

Mr. Peters' Cray-Cray Test Review Packet

Historical Period 9 THE END OF THE 20TH AND BEYOND (1980-Present)

As the United States transitioned to a new century filled with challenges and possibilities, it experienced renewed ideological and cultural debates, sought to redefine its foreign policy, and adapted to economic globalization and revolutionary changes in science and technology.

Key Concepts 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes.
- ✓ New developments in science/technology enhanced the economy & transformed society, while manufacturing decreased.
- ✓ The U.S. population continued to undergo demographic shifts that had significant cultural and political consequences.
- ✓ End of the Cold War. New challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy & role in the world.
- ✓ The Reagan administration promoted an interventionist foreign policy that continued in later administrations, even after the end of the Cold War.
- ✓ Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, U.S. foreign policy efforts focused on fighting terrorism around the world.

Reagan's Conservative "Revolution" and Policies that Followed

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.

Economic Recovery Tax Act, 1981 - Law passed under President Reagan that cut income taxes over three years by 25%. Lowered the rate for the highest income bracket from 78% to 28%.

Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 1992 - Supreme Court decision that upheld the right to an abortion, overturning Pennsylvania restrictions on abortion.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), 1993 - Agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that eliminated most tariffs and other trade barriers.

Contract with America, 1994 - Pledge taken by Republican candidates for Congress who promised to reduce the size and scope of the federal government and to balance the federal budget. Led to a Republican takeover of both houses of Congress in the 1994 elections.

Medicare Modernization Act, 2003 - Law passed under George W. Bush that overhauled the Medicare system, providing benefits for prescription drugs.

Affordable Care Act, 2010 - Although a law reforming the health care system was rejected under President Clinton, a law establishing near universal health care coverage was passed under President Obama.

Ronald Reagan - was an American politician and actor, who served as the 40th President of the United States from 1981 to 1989.

Supply-Side Economics (Reaganomics) - Economic idea that reducing taxes on the wealthy and increasing the money available for investment would stimulate the economy, create jobs, and benefit all Americans. Reaganomics also held that deregulation of business would benefit the American economy.

Sagebrush Rebellion - Political movement in the western states that opposed federal regulations governing land use and natural resources, favoring state jurisdiction instead.

Increase in the budget deficit and national debt - Tax cuts and increases in defense spending led to an explosion of the federal deficit and national debt during the 1980s and early 1990s.

The Third Way - A centrist approach to governance advocated by Bill Clinton that sought to achieve liberal objectives (equal opportunity & making work pay) through conservative means (minimal government regulation & government support of business).

The End of the Cold War and the Events that Followed

President Reagan asserted U.S. opposition to communism through speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons. 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.

Iran-Contra Scandal, 1987 - In an effort to back Contra forces wanting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist and pro-Soviet government, the Reagan administration sold weapons to the anti-American government in Iran to help secure the release of American hostages, transferring profits from the Iranians illegally to the Contras.

Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty, 1987 - Treaty for the destruction of U.S. & Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe.

Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989 - Barrier between West Berlin and Communist East Berlin that was torn down in 1989, marking the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Fall of the Soviet Union, 1991 - Due to the Soviet government's inability to stop the rise of nationalism and the independence of Soviet republics, the Soviet Union formally ceased to exist on December 26, 1991.

Persian Gulf War, 1991 - War in the Persian Gulf region triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. An international coalition led by the U.S. defeated Iraqi forces and liberated Kuwait from Iraqi control.

Dayton Agreement, 1995 - Agreement signed in Dayton, Ohio, by three rival ethnic groups in Bosnia pledged to end a four-year-old civil war.

Bombing of Yugoslavia, 1999 - NATO bombings of Yugoslavia led to the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo & put an end to the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s.

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) - President Reagan's program to create an effective laser-based defense against nuclear missile attack. SDI is popularly known as "Star Wars."

Mikhail Gorbachev - Leader of the Soviet Union who assumed power in 1985. Gorbachev introduced political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union, relaxed tensions with the United States, and presided over the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) - Reagan-era plan to draft treaties with the Soviet Union to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

The War on Terrorism

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. 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.

Attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, September 11, 2001 - Attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., that killed 3000 people and started the U.S. War on Terrorism.

Patriot Act, 2001 - Law that reduced constraints on the Justice Department and other law-enforcement agencies in dealing with individuals who were suspected of being linked to terrorists.

Department of Homeland Security, 2001 - Cabinet-level department created after the attacks of September 11 to protect the United States and its territories from terrorist attacks, man-made accidents, and natural disasters.

War in Afghanistan, 2001 - After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, NATO forces led by the United States entered Afghanistan to dismantle al-Qaeda and eliminate its safe haven by removing the Taliban from power.

Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Invasion of Iraq led by the United States, followed by a longer phase of fighting, in which an insurgency emerged to oppose the occupying forces and a newly formed Iraqi government.

Al Qaeda - Terrorist network established by Saudi Osama bin Laden in 1989 that organizes militant Islamic groups that seek to remove foreigners from Islamic holy land and to unite all Islamic lands.

Taliban - Organization of Muslim fundamentalists that gained control over Afghanistan in 1996 after the Soviet Union withdrew, established a strict Islamic government.

Weapons of Mass Destruction - Nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that have the potential to kill large numbers of people. The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 saying that Iraqis had weapons of mass destruction. The weapons were never found.

Changes in the American Economy

Economic productivity increased as improvements in digital communications enabled increased American participation in worldwide economic opportunities. Employment increased in service sectors and decreased in manufacturing, and union membership declined. Real wages stagnated for the working and middle class amid growing economic inequality.

Rust Belt - Description for the Northeastern states that have experienced economic decline, population loss, and urban decay due to the loss of industry.

Boomburbs - Rapidly growing city that remains essentially suburban in character even as it reaches populations more typical of a large city.

Technology, Energy, and the Environment

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. 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.

Kyoto Agreement, 1997 - United Nations agreement to reduce emission rates of carbon dioxide and other industrial-produced gases linked to climate change.

Information Technology - The management and processing of information with computers and other forms of telecommunications. Created an economic boom in the 1990s, providing the United States with the longest period of economic expansion in its history.

Climate Change (Global Warming) - The gradual warming of the surface of the Earth that could cause major ecological changes

Immigration and Domestic Migration

After 1980, the political, economic, and cultural influence of the American South and West continued to increase as population shifted to those areas. 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.

Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 - Law that prohibited the hiring of undocumented foreigners. Offered amnesty and legal resident to immigrants who could prove they had entered the United States before 1982.

Immigration Act of 1990 - Law that reformed the Immigration Act of 1965, increasing the number of immigrants allowed annually into the United States. The law gave preference to skilled workers & those with families already living in the United States.

The Transformation of American Society

Intense political and cultural debates continued over issues such as immigration policy, diversity, gender roles, and family structures.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, 1994 - Policy prohibiting military personnel from discriminating against or harassing closeted homosexual or bisexual service members or applicants, while barring openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons from military service.

Defense of Marriage Act, 1996 - Federal law that defined marriage as a legal contract between a man and a woman.

United States v. Windsor, 2013 - The Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional for the federal government to deny federal benefits of marriage to married same-sex couples, if it is recognized or performed in a state that allows same-sex marriage

Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015 - is a landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held in a 5–4 decision that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

Cultural Pluralism - The coexistence of many cultures in the United States without any one culture dominating a locality or region. The idea of cultural pluralism seeks to reduce racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination.

Glass Ceiling - Term used to describe the barrier within in company that prevents women or minorities from rising to upper-level positions.

Nancy Pelosi - First woman to become Speaker of the House of Representatives (2007)

Barack Obama - First African American to become president of the United States. (2009)

The United States in the Early 21st Century

Despite economic and foreign policy challenges, the United States continued as the world's leading superpower in the 21st century

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The Resurgence of Conservatism

- By the 1980s, the American population was aging and more people were living in the South and West. This led to the emergence of a new politically conservative movement.

The Election of Ronald Reagan, 1980

- Ronald Reagan was a **neoconservative** who opposed a big government, supported the "common man's" rights, and opposed favoritism for minorities. He tried to spin the Democrats as a party who supported big government and only supported minorities. Like neoconservatives, he also supported free-market capitalism, supported anti-Soviet policies, opposed liberal welfare programs and affirmative-action policies, and he called for the reassertion of traditional values of individualism and the centrality of family.
- Ronald Reagan overwhelmingly won the **election of 1980**, beating Democratic president Jimmy Carter.

The Reagan Revolution

- The **Iranian's** released the **hostages** on Reagan's Inauguration Day, January 20, 1981, after 444 days of captivity.
- Reagan assembled a conservative cabinet when he took office.
- A major goal of Reagan was to **reduce the size of the government** by **shrinking the federal budget** and **cutting taxes**. He proposed a new federal budget that called for **cuts** of \$35 billion, mostly in **social programs**, including food stamps and federally-funded job-training centers.
- On **March 6, 1981**, Reagan was **shot**. 12 days later, Reagan recovered and returned to work.

The Battle of the Budget

- Reagan called for substantial **tax cuts**, and in August 1981, Congress approved a set of tax reforms that lowered individual tax rates, reduced federal estate taxes, and created new tax-free saving plans for small investors.

- Reagan supported "**supply-side**" **economics**: reducing taxes will enable businesses to produce more goods, which will lower prices, increase consumer spending, and create more jobs. Reagan believed that this would stimulate new investment, boost productivity, promote dramatic economic growth, and reduce the federal deficit. (**Reaganomics**)
- In 1981-1982, the economy slipped into a recession as unemployment rose and banks closed.
- During the 1980s, **income gaps widened** between the rich and the poor.
- By the mid-1980s, the economy had recovered. Economists speculated that the economy had recovered because of Reagan's massive **military expenditures**. Reagan gave the Pentagon nearly \$2 trillion in the 1980s. This massive expenditure led to an unbalanced federal budget and it **substantially increased the national debt**.

Reagan Renews the Cold War

- Reagan's **strategy** for dealing with the Soviet Union was to **initiate a new arms race and outspend the Soviets**. He expected that the American economy could better support an expensive arms race than the Soviet Union's economy.
- In March 1983, Reagan announced a missile-defense system called the **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)**, also known as **Star Wars**. The plan called for orbiting battle satellites in space that could fire laser beams to shoot down intercontinental missiles.
- In 1981, the USSR declared martial law in Poland. In **1983**, a Korean passenger **airliner** was shot down when it flew into Soviet airspace. By the end of 1983, all arms-control negotiations were broken, and the Cold War was intensified.

Round Two for Reagan

- Ronald Reagan overwhelmingly won the **election of 1984**, beating Democrat Walter Mondale and his female vice presidential nominee, Geraldine Ferraro.
- Foreign policy issues dominated Reagan's second term.
- Mikhail Gorbachev became the leader of the Soviet Union in 1985. He was committed to reforming the country with two policies: **Glasnost** sought to allow free speech and political freedom and **Perestroika** sought to adopt capitalistic economic policies. These two policies required the Soviet Union to reduce the size of its military and concentrate aid on its citizens. **This necessitated an end to the Cold War**. In **December 1985**, Reagan and Gorbachev signed the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**, banning all intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Iran-Contra

- Reagan was plagued by 2 problems: American hostages were held by Muslim extremists in Lebanon, and **Nicaragua** was run by a left-wing **Sandinista** government. To circumvent Congress's ban on sending arms to the Nicaraguan rebels who fought Sandinista, the Reagan administration secretly sold arms to **Iran** (who helped free hostages) and then diverted the money from the sales to the rebels.
- In **November 1986**, news of the **secret dealings** broke and ignited a firestorm of controversy. Reagan claimed he had no idea of the illicit activities. **Criminal indictments** were brought against Oliver North, Admiral John Poindexter, and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The **Iran-contra affair** cast a shadow over Reagan's record in foreign policy.

Reagan's Economic Legacy

Reagan's tax cuts and huge increases in military spending caused **\$200 billion in annual deficits**, which added \$2 trillion to the national debt during Reagan's administration. However, Reagan's large budget deficits helped make future social welfare programs seem economically infeasible. Thus, Reagan had achieved his goal of limiting the expansion of welfare programs.

In the early 1990s, **median household income** declined.

Conservatism in the Courts

- By the time he had left office, Reagan had appointed **3 conservative-minded judges**, including Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to become a Supreme Court Justice.
- Reagan sought to use the Supreme Court to fight **affirmative action** and **abortion**.

Referendum on Reaganism in 1988

- Corruption** in the government gave Democrats political opportunities.
- On "**Black Monday**," **October 19, 1987**, the stock market dropped 508 points (largest one-day decline in history).
- The Republicans nominated George H. W. Bush for the **election of 1988**. The Democrats chose Michael Dukakis.
- Despite Reagan's recent problems in office, **George H. W. Bush won** the election.

George H. W. Bush and the End of the Cold War

- In 1989, several communist regimes in Europe collapsed, including Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Romania. In **December 1989**, the **Berlin Wall** came down, and the two Germanies were reunited in **Oct. 1990**.
- In December 1991, **Gorbachev resigned** as the Soviet Union's president, as the Soviet Union dissolved.
- As a result of reduced defense spending after the Cold War, **America's economy suffered**.

The Persian Gulf Crisis

- On August 2, 1990, **Iraqi** leader Saddam Hussein **invaded Kuwait**, seeking oil. The United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion and on August 3, it demanded the immediate withdrawal of Iraq's troops. After Hussein refused to comply by the mandatory date of **January 15, 1991**, the United States led a massive international military deployment, sending 539,000 troops to the Persian Gulf region.
- On **January 16, 1991**, the U.S. and the U.N. launched a 37-day air war against Iraq. Allied commander, American general Norman Schwarzkopf, planned to bombing the Iraqis and then send in ground troops and armor. On **February 23**, the land war, "**Operation Desert Storm**," began. It only lasted 4 days, and Saddam Hussein was forced to sign a cease-fire on **February 27**.
- Because the allies had only agreed to liberate Kuwait, Bush decided not to invade Baghdad to overthrow Saddam. Thus, Saddam stayed in power.

Bush on the Home Front

- By 1992, the unemployment rate had exceeded 7% and the federal budget deficit continued to grow. Bush was forced to increase taxes to generate revenue for the federal government.

Bill Clinton: The First Baby-Boomer President

- Clinton won** the election of 1992. Democrats also gained control of both the House and the Senate.
- Presidency Clinton hired **minorities** and more **women** in Congress and his presidential cabinet. This included the first female attorney general, Janet Reno, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the Supreme Court
- By **1998**, Clinton's policies had led to **budget surplus** and had **shrunk** the **federal deficit** to its lowest levels in ten years.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** was passed in 1993, and it created a **free-trade zone** between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. (It eliminated tariffs between the countries).

Scandal and Impeachment

- In 1998, it was discovered that President Clinton had an affair with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky (**Lewinsky Affair**). Clinton lied about the affair under oath. The House Republicans passed two articles of **impeachment** against Clinton: perjury before a grand jury and obstruction of justice.
- In 1999, the Senate voted to remove Clinton from office, but the Republicans failed to obtain the required 2/3 majority.

George W. Bush Begins

Although he entered office promising to be a uniter between the Democrats and Republicans, President Bush was a **very divisive president**. He strongly opposed welfare programs & opposed environmentalist policies. He rejected the **Kyoto Treaty**, which was an international treaty aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He enacted large tax cuts that, along with upcoming wars, turned a federal budget surplus into a massive budget deficit.

Terrorism Comes to America

- On **September 11, 2001**, **terrorists** hijacked four aircraft and crashed them into the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon, and rural Pennsylvania. **Al Qaeda**, which was based in **Afghanistan** and led by Osama bin Laden, was responsible for the attack.
- In October 2001, Congress passed the **Patriot Act**, which expanded the government's ability to monitor citizens' communication, and it allowed immigrants suspected of terrorism to be deported. In 2002, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security which sought to protect the nation's borders. Hundreds of immigrants were put into jail without formal charges..
- The attacks on September 11th coincided with the beginning of an economic recession.

Bush Takes the Offensive Against Iraq

In January 2002, Bush created the "**axis of evil**," which included **Iraq, North Korea, and Iran**.

Hussein had been harassing and dodging U.N. weapons inspectors for years. (Inspectors were supposed to be allowed in the country after the 1991 Persian Gulf War.) **Bush was determined to invade Iraq and overthrow its dictator, Saddam Hussein** (finish the job that his dad had started). Bush made a variety of false claims in his case for war against Iraq: Iraq had weapons of mass destruction; Iraq could be a democratic beacon for the Middle East; Iraq supported Al Qaeda.

The **U.S. invaded Iraq on March 19, 2003**. Britain was America's only major ally in the invasion. Hussein was quickly defeated.

On May 1, 2003, Bush made a speech in which he claimed that major combat operations in Iraq were complete.

Bush's Bruising Second Term

Bush appointed two new conservative justices to the Supreme Court.

Also in 2005, it was discovered that the government was **illegally wiretapping** American citizens' communications.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) responded poorly to help New Orleans after **Hurricane Katrina** in 2005.

Anti-Republican sentiment helped Democrats win majorities in the House and Senate in the midterm elections of 2006.

By 2005, most of the American public opposed the war in Iraq. By 2008, Bush's approval rating was below 30%.

The Presidential Election of 2008

Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton to win the Democrat's presidential nomination for the election of 2008. The Republicans nominated John McCain for president and Sarah Palin for vice president. McCain had extensive experience in government, while Palin had no experience and was not politically astute.

Another **recession** hit the American economy in **2008**. It was caused by a bursting **housing bubble** and the private banking system's poor lending practices. Real estate prices and the stock market plummeted. The federal government responded by taking over the country's two biggest mortgage companies, **Fannie Mae** and **Freddie Mac**, and by taking over the world's biggest insurance company, the **American International Group (AIG)**. Congress also passed the **Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP)** to keep the nation's banks and businesses afloat.

Obama won the election of 2008 by a large margin.

Obama in the White House

- To jumpstart the economy, Obama supported the passage of the **American Relief and Recovery Act**. This was an economic stimulus bill that was comprised of tax cuts, spending for jobs programs, and funding for state and local governments.
- The economy started to recover from the "**Great Recession**" by 2009.
- Obama supported a healthcare reform bill in 2010 called the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**. Most notably, this required all Americans to buy health insurance and prohibited health insurers from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.
- In 2010, Obama signed the **Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act**. This overhauled the nation's financial Regulatory system.
- Osama bin Laden was killed** by American forces in Pakistan in 2011.