

The APUSH Content Outline

The outline is a great review tool, and it may be a useful resource on the “open-note” 2020 exam.

Please keep a few things in mind:

1. **Periods 1, 2, 8, and 9 can be used for contextualization, but the DBQ will not test an event from these periods directly.**
2. **If you use the outline as a resource, remember that copying/pasting or even summarizing key ideas is NOT recommended. Use resources to help you quickly trigger your own knowledge and understanding... ensuring that your essay is **YOU** analyzing history rather than throwing bits and pieces of notes together.**
3. **PREPARE!** You want to take the exam with confidence in your own ability and understanding. Don't rely on resources.
4. **Remember it is a SKILL test! Follow the directions and show your analysis!**
5. **Fight Fiercely!**

PERIOD 1 Content Outline: 1491–1607

Key Concept 1.1: As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.

- I. Different native societies adapted to and transformed their environments through innovations in agriculture, resource use, and social structure.
 - A) The spread of maize cultivation from present-day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification among societies.
 - B) Societies responded to the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the western Great Plains by developing largely mobile lifestyles.
 - C) In the Northeast, the Mississippi River Valley, and along the Atlantic seaboard some societies developed mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies that favored the development of permanent villages.
 - D) Societies in the Northwest and present-day California supported themselves by hunting and gathering, and in some areas developed settled communities supported by the vast resources of the ocean.

Key Concept 1.2: Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

- I. European expansion into the Western Hemisphere generated intense social, religious, political, and economic competition and changes within European societies.
 - A) European nations' efforts to explore and conquer the New World stemmed from a search for new sources of wealth, economic and military competition, and a desire to spread Christianity.
 - B) The Columbian Exchange brought new crops to Europe from the Americas, stimulating European population growth, and new sources of mineral wealth, which facilitated the European shift from feudalism to capitalism.
 - C) Improvements in maritime technology and more organized methods for conducting international trade, such as joint-stock companies, helped drive changes to economies in Europe and the Americas.

Key Concept 1.2: As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.

II. The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes.

- A) Spanish exploration and conquest of the Americas were accompanied and furthered by widespread deadly epidemics that devastated native populations and by the introduction of crops and animals not found in the Americas.
- B) In the *encomienda* system, Spanish colonial economies marshaled Native American labor to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.
- C) European traders partnered with some West African groups who practiced slavery to forcibly extract slave labor for the Americas. The Spanish imported enslaved Africans to labor in plantation agriculture and mining.
- D) The Spanish developed a caste system that incorporated, and carefully defined the status of, the diverse population of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in their empire.

III. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.

- A) Mutual misunderstandings between Europeans and Native Americans often defined the early years of interaction and trade as each group sought to make sense of the other. Over time, Europeans and Native Americans adopted some useful aspects of each other's culture.
- B) As European encroachments on Native Americans' lands and demands on their labor increased, native peoples sought to defend and maintain their political sovereignty, economic prosperity, religious beliefs, and concepts of gender relations through diplomatic negotiations and military resistance.
- C) Extended contact with Native Americans and Africans fostered a debate among European religious and political leaders about how non-Europeans should be treated, as well as evolving religious, cultural, and racial justifications for the subjugation of Africans and Native Americans.

Period 2 CONTENT OUTLINE, 1607 -1754

Key Concept 2.1: Europeans developed a variety of colonization and migration patterns, influenced by different imperial goals, cultures, and the varied North American environments where they settled, and they competed with each other and American Indians for resources.

- I. Spanish, French, Dutch, and British colonizers had different economic and imperial goals involving land and labor that shaped the social and political development of their colonies as well as their relationships with native populations.
 - A. Spanish efforts to extract wealth from the land led them to develop institutions based on subjugating native populations, converting them to Christianity, and incorporating them, along with enslaved and free Africans, into the Spanish colonial society.
 - B. French and Dutch colonial efforts involved relatively few Europeans and relied on trade alliances and intermarriage with American Indians to build economic and diplomatic relationships and acquire furs and other products for export to Europe.
 - C. English colonization efforts attracted a comparatively large number of male and female British migrants, as well as other European migrants, all of whom sought social mobility, economic prosperity, religious freedom, and improved living conditions. These colonists focused on agriculture and settled on land taken from Native Americans, from whom they lived separately.
- II. In the 17th century, early British colonies developed along the Atlantic coast, with regional differences that reflected various environmental, economic, cultural, and demographic factors.

- A. The Chesapeake and North Carolina colonies grew prosperous exporting tobacco — a labor-intensive product initially cultivated by white, mostly male indentured servants and later by enslaved Africans.
- B. The New England colonies, initially settled by Puritans, developed around small towns with family farms and achieved a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce.
- C. The middle colonies supported a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops and attracted a broad range of European migrants, leading to societies with greater cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity and tolerance.
- D. The colonies of the southernmost Atlantic coast and the British West Indies used long growing seasons to develop plantation economies based on exporting staple crops. They depended on the labor of enslaved Africans, who often constituted the majority of the population in these areas and developed their own forms of cultural and religious autonomy.
- E. Distance and Britain’s initially lax attention led to the colonies creating self-governing institutions that were unusually democratic for the era. The New England colonies based power in participatory town meetings, which in turn elected members to their colonial legislatures; in the Southern colonies, elite planters exercised local authority and also dominated the elected assemblies.

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- III. Competition over resources between European rivals and American Indians encouraged industry and trade and led to conflict in the Americas.
 - A. An Atlantic economy developed in which goods, as well as enslaved Africans and American Indians, were exchanged between Europe, Africa, and the Americas through extensive trade networks. European colonial economies focused on acquiring, producing, and exporting commodities that were valued in Europe and gaining new sources of labor.
 - B. Continuing trade with Europeans increased the flow of goods in and out of American Indian communities, stimulating cultural and economic changes and spreading epidemic diseases that caused radical demographic shifts.
 - C. Interactions between European rivals and American Indian populations fostered both accommodation and conflict. French, Dutch, British, and Spanish colonies allied with and armed American Indian groups, who frequently sought alliances with Europeans against other Indian groups.
 - D. The goals and interests of European leaders and colonists at times diverged, leading to a growing mistrust on both sides of the Atlantic. Colonists, especially in British North America, expressed dissatisfaction over issues including territorial settlements, frontier defense, self-rule, and trade.
 - E. British conflicts with American Indians over land, resources, and political boundaries led to military confrontations, such as Metacom’s War (King Philip’s War) in New England.
 - F. American Indian resistance to Spanish colonizing efforts in North America, particularly after the Pueblo Revolt, led to Spanish accommodation of some aspects of American Indian culture in the Southwest.

Key Concept 2.2: The British colonies participated in political, social, cultural, and economic exchanges with Great Britain that encouraged both stronger bonds with Britain and resistance to Britain’s control.

- I. Transatlantic commercial, religious, philosophical, and political exchanges led residents of the British colonies to evolve in their political and cultural attitudes as they became increasingly tied to Britain and one another.
 - A) The presence of different European religious and ethnic groups contributed to a significant degree of pluralism and intellectual exchange, which were later enhanced by the first Great Awakening and the spread of European Enlightenment ideas.
 - B) The British colonies experienced a gradual Anglicization over time, developing autonomous political communities based on English models with influence from intercolonial commercial ties, the emergence of a trans-Atlantic print culture, and the spread of Protestant evangelicalism.
 - C) The British government increasingly attempted to incorporate its North American colonies into a coherent, hierarchical, and imperial structure in order to pursue mercantilist economic aims, but conflicts with colonists and American Indians led to erratic enforcement of imperial policies.
 - D) Colonists’ resistance to imperial control drew on local experiences of self-government, evolving ideas of liberty, the political thought of the Enlightenment, greater religious independence and diversity, and an ideology critical of perceived corruption in the imperial system.

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- II. Like other European empires in the Americas that participated in the Atlantic slave trade, the English colonies developed a system of slavery that reflected the specific economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of those colonies.
- A) All the British colonies participated to varying degrees in the Atlantic slave trade due to the abundance of land and a growing European demand for colonial goods, as well as a shortage of indentured servants. Small New England farms used relatively few enslaved laborers, all port cities held significant minorities of enslaved people, and the emerging plantation systems of the Chesapeake and the southernmost Atlantic coast had large numbers of enslaved workers, while the great majority of enslaved Africans were sent to the West Indies.
 - B) As chattel slavery became the dominant labor system in many southern colonies, new laws created a strict racial system that prohibited interracial relationships and defined the descendants of African American mothers as black and enslaved in perpetuity.
 - C) Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion.

Period 3 Content Outline, 1754-1800

Key Concept 3.1: British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.

- I. The competition among the British, French, and American Indians for economic and political advantage in North America culminated in the **Seven years' War (the French and Indian War)**, in which Britain defeated France and allied American Indians.
 - A) Colonial rivalry intensified between Britain and France in the mid-18th century, as the growing population of the British colonies expanded into the interior of North America, threatening **French-Indian trade networks** and **American Indian autonomy**.
 - B) Britain achieved a major expansion of its territorial holdings by defeating the French, but at tremendous expense, setting the stage for **imperial efforts to raise revenue** and **consolidate control over the colonies**.
 - C) After the British victory, **imperial officials' attempts to prevent colonists from moving westward generated colonial opposition**, while native groups sought to both continue trading with Europeans and resist the encroachments of colonists on tribal lands.

Key Concept 3.1: British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.

- II. The desire of many colonists to assert ideals of self-government in the face of renewed British **imperial efforts** led to a **colonial independence movement** and **war with Britain**.
 - A) The **imperial struggles** of the mid-18th century, as well as **new British efforts to collect taxes without direct colonial representation or consent and to assert imperial authority in the colonies**, began to unite the colonists against perceived and real constraints on their economic activities and political rights.
 - B) Colonial leaders based their calls for resistance to Britain on arguments about the rights of British subjects, the rights of the individual, local traditions of self-rule, and the ideas of the **Enlightenment**.
 - C) The effort for American independence was energized by colonial leaders such as **Benjamin Franklin**, as well as by popular movements that included the political activism of laborers, artisans, and women.
 - D) In the face of economic shortages and the British military occupation of some regions, men and women mobilized in large numbers to provide financial and material support to the **Patriot** movement.
 - E) Despite considerable **loyalist** opposition, as well as Great Britain's apparently overwhelming military and financial advantages, the Patriot cause succeeded because of the actions of colonial militias and the **Continental Army, George Washington's** military leadership, the colonists' ideological commitment and resilience, and assistance sent by **European allies**.

Key Concept 3.2: The American Revolution’s democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government.

- I. The ideals that inspired **the revolutionary cause** reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century.
 - A) **Enlightenment ideas** and philosophy inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize **individual talent** over **hereditary privilege**, while **religion** strengthened Americans’ view of themselves as a people blessed with **liberty**.
 - B) The colonists’ belief in the **superiority of republican forms of government** based on the **natural rights** of the people found expression in **Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*** and the **Declaration of Independence**. The ideas in these documents resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans’ understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based.
 - C) During and after the **American Revolution**, an increased awareness of inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the **abolition of slavery** and greater **political democracy** in the new **state and national governments**.
 - D) In response to **women’s participation in the American Revolution**, **Enlightenment ideas**, and **women’s appeals for expanded roles**, an ideal of “**republican motherhood**” gained popularity. It called on women to teach **republican values** within the family and granted women a new importance in **American political culture**.
 - E) The **American Revolution** and the ideals set forth in the **Declaration of Independence** reverberated in **France, Haiti, and Latin America**, inspiring future independence movements.

Key Concept 3.2: The American Revolution’s democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government.

- II. After declaring independence, American political leaders created **new constitutions** and **declarations of rights** that articulated the role of the **state and federal governments** while protecting **individual liberties** and limiting both centralized power and excessive popular influence.
 - A) Many new **state constitutions** placed power in the hands of the legislative branch and maintained **property qualifications for voting and citizenship**.
 - B) The **Articles of Confederation** unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power. After the Revolution, difficulties over international trade, finances, interstate commerce, foreign relations, and internal unrest led to calls for a stronger central government.
 - C) Delegates from the states participated in a **Constitutional Convention** and through negotiation, collaboration, and compromise proposed a **constitution** that created a limited but dynamic central government embodying **federalism** and providing for a **separation of powers** between its **three branches**.
 - D) The **Constitutional Convention** compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both **slavery** and the slave trade, allowing the **prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808**.
 - E) In the debate over ratifying the **Constitution**, **Anti-Federalists** opposing ratification battled with **Federalists**, whose principles were articulated in the **Federalist Papers** (primarily written by **Alexander Hamilton** and **James Madison**). **Federalists** ensured the ratification of the **Constitution** by promising the addition of a **Bill of Rights** that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the **federal government**.

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- III. New forms of **national culture and political institutions** developed in the United States alongside continued regional variations and differences over economic, political, social, and foreign policy issues.
 - A) During the presidential administrations of **George Washington** and **John Adams**, political leaders created institutions and precedents that put the principles of the **Constitution** into practice.
 - B) Political leaders in the 1790s took a variety of positions on issues such as the **relationship between the national government and the states, economic policy, foreign policy, and the balance between liberty and order**. This led to the formation of **political parties** — most significantly the **Federalists**, led by **Alexander Hamilton**, and the **Democratic-Republican Party**, led by **Thomas Jefferson** and **James Madison**.
 - C) The expansion of **slavery** in the **deep South** and adjacent western lands and rising **antislavery sentiment** began to create **distinctive regional attitudes** toward the institution.
 - D) Ideas about **national identity** increasingly found expression in works of art, literature, and architecture.

Key Concept 3.3: Migration within North America and competition over resources, boundaries, and trade intensified conflicts among peoples and nations.

- I. In the decades after American independence, **interactions** among different groups resulted in **competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending**.
 - A) Various **American Indian groups** repeatedly evaluated and adjusted their alliances with Europeans, other tribes, and the U.S., seeking to limit **migration of white settlers** and maintain control of tribal lands and natural resources. British alliances with American Indians contributed to tensions between the U.S. and Britain.
 - B) As increasing numbers of migrants from North America and other parts of the world continued to move westward, **frontier cultures** that had emerged in the colonial period continued to grow, **fueling social, political, and ethnic tensions**.
 - C) As settlers moved westward during the 1780s, Congress enacted the **Northwest ordinance** for admitting new states; the ordinance promoted public education, the protection of private property, and a ban on slavery in the **Northwest Territory**.
 - D) An ambiguous **relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes** contributed to problems regarding treaties and **American Indian legal claims** relating to the seizure of their lands.
 - E) The **Spanish**, supported by the bonded labor of the local **American Indians**, expanded their **mission settlements into California**; these provided opportunities for social mobility among soldiers and led to new cultural blending.

Key Concept 3.3: Migration within North America and competition over resources, boundaries, and trade intensified conflicts among peoples and nations.

- II. The continued presence of **European powers** in North America challenged the United States to find ways to safeguard its borders, maintain **neutral trading rights**, and promote its **economic interests**.
 - A) The United States government forged **diplomatic initiatives** aimed at dealing with the continued **British and Spanish** presence in North America, as U.S. settlers migrated beyond the Appalachians and sought free navigation of the Mississippi River.
 - B) War between France and Britain resulting from the French Revolution presented challenges to the United States over issues of **free trade and foreign policy** and fostered political disagreement.
 - C) **George Washington's Farewell Address** encouraged **national unity**, as he cautioned against **political factions** and warned about the danger of **permanent foreign alliances**.

Period 4 Content Outline, 1800-1848

Key Concept 4.1: The United States began to develop a **modern democracy** and celebrated a **new national culture**, while Americans sought to define the nation's **democratic ideals** and change their society and institutions to match them.

- I. The nation's transition to a more participatory democracy was achieved by **expanding suffrage** from a system based on property ownership to one based on voting by all adult white men, and it was accompanied by the growth of **political parties**.
 - A) In the early 1800s, national **political parties** continued to debate issues such as the **tariff, powers of the federal government, and relations with European powers**.
 - B) **Supreme Court decisions** established the primacy of the judiciary in determining the meaning of the **Constitution** and asserted that **federal laws took precedence over state laws**.
 - C) By the 1820s and 1830s, new political parties arose — the **Democrats**, led, by **Andrew Jackson**, and the **Whigs**, led by **Henry Clay** — that disagreed about the **role and powers of the federal government** and issues such as the **national bank, tariffs, and federally funded internal improvements**.
 - D) Regional interests often trumped national concerns as the basis for many political leaders' positions on **slavery and economic policy**.

Key Concept 4.1: The United States began to develop a **modern democracy** and celebrated a **new national culture**, while Americans sought to define the nation's **democratic ideals** and change their society and institutions to match them.

- II. While Americans embraced a **new national culture**, various groups developed distinctive cultures of their own.
 - A) The rise of **democratic and individualistic beliefs**, a response to **rationalism**, and changes to society caused by the **market revolution**, along with greater social and geographical mobility, contributed to a **Second Great Awakening** among

Protestants that influenced moral and social reforms and inspired utopian and other religious movements.

- B) A **new national culture** emerged that combined American elements, European influences, and regional cultural sensibilities.
- C) **Liberal social ideas** from abroad and **Romantic beliefs in** human perfectibility influenced literature, art, philosophy, and architecture.
- D) **Enslaved blacks and free African Americans** created communities and strategies to protect their dignity and family structures, and they joined political efforts aimed at changing their status.

III. Increasing numbers of Americans, many inspired by new religious and intellectual movements, worked primarily outside of government institutions to advance their ideals.

- A) Americans formed new **voluntary organizations** that aimed to change individual behaviors and improve society through **temperance** and other reform efforts.
- B) **Abolitionist and antislavery movements** gradually achieved emancipation in the North, contributing to the growth of the free African American population, even as many state governments restricted African Americans' rights. Antislavery efforts in the South were largely limited to unsuccessful **slave rebellions**.
- C) A **women's rights movement** sought to create greater equality and opportunities for women, expressing its ideals at the **Seneca Falls Convention**.

Key Concept 4.2: Innovations in technology, agriculture, and commerce powerfully accelerated the American economy, precipitating profound changes to U.S. society and to national and regional identities.

- I. **New transportation systems and technologies** dramatically expanded manufacturing and agricultural production.
 - A) Entrepreneurs helped to create a **market revolution** in production and commerce, in which market relationships between producers and consumers came to prevail as the manufacture of goods became more organized.
 - B) Innovations including **textile machinery, steam engines, interchangeable parts, the telegraph, and agricultural inventions** increased the efficiency of production methods.
 - C) Legislation and judicial systems supported the development of **roads, canals, and railroads**, which extended and enlarged markets and helped foster regional interdependence. Transportation networks linked the North and Midwest more closely than either was linked to the South.
- II. The changes caused by the **market revolution** had significant effects on U.S. society, workers' lives, and gender and family relations.
 - A) Increasing numbers of Americans, especially women and men working in factories, no longer relied on **semi-subsistence agriculture**; instead they supported themselves **producing goods** for distant markets.
 - B) The **growth of manufacturing** drove a significant increase in prosperity and standards of living for some; this led to the emergence of a larger **middle class** and a small but wealthy **business elite** but also to a large and growing population of **laboring poor**.
 - C) Gender and family roles changed in response to the **market revolution** particularly with the growth of definitions of domestic, ideals that emphasized the separation of **public and private spheres**.
- III. Economic development shaped **settlement and trade patterns**, helping to unify the nation while also encouraging the growth of different regions.
 - A) Large numbers of **international migrants** moved to **industrializing northern cities**, while many Americans moved west of the **Appalachians**, developing thriving new communities along the **Ohio and Mississippi rivers**.
 - B) Increasing **Southern cotton** production and the related growth of **Northern manufacturing, banking, and shipping** industries promoted the development of **national and international commercial ties**.
 - C) Southern business leaders continued to rely on the production and export of traditional agricultural staples, contributing to the growth of a distinctive **Southern regional identity**.
 - D) Plans to further unify the U.S. economy, such as the **American System**, generated debates over whether such policies would benefit agriculture or industry, potentially favoring different sections of the country.

Key Concept 4.3: The U.S. interest in increasing foreign trade and expanding its national borders shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives.

- I. Struggling to create an independent global presence, the United States sought to claim territory throughout the North American continent and promote foreign trade.
 - A) Following the **Louisiana Purchase**, the United States government sought influence and control over North America and the

Western Hemisphere through a variety of means, including exploration, **military actions**, **American Indian removal**, and diplomatic efforts such as the **Monroe Doctrine**.

B) **Frontier settlers** tended to champion expansion efforts, while **American Indian resistance** led to a sequence of wars and **federal efforts** to control and **relocate American Indian populations**.

- II. The United States' acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to contests over the extension of **slavery** into new territories.
- A) As over-cultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders began relocating their **plantations** to more fertile lands west of the Appalachians, where the institution of **slavery** continued to grow.
- B) **Antislavery efforts** increased in the North, while in the South, although the majority of Southerners owned no slaves, most leaders argued that **slavery** was part of the **Southern way of life**.
- C) Congressional **attempts at political compromise**, such as the **Missouri Compromise**, only temporarily stemmed growing tensions between opponents and defenders of **slavery**.

Period 5 Content Outline, 1844-1877

Key Concept 5.1: The United States became more connected with the world, pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries.

- I. Popular enthusiasm for **U.S. expansion**, bolstered by economic and security interests, resulted in the **acquisition of new territories, substantial migration westward, and new overseas initiatives**.
- The desire for access to natural and mineral resources and the hope of many settlers for economic opportunities or religious refuge led to an increased **migration to and settlement in the West**.
- A) Advocates of annexing western lands argued that **Manifest Destiny** and the superiority of American institutions compelled the United States to expand its borders westward to the Pacific Ocean.
- B) The U.S. added large territories in the West through victory in the **Mexican–American War** and diplomatic negotiations, raising questions about the status of **slavery, American Indians, and Mexicans** in the newly acquired lands.
- C) Westward migration was boosted during and after the **Civil War** by the passage of **new legislation promoting Western transportation and economic development**.
- D) U.S. interest in expanding trade led to economic, diplomatic, and cultural initiatives to create more ties with **Asia**.

Key Concept 5.1: The United States became more connected with the world, pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries.

- II. In the 1840s and 1850s, Americans continued to debate questions about **rights and citizenship** for various groups of U.S. inhabitants.
- A) Substantial numbers of **international migrants** continued to arrive in the United States from Europe and Asia, mainly from **Ireland and Germany**, often settling in ethnic communities where they could preserve elements of their languages and customs.
- B) A strongly **anti-Catholic nativist movement** arose that was aimed at limiting new immigrants' political power and cultural influence.
- C) U.S. government interaction and conflict with **Mexican Americans** and **American Indians** increased in regions newly taken from **American Indians** and **Mexico**, altering these groups' economic self-sufficiency and cultures.

Key Concept 5.2: Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war.

- I. Ideological and economic differences over **slavery** produced an array of diverging responses from Americans in **the North** and **the South**.
- A) The North's expanding **manufacturing economy** relied on **free labor** in contrast to the Southern economy's dependence on **slave labor**. Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market. As a result, a **free-soil movement** arose that portrayed the expansion of slavery as incompatible with free labor.
- B) **African American** and **white abolitionists**, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against **slavery**, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting slaves' escapes, and sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.
- C) **Defenders of slavery** based their arguments on **racial doctrines**, the view that slavery was a **positive social good**, and the belief that slavery and **states' rights** were protected by the Constitution.

Key Concept 5.2: Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war.

- II. **Debates over slavery** came to dominate political discussion in the **1850s**, culminating in the bitter **election of 1860** and the **secession of Southern states**.
- A) The **Mexican Cession** led to heated controversies over whether to allow slavery in the newly acquired territories.
 - B) The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the **Compromise of 1850, the Kansas–Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott decision**, but these ultimately failed to reduce conflict.
 - C) The **Second Party System** ended when the **issues of slavery and anti-immigrant nativism** weakened loyalties to the **two major parties** and fostered the emergence of **sectional parties**, most notably the **Republican Party** in the North.
 - D) **Abraham Lincoln’s victory on the Republicans’ free-soil platform in the presidential election of 1860** was accomplished without any Southern electoral votes. After a series of contested debates about secession, most **slave states** voted to **secede** from the Union, precipitating the **Civil War**.

Key Concept 5.3: The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights.

- I. **The North’s** greater manpower and industrial resources, the leadership of **Abraham Lincoln** and others, and the decision to **emancipate slaves** eventually led to the Union military victory over the **Confederacy** in the devastating **Civil War**.
- A) Both the **Union** and the **Confederacy** mobilized their economies and societies to wage the war even while facing considerable home front opposition.
 - B) **Lincoln** and most **Union supporters** began the **Civil War** to **preserve the Union**, but Lincoln’s decision to issue the **Emancipation Proclamation** reframed the purpose of the war and helped prevent the **Confederacy** from gaining full diplomatic support from **European powers**. Many **African Americans** fled southern plantations and enlisted in the **Union Army**, helping to undermine **the Confederacy**.
 - C) **Lincoln** sought to reunify the country and used speeches such as the **Gettysburg Address** to portray the struggle against **slavery** as the fulfillment of America’s founding **democratic ideals**.
 - D) Although **the Confederacy** showed military initiative and daring early in the war, **the Union ultimately succeeded** due to improvements in leadership and strategy, key victories, greater resources, and the wartime destruction of the South’s infrastructure.
- II. **Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.**
- A) The **13th Amendment** abolished slavery, while the **14th and 15th amendments** granted African Americans citizenship, equal protection under the laws, and voting rights.
 - B) The **women’s rights movement** was both emboldened and divided over the **14th and 15th amendments** to the Constitution.
 - C) Efforts by **radical and moderate Republicans** to change the **balance of power between Congress and the presidency** and to reorder **race relations** in the defeated **South** yielded some short-term successes. **Reconstruction** opened up political opportunities and other leadership roles to former slaves, but it ultimately failed, due both to determined **Southern resistance** and the **North’s waning resolve**.
 - D) **Southern plantation owners** continued to own the majority of the region’s land even after **Reconstruction**. **Former slaves** sought land ownership but generally fell short of **self-sufficiency**, as an exploitative and soil-intensive **sharecropping system** limited **blacks’** and **poor whites’** access to land in the **South**.
 - E) **Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics** progressively stripped away **African American rights**, but the **14th and 15th amendments** *eventually* became the basis for court decisions upholding **civil rights** in the **20th century**.

PERIOD 6 Content Outline: 1865-1898

Key Concept 6.1: Technological advances, large-scale production methods, and the opening of new markets encouraged the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States.

- I. **Large-scale industrial production** — accompanied by massive **technological change**, expanding international **communication networks**, and **pro-growth government policies** — generated rapid economic development and **business consolidation**.
 - A) Following the Civil War, **government subsidies** for **transportation** and **communication systems** helped open new markets in North America.
 - B) Businesses made use of **technological innovations**, greater access to **natural resources**, redesigned **financial and management structures**, advances in **marketing**, and a growing **labor force** to dramatically increase the **production of goods**.
 - C) As the **price** of many goods decreased, **workers’ real wages** increased, providing new access to a variety of **goods and services**; many Americans’ **standards of living** improved, while the **gap between rich and poor** grew.
 - D) Many **business leaders** sought increased profits by **consolidating corporations** into large **trusts and holding companies**, which further **concentrated wealth**.
 - E) **Businesses and foreign policymakers** increasingly looked **outside U.S. borders** in an effort to gain greater influence and control over **markets** and **natural resources** in the **Pacific Rim, Asia, and Latin America**.

- II. A variety of perspectives on the economy and labor developed during a time of **financial panics** and downturns.
 - A) Some argued that **laissez-faire policies** and **competition** promoted economic growth in the long run, and they opposed **government intervention** during economic downturns.
 - B) The **industrial workforce** expanded and became more diverse through **internal and international migration**; **child labor** also increased.
 - C) **Labor** and **management** battled over **wages and working conditions**, with workers organizing **local and national unions** and/ or directly confronting **business leaders**.
 - D) Despite the **industrialization** of some segments of the Southern economy — a change promoted by **Southern leaders** who called for a “**New South**” — agriculture based on **sharecropping** and **tenant farming** continued to be the primary economic activity in the South.

- III. **New systems of production and transportation** enabled **consolidation** within agriculture, which, along with periods of instability, spurred a variety of responses from **farmers**.
 - A) Improvements in **mechanization** helped **agricultural production** increase substantially and contributed to declines in **food prices**.
 - B) Many farmers responded to the increasing consolidation in agricultural markets and their dependence on the evolving **railroad system** by creating local and regional cooperative organizations.
 - C) Economic instability inspired **agrarian activists** to create the **People’s (Populist) Party**, which called for a stronger governmental role in **regulating the American economic system**.

Key Concept 6.2: The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both urban and rural areas of the United States and caused dramatic social and cultural change.

- I. **International and internal migration** increased urban populations and fostered the growth of a new **urban culture**.
 - A) As **cities** became areas of economic growth featuring new factories and businesses, they attracted **immigrants from Asia and from southern and eastern Europe**, as well as **African American migrants** within and out of **the South**. Many migrants moved to escape poverty, religious persecution, and limited opportunities for social mobility in their home countries or regions.
 - B) **Urban neighborhoods** based on particular ethnicities, races, and classes provided new cultural opportunities for city dwellers.
 - C) Increasing public debates over assimilation and **Americanization** accompanied the growth of **international migration**. Many immigrants negotiated compromises between the cultures they brought and the culture they found in the United States.
 - D) In an **urban atmosphere** where the access to power was unequally distributed, **political machines** thrived, in part by providing immigrants and the poor with **social services**.
 - E) Corporations’ need for **managers** and for male and female **clerical workers** as well as increased access to **educational institutions**, fostered the growth of a distinctive **middle class**. A growing amount of **leisure time** also helped expand **consumer culture**.

Key Concept 6.2: The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both urban and rural areas of the United States and caused dramatic social and cultural change.

- II. Larger numbers of **migrants** moved to **the West** in search of land and economic opportunity, frequently provoking **competition** and **violent conflict**.
- A) The building of **transcontinental railroads**, the discovery of **mineral resources**, and **government policies** promoted economic growth and created new communities and centers of **commercial activity**.
 - B) In hopes of achieving ideals of **self-sufficiency** and **independence**, **migrants** moved to both **rural** and **boomtown areas** of **the West** for opportunities, such as building the **railroads, mining, farming, and ranching**.
 - C) As **migrant populations** increased in number and the **American bison** population was decimated, competition for land and resources in **the West** among **white settlers, American Indians, and Mexican Americans** led to an increase in violent conflict.
 - D) The **U.S. government** violated **treaties** with **American Indians** and responded to resistance with military force, eventually confining American Indians to **reservations** and denying **tribal sovereignty**.
 - E) Many **American Indians** preserved their cultures and **tribal identities** despite government policies promoting **assimilation**, and they attempted to develop **self-sustaining economic practices**.

Key Concept 6.3: The Gilded Age produced new cultural and intellectual movements, public reform efforts, and political debates over economic and social policies.

- I. New **cultural and intellectual movements** both buttressed and challenged the **social order** of the **Gilded Age**.
- A) **Social commentators** advocated theories later described as **Social Darwinism** to justify the success of those at the top of the **socioeconomic structure** as both appropriate and inevitable.
 - B) Some **business leaders** argued that the wealthy had a **moral obligation** to help the less fortunate and improve society, as articulated in the idea known as the **Gospel of Wealth**, and they made **philanthropic contributions** that enhanced **educational opportunities and urban environments**.
 - C) A number of **artists and critics**, including **agrarians, utopians, socialists**, and advocates of the **Social Gospel**, championed **alternative visions** for the economy and U.S. society.
- II. Dramatic **social changes** in the period inspired **political debates over citizenship, corruption, and the proper relationship between business and government**.
- A) The major **political parties** appealed to lingering divisions from the **Civil War** and contended over **tariffs and currency** issues, even as **reformers** argued that **economic greed and self-interest** had corrupted all levels of government.
 - B) Many **women** sought greater equality with men, often joining **voluntary organizations**, going to college, promoting social and political reform, and, like **Jane Addams**, working in **settlement houses** to help **immigrants** adapt to U.S. language and customs.
 - C) The Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that upheld **racial segregation** helped to mark the end of most of the political gains **African Americans** made during **Reconstruction**. Facing increased **violence, discrimination, and scientific theories of race**, **African American reformers** continued to fight for political and social equality.

PERIOD 7 Content Outline: 1890-1945

Key Concept 7.1: Growth expanded opportunity, while economic instability led to new efforts to reform U.S. society and its economic system.

- I. The United States continued its **transition from a rural, agricultural economy to an urban, industrial economy** led by large companies.
- A) **New technologies** and manufacturing techniques helped focus the U.S. economy on the production of **consumer goods**, contributing to **improved standards of living**, greater **personal mobility**, and better **communications systems**.
 - B) By 1920, a **majority** of the U.S. population lived in **urban centers**, which offered **new economic opportunities for women, international migrants, and internal migrants**.
 - C) Episodes of **credit and market instability** in the early 20th century, in particular the **Great Depression**, led to calls for a stronger **financial regulatory system**.

Key Concept 7.1: Growth expanded opportunity, while economic instability led to new efforts to reform U.S. society and its economic system.

- II. In the **Progressive Era** of the early 20th century, **Progressives** responded to **political corruption, economic instability, and social concerns** by calling for **greater government action** and other **political and social measures**.
- Some **Progressive Era journalists** attacked what they saw as **political corruption, social injustice, and economic inequality**, while **reformers**, often from the **middle and upper classes** and including many **women**, worked to effect **social changes in cities and among immigrant populations**.
 - On the national level, **Progressives** sought **federal legislation** that they believed would effectively **regulate the economy, expand democracy, and generate moral reform**. **Progressive amendments** to the Constitution dealt with issues such as **prohibition and woman suffrage**.
 - Preservationists** and **conservationists** both supported the establishment of **national parks** while advocating different government responses to the overuse of **natural resources**.
 - The **Progressives** were divided over many issues. Some Progressives supported **Southern segregation**, while others ignored its presence. Some Progressives advocated expanding **popular participation in government**, while others called for greater reliance on **professional and technical experts** to make government more efficient. Progressives also disagreed about **immigration restriction**.
- III. During the 1930s, policymakers responded to the mass unemployment and social upheavals of the **Great Depression** by transforming the U.S. into a **limited welfare state**, redefining the goals and ideas of modern **American liberalism**.
- Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal** attempted to end the **Great Depression** by using government power to provide **relief** to the poor, stimulate **recovery**, and **reform** the American economy.
 - Radical, union, and populist movements** pushed Roosevelt toward more extensive efforts to change the American economic system, while **conservatives** in Congress and the Supreme Court sought to limit the New Deal's scope.
 - Although the **New Deal** did not end the Depression, it left a **legacy of reforms and regulatory agencies** and fostered a **long-term political realignment** in which many ethnic groups, **African Americans**, and **working-class communities** identified with the **Democratic Party**.

Key Concept 7.2:

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

- Popular culture** grew in influence in U.S. society, even as **debates** increased over the effects of culture on **public values, morals, and American national identity**.
 - New forms of **mass media**, such as **radio and cinema**, contributed to the spread of **national culture** as well as greater awareness of **regional cultures**.
 - Migration** gave rise to new forms of **art and literature** that expressed **ethnic and regional identities**, such the **Harlem Renaissance movement**.
 - Official restrictions on freedom of speech** grew during **World War I**, as increased anxiety about radicalism led to a **Red Scare** and attacks on **labor activism and immigrant culture**.
 - In the **1920s**, **cultural and political controversies** emerged as Americans **debated gender roles, modernism, science, religion, and issues related to race and immigration**.
- Economic pressures, global events, and political developments** caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both **international and internal migrants**.
 - Immigration from Europe** reached its peak in the years before **World War I**. During and after **World War I**, **nativist campaigns** against some ethnic groups led to the passage of **quotas** that restricted immigration, particularly from **southern and eastern Europe**, and increased barriers to **Asian immigration**.
 - The increased demand for **war production** and labor during **World War I and World War II** and the **economic difficulties of the 1930s** led many Americans to **migrate** to urban centers in search of economic opportunities.
 - In a **Great Migration** during and after **World War I**, **African Americans** escaping **segregation, racial violence, and limited economic opportunity in the South** moved to the **North and West**, where they found new opportunities but still encountered **discrimination**.
 - Migration** to the United States from **Mexico** and elsewhere in the **Western Hemisphere** increased, in spite of **contradictory government policies toward Mexican immigration**.

Key Concept 7.3:

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

- I. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, new **U.S. territorial ambitions and acquisitions in the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific** accompanied heightened **public debates over America’s role in the world**.
 - A) **Imperialists** cited **economic opportunities, racial theories, competition with European empires, and the perception in the 1890s that the Western frontier was “closed”** to argue that Americans were *destined* to expand their culture and institutions to peoples around the globe.
 - B) **Anti-imperialists** cited principles of **self-determination** and invoked both **racial theories** and the **U.S. foreign policy tradition of isolationism** to argue that the U.S. should not extend its territory overseas.
 - C) The American victory in the **Spanish–American War** led to the U.S. **acquisition of island territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific**, an increase in involvement in **Asia**, and the suppression of a nationalist movement in the **Philippines**.

- II. **World War I** and its aftermath intensified ongoing debates about the **nation’s role in the world** and how best to achieve **national security and pursue American interests**.
 - A) After initial **neutrality in World War I**, the nation entered the conflict, departing from the U.S. foreign policy tradition of noninvolvement in European affairs, in response to **Woodrow Wilson’s** call for the defense of humanitarian and democratic principles.
 - B) Although the **American Expeditionary Forces** played a relatively limited role in combat, the U.S.’s entry helped to tip the balance of the conflict in favor of **the Allies**.
 - C) Despite **Wilson’s** deep involvement in postwar negotiations, the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the **Treaty of Versailles** or join the **League of Nations**.
 - D) In the years following **World War I**, the United States pursued a **unilateral foreign policy** that used **international investment, peace treaties, and select military intervention to promote a vision of international order, even while maintaining U.S. isolationism**.
 - E) In the **1930s**, while many Americans were concerned about the rise of **fascism and totalitarianism**, most opposed taking military action against the aggression of **Nazi Germany and Japan** until the **Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor** drew the United States into **World War II**.

- III. U.S. participation in **World War II transformed American society**, while the **victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers** vaulted the U.S. into a position of **global, political, and military leadership**.
 - A) Americans viewed the war as a fight for the **survival of freedom and democracy against fascist and militarist ideologies**. This perspective was later reinforced by revelations about **Japanese wartime atrocities, Nazi concentration camps, and the Holocaust**.
 - B) The **mass mobilization** of American society helped end the **Great Depression**, and the country’s strong industrial base played a pivotal role in winning the war by equipping and provisioning allies and millions of U.S. troops.
 - C) **Mobilization and military service** provided opportunities for **women and minorities** to improve their socioeconomic positions for the war’s duration, while also leading to **debates over racial segregation**. Wartime experiences also generated **challenges to civil liberties**, such as the **internment of Japanese Americans**.
 - D) The United States and its allies achieved military victory through **Allied cooperation, technological and scientific advances, the contributions of servicemen and women**, and campaigns such as **Pacific “island-hopping” and the D-Day invasion**. The use of **atomic bombs** hastened the **end of the war** and **sparked debates about the morality of using atomic weapons**.
 - E) The **war-ravaged condition of Asia and Europe**, and the **dominant U.S. role in the Allied victory and postwar peace settlements**, allowed the United States to emerge from the war as **the most powerful nation on earth**.

PERIOD 8 Content Outline: 1845-1980

Key Concept 8.1: The United States responded to an **uncertain and unstable postwar world** by asserting and working to maintain a position of **global leadership**, with far-reaching domestic and international **consequences**.

- I. **United States policymakers** engaged in a **Cold War** with the authoritarian **Soviet Union**, seeking to limit the growth of **Communist military power** and **ideological influence**, create a **free-market global economy**, and build an **international security system**.
 - A) As **postwar tensions** dissolved the **wartime alliance** between **Western democracies** and the **Soviet Union**, the **United States** developed a **foreign policy** based on **collective security**, **international aid**, and **economic institutions** that bolstered **non-Communist nations**.
 - B) Concerned by **expansionist Communist ideology** and **Soviet repression**, the **United States** sought to **contain communism** through a variety of measures, including major military engagements in **Korea and Vietnam**.
 - C) The **Cold War** fluctuated between periods of **direct and indirect military confrontation** and **periods of mutual coexistence** (or **détente**).
 - D) **Postwar decolonization** and the emergence of powerful **nationalist movements** in **Asia, Africa, and the Middle East** led both sides in the **Cold War** to seek **allies among new nations**, many of which remained nonaligned.
 - E) **Cold War competition** extended to **Latin America**, where the U.S. supported **non-Communist regimes** that had varying levels of commitment to **democracy**.

- II. **Cold War policies** led to **public debates over the power of the federal government** and acceptable means for pursuing **international and domestic goals** while protecting **civil liberties**.
 - A) **Americans debated policies** and **methods** designed to **expose suspected communists** within the United States even as both parties supported the **broader strategy of containing communism**.
 - B) Although **anticommunist foreign policy** faced little **domestic opposition** in previous years, the **Vietnam War** inspired sizable and passionate **antiwar protests** that became more numerous as the war escalated, and sometimes led to violence.
 - C) **Americans debated** the merits of a large **nuclear arsenal**, the **military-industrial complex**, and the appropriate power of the **executive branch** in conducting **foreign and military policy**.
 - D) **Ideological, military, and economic concerns** shaped U.S. involvement in the **Middle East**, with several **oil crises** in the region eventually sparking attempts at creating a **national energy policy**.

Key Concept 8.2: New movements for **civil rights** and **liberal efforts** to **expand the role of government** generated a range of **political and cultural responses**.

- I. Seeking to fulfill **Reconstruction-era promises**, **civil rights activists** and **political leaders** achieved some legal and political successes in **ending segregation**, although progress toward **racial equality** was slow.
 - A) During and after **World War II**, **civil rights activists** and leaders, most notably **Martin Luther King Jr.**, combatted **racial discrimination** utilizing a variety of strategies, including **legal challenges**, **direct action**, and **nonviolent protest tactics**.
 - B) The **three branches of the federal government** used measures including **desegregation of the armed services**, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** to promote greater **racial equality**.
 - C) **Continuing resistance** slowed efforts at **desegregation**, sparking **social and political unrest** across the nation. **Debates among civil rights activists** over the **efficacy of nonviolence** increased after **1965**.

- II. Responding to **social conditions** and the **African American civil rights movement**, a variety of **movements** emerged that focused on issues of **identity, social justice, and the environment**.
 - A) **Feminist and gay and lesbian activists** mobilized behind claims for **legal, economic, and social equality**.
 - B) **Latino, American Indian, and Asian American movements** continued to demand **social and economic equality** and a redress of **past injustices**.
 - C) Despite an **overall affluence** in **postwar America**, **advocates** raised concerns about the **prevalence and persistence of poverty** as a national problem.
 - D) **Environmental problems and accidents** led to a growing **environmental movement** that aimed to use **legislative and public efforts** to combat **pollution** and protect **natural resources**. The **federal government** established new **environmental programs** and **regulations**.

Key Concept 8.2: New movements for **civil rights** and **liberal efforts** to **expand the role of government** generated a range of **political and cultural responses**.

- III. **Liberalism** influenced **postwar politics** and **court decisions**, but it came under **increasing attack** from **the left** as well as from a **resurgent conservative movement**.
- Liberalism**, based on **anticommunism** abroad and a firm belief in the **efficacy of government** power to achieve **social goals** at home, reached a high point of **political influence** by the **mid-1960s**.
 - Liberal ideas** found expression in **Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society**, which attempted to use **federal legislation** and **programs** to end **racial discrimination**, **eliminate poverty**, and address other **social issues**. A series of **Supreme Court decisions** expanded **civil rights** and **individual liberties**.
 - In the **1960s**, **conservatives** challenged **liberal laws** and **court decisions** and perceived **moral and cultural** decline, seeking to **limit the role of the federal government** and enact more assertive **foreign policies**.
 - Some groups on **the left** also rejected **liberal policies**, arguing that **political leaders** did too little to transform the **racial and economic status quo** at home and pursued **immoral policies** abroad.
 - Public confidence and trust** in government’s ability to solve **social and economic problems** declined in the **1970s** in the wake of **economic challenges**, **political scandals**, and **foreign policy crises**.
 - The **1970s** saw growing **clashes between conservatives and liberals** over **social and cultural issues**, the **power of the federal government**, **race**, and **movements for greater individual rights**.

Key Concept 8.3: Postwar **economic and demographic changes** had far-reaching consequences for American society, politics, and culture.

- Rapid **economic and social changes** in American society fostered a sense of optimism in the **postwar years**.
 - A burgeoning **private sector**, **federal spending**, **the baby boom**, and **technological developments** helped spur **economic growth**.
 - As **higher education** opportunities and **new technologies** rapidly expanded, increasing **social mobility** encouraged the migration of the **middle class** to the **suburbs** and of many Americans to the **South and West**. The **Sun Belt** region emerged as a significant political and economic force.
 - Immigrants** from around the world sought access to the **political, social, and economic opportunities** in the United States, especially after the passage of **new immigration laws in 1965**.
- New **demographic and social developments**, along with anxieties over the **Cold War**, changed **U.S. culture** and led to significant **political and moral debates** that sharply divided the nation.
 - Mass culture** became **increasingly homogeneous** in the **postwar years**, inspiring challenges to **conformity** by **artists, intellectuals, and rebellious youth**.
 - Feminists** and **young people** who participated in the **counterculture of the 1960s** rejected many of the **social, economic, and political values of their parents’ generation**, introduced **greater informality** into **U.S. culture**, and advocated **changes in sexual norms**.
 - The rapid and substantial growth of **evangelical Christian churches** and **organizations** was accompanied by greater **political and social activism** on the part of **religious conservatives**.

PERIOD 9 Content Outline: 1980-Present

Key Concept 9.1: A newly ascendant **conservative movement** achieved several **political and policy goals** during the **1980s** and continued to strongly influence **public discourse** in the **following decades**.

- Conservative beliefs** regarding the need for **traditional social values** and a **reduced role for government** advanced in **U.S. politics after 1980**.
 - Ronald Reagan’s** victory in the presidential **election of 1980** represented an important milestone, allowing **conservatives** to enact significant **tax cuts** and continue the **deregulation** of many industries.
 - Conservatives** argued that **liberal programs** were counterproductive in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth. Some of their efforts to **reduce the size and scope of government** met with inertia and **liberal opposition**, as **many programs** remained popular with voters.
 - Policy debates** continued over **free-trade agreements**, the scope of the government **social safety net**, and calls to reform the **U.S. financial system**.

Key Concept 9.2: Moving into the **21st century**, the nation experienced significant **technological, economic, and demographic changes**.

- I. **New developments in science and technology enhanced the economy and transformed society, while manufacturing decreased.**
 - A) Economic productivity increased as improvements in **digital communications** enabled increased American participation in **worldwide economic opportunities**.
 - B) **Technological innovations in computing, digital mobile technology, and the Internet transformed daily life**, increased **access to information**, and led to **new social behaviors and networks**.
 - C) **Employment** increased in **service sectors** and decreased in **manufacturing**, and **union membership** declined.
 - D) **Real wages** stagnated for the **working** and **middle class** amid growing **economic inequality**.

- II. The **U.S. population** continued to undergo **demographic shifts** that had significant **cultural and political consequences**.
 - A) **After 1980**, the **political, economic, and cultural influence** of the **American South and West** continued to increase as **population shifted** to those areas.
 - B) **International migration** from **Latin America and Asia** increased dramatically. The new immigrants affected **U.S. culture** in many ways and supplied the economy with an important **labor force**.
 - C) Intense **political and cultural debates** continued over issues such as **immigration policy, diversity, gender roles, and family structures**.

Key Concept 9.3: The **end of the Cold War** and **new challenges** to **U.S. leadership** forced the nation to **redefine its foreign policy and role in the world**.

- I. The **Reagan administration** promoted an **interventionist foreign policy** that continued in **later administrations**, even **after the end of the Cold War**.
 - A) **Reagan** asserted **U.S. opposition to communism** through **speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons**.
 - B) Increased **U.S. military spending, Reagan's diplomatic initiatives, and political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union** were all important in **ending the Cold War**.
 - C) The **end of the Cold War** led to **new diplomatic relationships** but also new **U.S. military and peacekeeping interventions**, as well as continued **debates over the appropriate use of American power in the world**.

- II. Following the attacks of **September 11, 2001**, **U.S. foreign policy efforts** focused on **fighting terrorism** around the world.
 - A) In the wake of attacks on the **World Trade Center and the Pentagon**, the United States launched **military efforts against terrorism** and lengthy, controversial conflicts in **Afghanistan and Iraq**.
 - B) The **war on terrorism** sought to **improve security** within the United States but also **raised questions** about the **protection of civil liberties and human rights**.
 - C) **Conflicts in the Middle East** and concerns about **climate change** led to **debates** over **U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and the impact of economic consumption on the environment**.
 - D) Despite **economic and foreign policy challenges**, the **United States** continued as the world's leading **superpower** in the **21st century**.