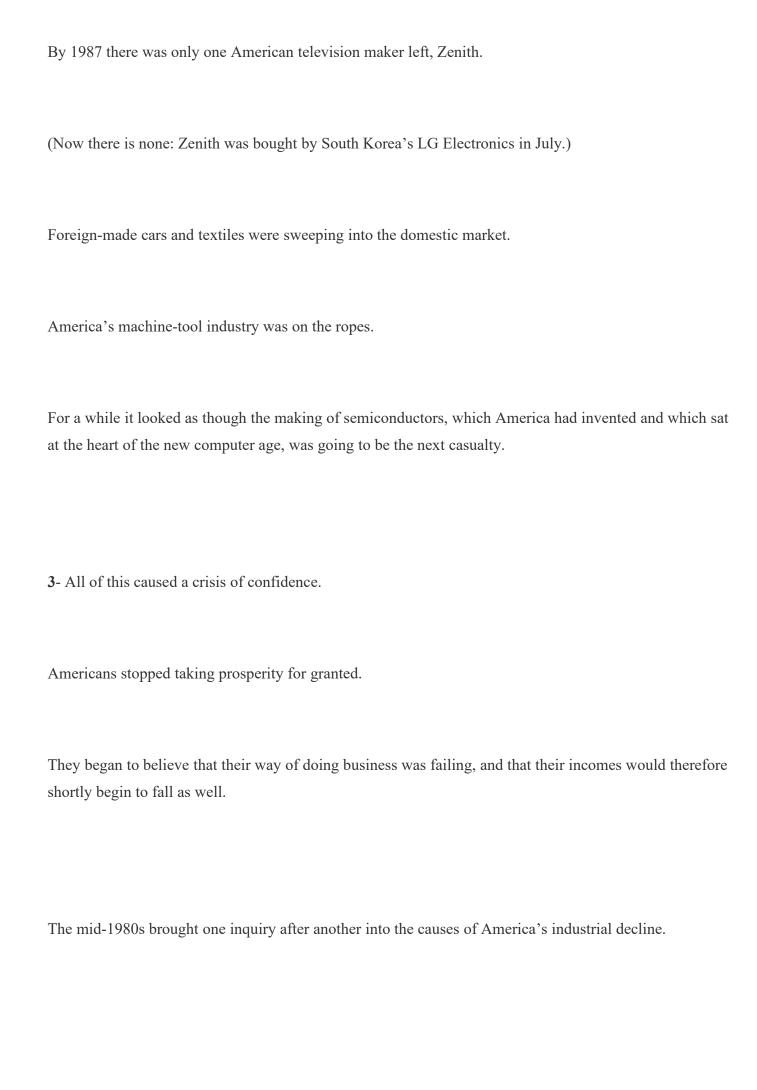
2000-1 Text 1

1- A history of long and effortless success can be a dreadful handicap, but, if properly handled, it may become a driving force.
When the United States entered just such a glowing period after the end of the Second World War, it had a market eight times larger than any competitor, giving its industries unparalleled economies of scale.
Its scientists were the world's best, its workers the most skilled.
America and Americans were prosperous beyond the dreams of the Europeans and Asians whose economies the war had destroyed.
2- It was inevitable that this primacy should have narrowed as other countries grew richer.
Just as inevitably, the retreat from predominance proved painful.
By the mid-1980s Americans had found themselves at a loss over their fading industrial competitiveness.
Some huge American industries, such as consumer electronics, had shrunk or vanished in the face of foreign competition.





[A] it had made painstaking efforts towards this goal
[B] its domestic market was eight times larger than before
[C] the war had destroyed the economies of most potential competitors
[D] the unparalleled size of its workforce had given an impetus to its economy
12. The loss of U.S. predominance in the world economy in the 1980s is manifested in the fact that the American
[A] TV industry had withdrawn to its domestic market
[B] semiconductor industry had been taken over by foreign enterprises
[C] machine-tool industry had collapsed after suicidal actions
[D] auto industry had lost part of its domestic market
13. What can be inferred from the passage?
[A] It is human nature to shift between self-doubt and blind pride.
[B] Intense competition may contribute to economic progress.
[C] The revival of the economy depends on international cooperation.
[D] A long history of success may pave the way for further development.
14. The author seems to believe the revival of the U.S. economy in the 1990s can be attributed to the
[A] turning of the business cycle
[B] restructuring of industry
[C] improved business management
[D] success in education

11. The U.S. achieved its predominance after World War II because ______.