer Plessy, who was one-eighth Black, deliberately tested the law -- and lost; separate but equal became the national rule.

116 The Spanish-American War (1898)

Explanation: The U.S. went to war with Spain over Cuban independence (yellow journalism, the Maine explosion, Teller Amendment). Victory brought the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam (Treaty of Paris); Cuba gained nominal independence (Platt Amendment).

APUSH Tip: 1898 = America's emergence as a world power; the debate over annexing the Philippines (imperialism vs anti-imperialism) is a classic DBQ.

Example: Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila Bay and Roosevelt's Rough Riders at San Juan Hill made the war a quick triumph.

117 American Imperialism & the Open Door

Explanation: The 1890s-1900s saw imperial expansion: Hawaii annexed (1898), the Open Door Notes (1899-1900) protecting trade in China, and the Panama Canal (Roosevelt, 1904). Anti-imperialists (Jane Addams, Mark Twain, the Anti-Imperialist League) opposed it.

APUSH Tip: the Open Door = commercial (not territorial) imperialism in China; the canal + Roosevelt Corollary = American power in Latin America.

Example: The 1904 Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine claimed the U.S. would intervene in Latin American debt crises -- 'big stick' diplomacy.

118 The West: Mining, Cattle & Farming

Explanation: The post-Civil War West boomed: mining (Comstock Lode, 1859; gold rushes), the cattle kingdom (open range, long drives, cowboy culture -- ended by barbed wire and the 1886-87 blizzard), and dryland farming on the Great Plains.

APUSH Tip: the West was settled via extractive economies and federal policy (railroads, Homestead Act 1862); the frontier 'closed' by 1890 (Census Bureau).

Example: The Homestead Act granted 160 acres to settlers who improved the land -- though much of the Plains was too dry for small farms.

119 The Frontier Thesis & 'Closing' of the Frontier

Explanation: Frederick Jackson Turner's 'frontier thesis' (1893) argued the frontier shaped American character (individualism, democracy). The 1890 Census declared the frontier line ended, prompting Turner's famous lecture.

APUSH Tip: Turner's thesis = the frontier as the source of American identity -- historians debate it, but the exam expects you to know the argument.

Example: Turner claimed American democracy and individualism were forged by westward expansion -- and worried about their future once the frontier closed.

Period 7: Period 7: 1890-1945

17% of the APUSH exam. Progressivism, world wars, the 1920s, and the New Deal.

120 The Progressive Movement

Explanation: Progressives (middle-class reformers) attacked corruption, monopolies, and social ills: muckrakers (Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, Jacob Riis), direct democracy (initiative, referendum, recall), and expert-driven reform.

APUSH Tip: *Progressivism = reform via government action -- know the muckrakers and the direct-democracy tools.*

Example: Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906) exposed meatpacking filth, producing the Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act.

121 Muckrakers & Expose Journalism

Explanation: Muckrakers exposed abuses: Ida Tarbell (Standard Oil), Lincoln Steffens (urban corruption, *The Shame of the Cities*), Upton Sinclair (meatpacking), Jacob Riis (tenements), Lewis Hine (child labor).

APUSH Tip: *muckrakers = the Progressive press; their exposes produced specific reforms (trust busting, pure food, child labor laws).*

Example: Tarbell's *History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) helped fuel the antitrust movement against Rockefeller.

122 Progressive Amendments & Reforms

Explanation: The 16th (income tax, 1913), 17th (direct election of senators, 1913), 18th (Prohibition, 1919), and 19th (women's suffrage, 1920) amendments -- plus state reforms: initiative, referendum, recall, primary elections.

APUSH Tip: *four amendments = the constitutional legacy of Progressivism -- memorize the dates and purposes.*

Example: The 17th Amendment ended state legislatures choosing senators, putting the choice directly in voters' hands.

123 Theodore Roosevelt's Square Deal

Explanation: TR's Square Deal: trust-busting (Northern Securities), consumer protection (Meat Inspection, Pure Food and Drug Acts, 1906), conservation (national parks, Newlands Act), and the Hepburn Act regulating railroads.

APUSH Tip: *TR = the first 'modern president' -- active executive, trust regulator, conservationist; the 'bully pulpit' for reform.*

Example: TR sued 40+ trusts and set aside 150 million acres of public land as national forests and reserves.

124 William Howard Taft & the Election of 1912

Explanation: Taft (a trust-buster) angered Progressives; TR bolted and ran as a Progressive ('Bull Moose') in 1912. Woodrow Wilson won with the New Freedom (trust regulation, tariff and banking reform) over the New Nationalism (TR).

APUSH Tip: *1912 = the three-way Progressive split; Wilson's New Freedom = the Federal Reserve Act (1913), Clayton Antitrust Act (1914), and FTC.*

Example: The Federal Reserve Act (1913) created a central banking system to stabilize money and credit -- Wilson's signature economic reform.

125 Wilson's New Freedom & the Federal Reserve

Explanation: Wilson's program: the Underwood Tariff (1913, lower rates + income tax), the Federal Reserve Act (1913 -- a decentralized central bank), the Clayton Antitrust Act (1914 -- legal for labor), and the Federal Trade Commission (1914).

APUSH Tip: *Wilson = tariff, bank, trust reform in one presidency; the Fed is the enduring institution.*

Example: The Clayton Act exempted unions from antitrust prosecution ('labor is not a commodity') -- a labor victory.

126 Progressive Era Limitations & Race

Explanation: Progressivism had limits: many Progressives were nativist (immigration restriction, 1921/1924 quotas) and accepted segregation (Wilson resegregated federal offices; 'scientific racism' persisted). Black leaders -- Booker T. Washington (accommodation) vs W.E.B. Du Bois (Niagara Movement, NAACP 1909) -- debated strategy.

APUSH Tip: *the counter-narrative -- Progressives were often racists and nativists; Washington (Tuskegee, vocational) vs Du Bois (civil rights, Talented Tenth).*

Example: Du Bois co-founded the NAACP and *The Crisis*, demanding immediate equality -- rejecting Washington's accommodation.

127 World War I & American Neutrality

- Explanation:** WWI began in Europe (1914). The U.S. stayed neutral, but unrestricted submarine warfare (Lusitania 1915) and the Zimmerman Telegram (1917) brought it into the war. Wilson declared 'make the world safe for democracy.'
- APUSH Tip:** *the path to war: submarine warfare + the Zimmerman Telegram; U.S. entry (April 1917) tipped the balance to the Allies.*
- Example:** The Zimmerman Telegram -- Germany's offer to Mexico -- outraged Americans and catalyzed the war declaration.
-

128 The Home Front in WWI

- Explanation:** The war mobilized the economy (War Industries Board, Liberty Bonds) and society: the Committee on Public Information (propaganda), the Espionage and Sedition Acts (1917-18, limiting speech), and the Great Migration of Black workers north.
- APUSH Tip:** *WWI = the first 'total war' on the home front: propaganda, censorship, and the Great Migration -- plus women's war work aiding suffrage.*
- Example:** The Espionage Act jailed Eugene Debs for opposing the draft; Schenck v. U.S. (1919) upheld limits ('clear and present danger').
-

129 The Great Migration

- Explanation:** Between 1916 and 1970, ~6 million Black Americans moved from the rural South to Northern cities (Chicago, Detroit, New York) for industrial jobs and to escape Jim Crow -- reshaping urban politics, culture, and race relations.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Great Migration = demographic shift with cultural consequences (Harlem Renaissance) and racial tensions (Red Summer 1919).*
- Example:** Chicago's Black population tripled in the 1910s; the 1919 Red Summer saw race riots in 25+ cities.
-

130 Wilson's 14 Points & the Treaty of Versailles

- Explanation:** Wilson's 14 Points called for open diplomacy, self-determination, and a League of Nations. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) punished Germany; the Senate rejected U.S. membership in the League (irreconcilables, reservations led by Henry Cabot Lodge).
- APUSH Tip:** *Wilson's failure -- the U.S. never joined the League; the debate over collective security shaped 20th-century isolationism.*
- Example:** Wilson collapsed on a cross-country tour defending the League; the Senate's rejection left the League without its leading power.
-

131 The Red Scare & the 1920s Backlash

- Explanation:** The 1919-20 Red Scare (Palmer Raids, anarchist bombings) targeted radicals and immigrants. The 1920s also saw immigration restriction (quotas 1921, 1924), the KKK's resurgence, the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and the Scopes Trial (1925).
- APUSH Tip:** *the 1920s were not just 'roaring' -- nativism, racism, and religious fundamentalism surged against immigration, urbanization, and modernism.*
- Example:** The 1924 National Origins Act set quotas favoring Northern/Western Europeans and excluded most Asians -- immigration fell sharply.
-

132 The Roaring Twenties & Consumer Culture

- Explanation:** The 1920s brought mass consumerism: installment buying, automobiles (Ford's Model T, assembly line), radios, movies, and advertising. The economy boomed, and a national consumer culture emerged.
- APUSH Tip:** *the 1920s = mass production + mass consumption; the assembly line and credit buying linked directly to the 1929 crash.*
- Example:** By 1929, Americans owned 23 million cars, and radio reached 40% of homes -- advertising fueled the new consumer economy.
-

133 The Harlem Renaissance

- Explanation:** The 1920s flowering of Black art and culture in Harlem: Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Alain Locke ('The New Negro'). It celebrated Black identity and challenged racism.
- APUSH Tip:** *the Harlem Renaissance = cultural expression of the Great Migration; the exam links it to Black nationalism and the New Negro.*
- Example:** Hughes's poetry and Ellington's jazz redefined American culture -- jazz became the soundtrack of the decade.
-

134 The Great Depression & Hoover's Response

- Explanation:** The 1929 stock market crash began the Depression (bank failures, unemployment to 25%, dust bowl). Hoover favored volunteerism and limited federal action (RFC, Smoot-Hawley tariff worsened trade); the Bonus Army was driven out.
- APUSH Tip:** *Hoover's restraint vs FDR's activism is the key contrast; the Depression also caused the Dust Bowl (1930s drought on the Plains).*
- Example:** The Smoot-Hawley Tariff (1930) triggered retaliation that deepened the global depression.
-

135 The New Deal & the First Hundred Days

- Explanation:** FDR's New Deal (1933) launched relief, recovery, and reform: the AAA, NRA, TVA, CCC, WPA, Social Security Act (1935), and the Wagner Act (1935). The Second New Deal (1935) responded to criticism from Huey Long and others.
- APUSH Tip:** *the New Deal = the birth of the modern welfare state and the expanded presidency; 'alphabet agencies' and their purposes are fair game.*
- Example:** The WPA employed millions building roads, bridges, and public art; Social Security created old-age pensions and unemployment insurance.
-

136 The New Deal & the Supreme Court

- Explanation:** The Supreme Court struck down New Deal programs (Schechter Poultry, 1935). FDR's 'court-packing' plan (1937) failed in Congress, but the Court's 'switch in time' began upholding New Deal laws.
- APUSH Tip:** *court-packing = FDR's biggest political blunder -- it weakened his congressional coalition but the Court relented.*
- Example:** After the court-packing threat, the Court upheld the Wagner Act and Social Security (1937) -- the 'constitutional revolution.'
-

137 The New Deal's Limits & Critics

- Explanation:** The New Deal did not end the Depression (WWII did) and excluded many: domestic workers and farm laborers (mostly Black and Latino) from Social Security and the NLRA; critics on the right (conservatives, the Liberty League) and left (Long, Townsend).
- APUSH Tip:** *the New Deal's legacy is mixed -- it built the welfare state but entrenched racial exclusions that later movements targeted.*
- Example:** FDR's 'Black Cabinet' (Mary McLeod Bethune) pushed for inclusion; the 1935 Wagner Act excluded agricultural and domestic workers, hitting Black workers hardest.
-

138 World War II: From Neutrality to Intervention

- Explanation:** The U.S. moved from neutrality (Neutrality Acts, Lend-Lease 1941, Atlantic Charter) to war after Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941). WWII (1941-45) saw island-hopping in the Pacific and the D-Day invasion (June 1944) in Europe.
- APUSH Tip:** *the U.S. shift from isolationism to global leadership is a core continuity/change theme; Lend-Lease made the U.S. the 'arsenal of democracy.'*
- Example:** Pearl Harbor (2,400 killed) ended American neutrality overnight; Germany declared war on the U.S. days later.
-

139 The WWII Home Front & Internment

- Explanation:** WWII mobilized the economy (war production, Rosie the Riveter, rationing, war bonds): unemployment vanished and the Great Depression ended. Japanese Americans were interned in camps (Korematsu v. U.S., 1944 -- upheld). The Bracero program brought Mexican workers.
- APUSH Tip:** *WWII = total mobilization + civil liberties violations (internment) + demographic change (Great Migration part 2, Sun Belt growth).*
- Example:** Executive Order 9066 interned 110,000+ Japanese Americans -- most citizens -- despite no evidence of disloyalty.
-

140 The Manhattan Project & the Atomic Bomb

- Explanation:** The Manhattan Project (1942-45) built the atomic bomb; Truman ordered bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945), ending WWII. The bomb's use (to avoid a costly invasion) remains debated; it opened the nuclear age.
- APUSH Tip:** *the atomic bomb = the war's endgame and the start of the nuclear era; 'was it necessary?' is the classic historical argument.*
- Example:** Japan surrendered August 15, 1945; the nuclear age and U.S.-Soviet rivalry began immediately after.
-

Period 8: Period 8: 1945-1980

15% of the APUSH exam. The Cold War, civil rights, and the transformations of postwar America.

141 The Cold War & Containment

Explanation: After WWII, the U.S. and USSR competed globally. Containment (George Kennan's 'long telegram') guided policy: the Truman Doctrine (1947, aid to Greece/Turkey), the Marshall Plan (1948, rebuild Europe), NATO (1949), and the Berlin Airlift.

APUSH Tip: *containment = the organizing principle of the Cold War; every major policy (Korea, Vietnam, alliances) follows from it.*

Example: The Marshall Plan spent \$13 billion rebuilding Western Europe -- blocking Soviet influence through prosperity.

142 The Korean War (1950-1953)

Explanation: North Korea invaded the South (1950); the U.S. led the UN to repel it (Inchon, MacArthur), then China intervened. The war ended in a stalemate at the 38th parallel (armistice 1953).

APUSH Tip: *Korea = 'limited war' under containment; Truman fired MacArthur for threatening China -- civil-military relations precedent.*

Example: Korea never produced a peace treaty -- the 38th parallel divide remains today.

143 McCarthyism & the Second Red Scare

Explanation: Senator Joseph McCarthy alleged communists in government; the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) probed Hollywood and government. The Rosenbergs were executed (1953); loyalty oaths and blacklists spread.

APUSH Tip: *McCarthyism = the domestic Cold War's excesses; the Army-McCarthy hearings (1954) and censure ended McCarthy.*

Example: HUAC's Hollywood blacklist destroyed careers; McCarthy's baseless accusations ('lists' he never produced) fell apart on live TV.

144 The Postwar Economic Boom & the Suburbs

Explanation: Postwar prosperity: the GI Bill (education, home loans), the baby boom, Levittown suburbs, the interstate highway system (1956), and consumer abundance (autos, appliances, television). The 'American Dream' centered on the suburban nuclear family.

APUSH Tip: *the GI Bill + highways + FHA loans = suburbanization and the white middle class; redlining excluded Black families.*

Example: Levittown offered cheap mass-produced homes to (white) veterans; highways and car culture reshaped American life.

145 Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

Explanation: The Supreme Court unanimously ruled segregated public schools unconstitutional ('separate educational facilities are inherently unequal'), overturning Plessy. Resistance followed (Massive Resistance, Little Rock 1957).

APUSH Tip: *Brown (required case) = the cornerstone of the civil rights movement; the Court ordered desegregation 'with all deliberate speed.'*

Example: Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock (1957) to enforce integration of Central High -- a federal-state showdown.

146 The Civil Rights Movement: Montgomery to Selma

Explanation: The movement used nonviolent direct action: the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56, Rosa Parks, MLK), the sit-ins (1960, SNCC), Freedom Rides (1961), the Birmingham campaign (1963), and the Selma marches (1965).

APUSH Tip: *know the tactics (boycotts, sit-ins, marches) and the leaders (MLK, SNCC, SCLC); the Civil Rights Act (1964) and Voting Rights Act (1965) were the legislative victories.*

Example: Birmingham's Bull Connor turned hoses and dogs on marchers; the televised brutality produced the Civil Rights Act.

147 The Civil Rights Act (1964) & Voting Rights Act (1965)

Explanation: The Civil Rights Act (1964) banned segregation in public accommodations and employment discrimination (Title VII, EEOC). The Voting Rights Act (1965) eliminated literacy tests and provided federal enforcement -- Black voter registration soared.

APUSH Tip: *1964 + 1965 = the movement's legislative triumphs; the 24th Amendment (1964) also banned poll taxes.*

Example: After the Voting Rights Act, Black registration in Mississippi jumped from 7% to 60% within years.

148 Malcolm X & Black Nationalism

Explanation: Malcolm X (Nation of Islam) advocated Black nationalism, self-defense, and pride -- rejecting integration and nonviolence. After his break with the NOI and Hajj, he moderated; he was assassinated (1965).

APUSH Tip: *Malcolm X vs MLK = the movement's ideological spectrum (integration vs nationalism; nonviolence vs self-defense).*

Example: Malcolm X's autobiography and speeches inspired Black Power; his murder radicalized many in the movement.

149 The Black Power Movement

Explanation: Black Power (Stokely Carmichael, SNCC) emphasized racial pride, self-determination, and community control: the Black Panthers (surveillance, free breakfasts), Kwanzaa, and 'Black is Beautiful.' The movement split from integrationist civil rights.

APUSH Tip: *Black Power = the movement's radical wing (1966-75); it coexisted with and followed the nonviolent phase.*

Example: The Black Panthers' free breakfast programs fed thousands of children -- community self-help beyond protest.

150 The Vietnam War & the Antiwar Movement

Explanation: The U.S. escalated in Vietnam under the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964); the Tet Offensive (1968) turned public opinion against the war. The antiwar movement (teach-ins, draft resistance, Kent State 1970) grew massive; the U.S. withdrew (1973, Paris Accords).

APUSH Tip: *Vietnam = the 'credibility gap,' limited war failure, and the draft's inequities; Tet is the turning point of public opinion.*

Example: The Pentagon Papers (1971) revealed official deception about Vietnam -- deepening distrust of government.

151 The Great Society & the War on Poverty

Explanation: LBJ's Great Society: Medicare/Medicaid (1965), the Voting Rights Act, Head Start, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, immigration reform (1965), and the War on Poverty (OEO, community action).

APUSH Tip: *the Great Society = the liberal apex of the welfare state; its programs endure (Medicare/Medicaid) despite conservative backlash.*

Example: Medicare guaranteed health insurance for the elderly; Medicaid for the poor -- the Great Society's most durable legacies.

152 The 1960s Counterculture

Explanation: The counterculture rejected mainstream values: the 'hippie' movement, drugs (LSD, marijuana), rock music (Woodstock 1969), sexual liberation, and communalism. It challenged authority but remained largely white and middle-class.

APUSH Tip: *the counterculture = cultural rebellion of the 1960s; distinguish it from political movements (antiwar, civil rights, feminism).*

Example: Woodstock (1969) symbolized the counterculture's peak -- peace, music, and 400,000 attendees.

153 The Modern Feminist Movement

Explanation: Second-wave feminism: Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), NOW (1966), and the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. Achievements: Title IX (1972, education), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), and workplace gains.

APUSH Tip: *feminism's roots in civil rights; Roe (required case) = constitutional right to abortion (later overturned 2022).*

Example: Title IX banned sex discrimination in education -- transforming women's athletics and admissions.

154 The Environmental Movement

Explanation: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) sparked modern environmentalism: the EPA (1970), the Clean Air Act (1970), the Clean Water Act (1972), the Endangered Species Act (1973), and the first Earth Day (1970).

APUSH Tip: *the environmental movement = a 1960s-70s reform wave; it produced the regulatory state and continued to the present.*

Example: *Silent Spring* documented DDT's harms; the EPA's creation marked environmental protection as federal policy.

155 The Warren Court

Explanation: Chief Justice Earl Warren's Court expanded rights: *Brown* (1954), *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961, exclusionary rule), *Gideon* (1963, right to counsel), *Miranda* (1966, rights warning), *Engel v. Vitale* (1962, school prayer), *Tinker* (1969, student speech).

APUSH Tip: *the Warren Court = judicial activism for civil liberties and rights; it's a favorite context for required-cases questions.*

Example: *Gideon v. Wainwright* required states to provide lawyers for indigent defendants; *Miranda* required the warning every arrestee knows.

156 1968: The Year of Turmoil

Explanation: 1968: the Tet Offensive, MLK's assassination (April, riots), RFK's assassination (June), the Chicago convention riots, and Nixon's election -- a year of fractures that ended the liberal consensus.

APUSH Tip: *1968 = the watershed year of the era; its events shattered optimism and realigned politics toward conservatism.*

Example: Nixon's 'silent majority' strategy won 1968 by appealing to voters alienated by protest and upheaval.

157 Nixon, Détente & the Opening to China

Explanation: Nixon pursued détente with the USSR (SALT I, 1972) and opened relations with communist China (1972 visit). Domestically he created the EPA, imposed wage-price controls, and began the war on drugs.

APUSH Tip: *Nixon = the conservative-turned-pragmatist: détente + China = Cold War realignment; his domestic record was more moderate than his image.*

Example: Nixon's China visit shocked the world and leveraged the Sino-Soviet split to pressure Moscow.

158 Watergate & the Imperial Presidency

Explanation: The Watergate break-in (1972) and cover-up led to Nixon's resignation (1974) -- the only presidential resignation. U.S. v. Nixon (1974, required case) forced the release of the tapes ('executive privilege is not absolute').

APUSH Tip: *Watergate = the check on the 'imperial presidency'; the case balances executive privilege against the rule of law.*

Example: The Saturday Night Massacre (firing the special prosecutor) triggered impeachment hearings; the tapes doomed Nixon.

159 The 1970s: Stagflation & the Energy Crisis

Explanation: The 1970s saw 'stagflation' (stagnation + inflation), OPEC oil embargoes (1973, 1979) and gas lines, the end of Bretton Woods (Nixon took the dollar off gold, 1971), and economic malaise (Carter's 'crisis of confidence' speech, 1979).

APUSH Tip: *the 1970s = the end of postwar prosperity; stagflation and oil shocks eroded confidence in Keynesian economics.*

Example: The 1973 embargo quadrupled oil prices; Carter's solar panels on the White House symbolized the (failed) search for alternatives.

160 Roe v. Wade, Title IX & Social Change

Explanation: Roe v. Wade (1973, required case) recognized a constitutional right to abortion, galvanizing both feminist and pro-life movements. Title IX (1972) and the ERA campaign reshaped gender roles; the gay rights movement (Stonewall 1969) gained visibility.

APUSH Tip: *Roe = the constitutional flashpoint; the ERA fell 3 states short (1982) -- a major feminist defeat.*

Example: Roe's reasoning (privacy, trimester framework) was overturned in Dobbs (2022), returning abortion law to the states.

Period 9: Period 9: 1980-Present

5% of the APUSH exam. Conservatism, the end of the Cold War, and the modern era.

161 The Reagan Revolution & Conservative Resurgence

Explanation: Ronald Reagan's presidency (1981-89) revived conservatism: supply-side economics (tax cuts), deregulation, anti-communism ('evil empire', Star Wars/SDI), and social conservatism (Christian right).

APUSH Tip: *the Reagan coalition = economic conservatives + social conservatives + Cold War hawks; his policies marked the end of New Deal liberalism's dominance.*

Example: Reagan's 1981 tax cut (ERTA) and deregulation reflected supply-side theory -- cutting taxes to spur growth.

162 Supply-Side Economics & the Deficit

Explanation: Supply-side ('Reaganomics') theory: cutting tax rates increases investment and growth (Laffer curve), raising revenue. In practice, deficits ballooned (national debt tripled) as defense spending rose and taxes fell.

APUSH Tip: *Reaganomics = tax cuts + deregulation + defense build-up; the deficit explosion is the counterpoint to supply-side claims.*

Example: The 1981 tax cut plus the defense build-up produced record deficits -- Congress raised taxes repeatedly (1982, 1984, 1990) to cope.

163 The End of the Cold War (1989-1991)

Explanation: Gorbachev's reforms (glasnost, perestroika), Reagan's arms build-up, and Eastern European revolutions ended the Cold War: the Berlin Wall fell (1989), the USSR dissolved (1991). The U.S. emerged as the sole superpower.

APUSH Tip: *the end of the Cold War = the triumph of containment; historians debate Reagan's role vs internal Soviet collapse.*

Example: The fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) symbolized the end of communist Eastern Europe; the USSR dissolved two years later.

164 The Persian Gulf War (1991)

Explanation: After Iraq invaded Kuwait, a U.S.-led coalition (Operation Desert Storm) expelled Iraqi forces under George H.W. Bush -- a quick, decisive victory that avoided occupying Baghdad.

APUSH Tip: *the Gulf War = post-Cold War 'new world order' intervention; its swift success masked the deeper Iraq problem to come.*

Example: Bush's coalition of 34 nations won in 100 hours of ground war; Saddam Hussein remained in power.

165 The Digital Revolution & the Information Age

Explanation: Computers, the internet, and mobile technology transformed the economy and daily life from the 1980s on: personal computers, the World Wide Web (1991), e-commerce, and social media. The 'New Economy' boomed in the 1990s.

APUSH Tip: *the digital revolution = the technological transformation of the late 20th century; it parallels earlier industrial revolutions.*

Example: The 1990s internet boom and dot-com bubble (burst 2000) reshaped work, communication, and commerce.

166 NAFTA & Globalization

Explanation: NAFTA (1994) created a North American free-trade bloc; globalization accelerated trade, manufacturing shifts, and capital flows. Critics blamed job losses and outsourcing; supporters cited cheaper goods and growth.

APUSH Tip: *NAFTA = the 1990s globalization symbol; the debate over free trade vs protectionism is a recurring theme.*

Example: After NAFTA, U.S. manufacturing jobs moved to Mexico; the agreement was renegotiated as USMCA (2020).

167 The Clinton Presidency & the 1990s

Explanation: Bill Clinton (1993-2001) governed as a 'New Democrat': welfare reform (1996), NAFTA, the balanced budget (surplus by 1998), the Brady Bill and crime bill, and 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' The Lewinsky scandal led to impeachment (1998) -- acquitted.

APUSH Tip: *Clinton = the post-liberal center; his impeachment failed in the Senate, but the 1990s polarized politics.*

Example: Clinton's welfare reform ended the New Deal's AFDC entitlement -- a Democratic president moving right.

168 The 2000 Election & Bush v. Gore

Explanation: The 2000 election between Bush and Gore hinged on Florida's recount; the Supreme Court's Bush v. Gore (2000) ended the recount, making Bush president. The decision remains controversial.

APUSH Tip: *Bush v. Gore = the Court deciding an election; it capped the 1990s' era of divided, bitter politics.*

Example: The 5-4 decision stopped the Florida recount with 'equal protection' reasoning -- Bush won by 537 Florida votes.

169 9/11 & the War on Terror

Explanation: Al-Qaeda's September 11, 2001 attacks (nearly 3,000 killed) triggered the War on Terror: the Patriot Act (2001), the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the Afghanistan War (2001), and the Iraq War (2003).

APUSH Tip: *9/11 = the post-Cold War era's defining shock; the domestic security state (TSA, surveillance) grew dramatically.*

Example: The Patriot Act expanded surveillance (NSA metadata); the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq lasted two decades.

170 The Iraq War (2003-2011)

Explanation: Bush invaded Iraq over WMD claims (never found) and regime change. The war's costs (4,400+ U.S. deaths, trillions spent), the surge (2007), and the chaotic withdrawal (2011) fueled antiwar sentiment and the 2008 backlash.

APUSH Tip: *the Iraq War = the foreign policy debate of the 2000s; its failures shaped Obama's and Trump's approaches.*

Example: No WMDs were found; the 2003 invasion destabilized the region and enabled ISIS's rise.

171 The 2008 Financial Crisis & the Great Recession

Explanation: The housing bubble (subprime mortgages, derivatives) burst in 2008: banks failed, the stock market crashed, and unemployment peaked at 10%. The TARP bailout and the 2009 stimulus (Obama) stabilized the economy.

APUSH Tip: *the 2008 crisis = deregulation + speculation -> collapse; its aftermath (foreclosures, inequality, Occupy) reshaped politics.*

Example: Lehman Brothers' collapse (September 2008) triggered the panic; TARP (\$700B) bailed out banks while homeowners lost homes.

172 The Obama Presidency & the Affordable Care Act

Explanation: Barack Obama (2009-2017), the first Black president, passed the Affordable Care Act (2010) -- expanding health coverage -- plus the stimulus, Dodd-Frank financial reform, and DACA. The ACA faced relentless opposition and the Tea Party's rise.

APUSH Tip: *Obama = the racial milestone + the welfare-state expansion (ACA) + the partisan backlash (Tea Party, 2010 midterms).*

Example: The ACA extended coverage to ~20 million Americans but never gained bipartisan support -- a defining political fault line.

173 The Tea Party & Political Polarization

Explanation: The Tea Party movement (2009) -- fiscal conservatism, anti-ACA, small government -- fueled the 2010 Republican wave and government shutdowns. Political polarization intensified: gerrymandering, partisan media (Fox/liberal networks), and gridlock.

APUSH Tip: *polarization = the defining feature of modern politics; the Tea Party is its 2009-10 catalyst.*

Example: The 2013 government shutdown (16 days) over ACA defunding showed polarization's cost; approval of Congress hit record lows.

174 The Trump Presidency & Its Challenges

Explanation: Donald Trump (2017-2021): tax cuts (2017), deregulation, the trade war with China, three Supreme Court appointments (Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Barrett), and impeachment twice (Ukraine, January 6). The COVID-19 pandemic dominated 2020.

APUSH Tip: *Trump = the populist-nationalist turn; the Court's conservative majority reshaped law (Dobbs 2022, affirmative action 2023).*

Example: The January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol -- after Trump's election-fraud claims -- was the first violent challenge to a transfer of power.

175 The COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-)

Explanation: The coronavirus pandemic killed over 1 million Americans, shut down the economy, and triggered massive federal response (CARES Act, stimulus checks, vaccine development in record time). It exposed inequality and deepened partisan divides over public health.

APUSH Tip: *COVID = the defining event of the 2020s so far; compare it to earlier crises (1918 flu, Great Depression) for continuity/change.*

Example: Operation Warp Speed produced vaccines in under a year; mask and vaccine mandates became political flashpoints.

176 Immigration & Demographic Change

Explanation: The 1986 amnesty, the 1990s-2000s immigration wave (Latin America, Asia), the DREAM Act debates, and DACA (2012) shaped modern immigration politics. The U.S. became more diverse: by 2045, no racial group will be a majority.

APUSH Tip: *immigration = the demographic engine of the modern U.S.; the policy debate (border security vs pathways to citizenship) remains unresolved.*

Example: The 1965 Immigration Act's family-reunification provisions drove the post-1970 immigration surge from Asia and Latin America.

177 Income Inequality & the New Economy

Explanation: From the 1980s on, income and wealth inequality rose sharply (top 1% share doubled). Causes: globalization, technology, tax policy, and deunionization. Occupy Wall Street (2011) and later populism (both parties) responded.

APUSH Tip: *inequality = the economic theme of the modern era; connect it to both the Tea Party (right) and Occupy/Bernie Sanders (left).*

Example: By 2019 the top 1% held ~30% of U.S. wealth; middle-class wages stagnated even as productivity grew.

178 The Supreme Court in the Modern Era

Explanation: Modern Court rulings reshaped rights and politics: Citizens United (2010, required -- campaign spending as speech), Obergefell v. Hodges (2015, same-sex marriage), and after 2020, Dobbs v. Jackson (2022, overturning Roe) and affirmative action bans (2023).

APUSH Tip: *Citizens United = the campaign finance landmark; the post-2020 Court's decisions mark a conservative shift on abortion and race.*

Example: Citizens United unleashed super PACs; Dobbs returned abortion law to the states -- ending the Roe era.

179 The U.S. in the 21st-Century World

Explanation: The U.S. remains the sole superpower but faces challengers (China's rise, Russia's revanchism -- Ukraine 2022) and global issues (climate change, pandemics, terrorism). The 'American Century' question -- decline or renewal -- drives contemporary debate.

APUSH Tip: *the modern era's themes: unipolarity eroding, great-power competition returning, and transnational problems outgrowing the nation-state.*

Example: China's GDP and military modernization, plus the 2022 Ukraine invasion, reopened great-power rivalry.

What's Next?

You have now reviewed every period of the AP US History course. The concepts that matter most are the ones you almost knew -- go back to the Table of Contents, find the periods you marked, and reread just those tip lines. Two weeks out, do a rapid pass over the entire guide; the day before, review only the tip lines. On the DBQ, contextualize before you thesis, source every document (POV, purpose, audience), and always make a clear argument with evidence -- application points are where most students lose them.

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