

Rapid Review

U.S. History

Colonial America

- Economic difficulties in Europe, the desire to acquire raw materials and religious tensions all caused Europeans to become interested in the Americas
- Cortes, Pizarro, and other Spanish conquistadores entered much of Central America, South America, the southwestern section of North America, and the area now known as Florida, conquering the Aztecs, the Incas and other Native American tribes. Guns, horses, and diseases brought from Europe all aided the Spanish in their efforts to defeat the native tribes.
- French settlers in Canada were less oppressive than the Spanish. Jesuit priests converted thousands of Native American to Christianity, French settlers became increasingly interested in fur trading.
- Puritans and other religious dissidents came to the Americas because they felt the Church of England was too close to Catholicism.
- The first English settlement in America was the Jamestown colony, founded in 1607. Tobacco became the main crop in Jamestown, and the first slaves arrived in 1619.
- A group of religious Separatists arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. The first year of settlement was difficult for these Pilgrims, who had to rely on help from the Native Americans to survive.
- The Massachusetts Bay colony was established in 1629 by the Puritans. This colony was established as a “city upon a hill,” where the will of God could be manifested. A limited representative government was established. Religious dissent was not tolerated in this colony. Dissenters were thrown out and founded new colonies in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Portsmouth.
- The ecosystem of the Americas was tremendously altered by European settlement.

British Empire in America (1650-1750)

- The dominant economic theory of the era was mercantilism, British mercantilist measures such as the Navigation Acts created resentment in the American Colonies.
- The importation of African slaves became increasingly important for the continued economic growth of several southern colonies.
- The Salem Witch Trials demonstrated the social conflict present in the American colonies
- Eighteenth-century European wars between the British and the French spilled over to the Americas, with British and French colonists becoming involved.
- In the early eighteenth century, colonial assemblies became increasingly powerful and independent in several colonies, including Massachusetts.

- Even during the era of “salutary neglect” the British attempted to increase their economic control over the colonies.
- The religious revival called the Great Awakening caused some in the colonies to question many of the religious, social and political foundations of which colonial life was based.

Resistance and Rebellion

- Tensions between the British and the French intensified in the 1740s when land speculators from the English Colonies began to acquire land in the Ohio Valley.
- The Seven Years War (the French and Indian War in American textbooks) was between the English and colonial militias and the French; Native Americans fought on both sides, although most sided with the French early on.
- The defeat of the French in this war largely ended influence in the Americas; after the war, the British attempted to make the colonies pay their fair share of the war effort.
- Parliamentary efforts during this era to produce money for Great Britain by imposing various taxes and duties on the colonies resulted in great unrest in the Colonies.
- The impact of the Stamp Act on the colonies was great; as a result, nine colonies met at the 1765 Stamp Act Congress and the Sons of Liberty formed in Boston.
- Boston remained a center of opposition to British policy; the Boston Massacre in 1770 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773 helped to create resistance to the Crown in other colonies as well.
- The 1774 Intolerable Acts, which closed the port of Boston and curtailed freedom of speech in Massachusetts, outraged many in the colonies.
- The 1774 First Continental Congress passed a resolution that firmly stated the colonies would firmly resist measures that taxed them without their consent. At this meeting it was also decided that individual colonies should start to raise and train state militias.

Revolutionary War

- The first armed resistance to the British army occurred at Lexington and Concord.
- The Second Continental Congress began to prepare the American colonies for war against the British, but by passing the Olive Branch Petition, they tried to accommodate colonial interests with those of the Crown.
- The impact of the message presented in *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine was widespread throughout the Colonies.
- Many loyalists lived in the colonies at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War; many were members of the economic elite.
- Blacks and women played a large role in the war effort of the colonies.
- The defensive tactics of George Washington as leader of the continental forces proved decisive, since a longer war was disadvantageous to the British army.

- French assistance to the continental war effort proved invaluable; the French navy proved to be especially critical as the war progressed.
- The Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War. In this treaty, American independence was recognized by the British and large amounts of territory west of the Appalachian became American territory.
- The Articles of Confederation created a weak national government, partially to avoid replicating the “tyranny” of the Crown in England.
- To many colonial observers, Shay’s Rebellion demonstrated that a stronger national government was needed.

Creation of New Political Systems (1787-1800)

- The 1787 meeting on amending the Articles of Confederation turned into a historical session where the Constitution of the United States was drafted.
- The importance of James Madison in the formulation of the Constitution cannot be overemphasized (“Father of the Constitution”)
- The format of the bicameral legislature, the branches of power established at the federal level, the division of powers between federal and state governments made the U.S. Constitution a unique document for its time.
- The division between the Federalists and Antifederalists demonstrated that very different visions of America and the scope of the federal government existed in the United States at this time.
- The Bill of Rights established the basic freedoms that every American cherishes today.
- During the Washington administration, very different visions of America were expressed by Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson; the ideas of Hamilton helped spur American economic growth during the Washington administration.
- The United States had a great deal of trouble convincing the British and the French that the United States was a major power during this era.
- Many critics viewed the Alien and Sedition Acts of John Adams as gross overextensions of the power given to the federal government by the Constitution.

The Jeffersonian Revolution

- The election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800 is called the “Revolution of 1800,” as the new president had a completely different vision of America than the Federalists whom he replaced.
- Thomas Jefferson was one of the most brilliant men ever to serve as president, and he instituted many “Republican” policies during the eight years he was in office.
- The role of the federal courts was greatly strengthened during the tenure of John Marshall as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

- The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of the United States and allowed the “empire of liberty” to continue to expand.
- The case of Aaron Burr showed the deep political divisions that existed in the United States during this period.
- The Napoleonic wars greatly impacted the relationship between the United States, England and France.
- America entered the War of 1812 because President Madison convinced the nation that America’s rights as a neutral power had been violated and because many in Congress felt that the British were encouraging resistance by Native American tribes.
- The American System of Henry Clay and others was proposed after the War of 1812 and outlined a plan for broad economic growth for the United States.
- The Missouri Compromise temporarily solved the issue of the number of slave versus the number of free states.

Rise of Manufacturing and the Age of Jackson

- A new production system developed in textile mills, such as those that existed in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the early nineteenth century.
- The Monroe Doctrine boldly proclaimed that the Western Hemisphere was off-limits to European intrusion.
- Beginning in 1824, it was official American policy to move Native American tribes east of the Mississippi River; the horrors of many of these relocations (i.e. Trail of Tears) are well documented.
- The Second Great Awakening influenced many to become involved in reform movements, including the abolitionist movement.
- The presidency of Andrew Jackson is celebrated as an era where the “common man” reigned supreme, although Jackson greatly expanded the powers of the presidency.
- The Democratic party of Andrew Jackson was the first real political party in American history.
- Jackson’s tariff policy caused a renewal of interest in the policy of nullification in several Southern state legislatures.
- In the 1830s the Whig Party emerged as the major party opposing the Democratic Party of Jackson.

Territorial Expansion (1835-1860)

- The concept of manifest destiny spurred American expansion in Texas and the far West.
- American settlers much more loyal to the United States than to Mexico entered Texas in large numbers and encouraged Texas to break away from Mexico and eventually become an American state.

- The issue of slavery and slavery in the territories came to dominate American political debate more and more in the 1840s and 1850s.
- California entered the Union as a free state under the Compromise of 1850, upsetting the balance between free and slave states and intensifying the conflict between them.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act created violence in the these territories as they “decided” on whether they would be slave or free; both abolitionists and pro-slavery forces shipped in supporters to help sway the elections in those territories.
- The Dred Scott decision only intensified tensions between the North and the South.
- The election of 1860 was seen as an insult to many in the South, and after its results were announced, the secession of Southern states from the Union was inevitable.

The Civil War (1861-1865)

- By 1861 various social, political, economic, and cultural factors made conflict between the North and South inevitable
- The North had numerous industrial, transportation, and financial advantages that they used throughout the Civil War.
- The Confederate States of America was created in February 1861; the fact that these states were organized as a confederacy had several disadvantages that would become obvious as the war progressed.
- Success for the Confederacy depended on European aid; Southerners overestimated the dependence of Europe on Southern crops (King Cotton)
- Confederate generals proved much more competent than their Union counterparts in several key battles in the first years of the war.
- By late 1862 the war had produced severe effects on the home fronts; food shortages were occurring in the South, and President Lincoln imposed martial law in several locations and suspended the writ of habeas corpus in the cases of some of his political opponents.
- The Emancipation Proclamation provided a moral justification for Northerners to continue the war and kept Europeans from joining the Southern cause.
- The war shifted decisively in favor of the North in 1863, with the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg proving to be critical victories for the North.
- The surrender of the Confederacy in April of 1865 was caused by a severe lack of morale, manpower, and economic stability in the South in addition to the “total war” concept of fighting initiated by Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

The Era of Reconstruction (1865-1877)

- Any plan to assimilate the Southern states back into the Union after the Civil War would major difficulties; a problem was determining the appropriate post-war status of former supporters of the Confederacy

- The plans for Reconstruction proposed by Abraham Lincoln, the Radical Republicans, and Andrew Johnson all varied dramatically.
- Radical Republicans instituted policies to improve the political and economic status of former slaves; this created great resentment in other segments of Southern Society.
- The impeachment of Andrew Johnson went forward because of major disagreements over policy between Johnson and the Radical Republicans in Congress.
- The Thirteenth (abolished slavery), Fourteenth (equal rights under the law), and Fifteenth (voting rights for black males) established a framework by which Southern States could rejoin the union.
- Profits made by carpetbaggers (northerners who came South) and scalawags (Southern Republicans) further angered the traditional elements of Southern Society; many in the South, including members of the Ku Klux Klan, felt great resentment towards the carpetbaggers and scalawags and towards the political and economic power now held by some Southern blacks.
- The Compromise of 1877 officially ended Reconstruction in the South; as Union troops left, blacks were again reduced to the status of second-class citizens.

Western Expansion and Its Impact on American Character (1860-1895)

- The Homestead Act and the Morrill Land-Grant Act encouraged thousands to go westward to acquire land for farming.
- Farming on the Great Plains proved to be very difficult and was oftentimes accomplished by help from one's neighbor; many farmers were not successful on the Great Plains.
- Bonanza farms were part of a transformation of agriculture that began in the late 1860s.
- Western states were the first states where women received the right to vote.
- Mining and lumbering also attracted many settlers to the West.
- Native American tribes were gradually forced off their lands because of American expansion to the west; some resistance to this by Native Americans did take place, such as at the Battle of Little Bighorn and through the Ghost Dances.
- The 1887 Dawes Act did much to break up the remaining Native American tribal lands.
- American farmers organized beginning in the late 1860s through the Grange, through the Farmer's Alliances, and eventually through the Populist party.
- Dime-store novels of the era and the Turner Thesis present contrasting views of western settlement and its overall impact on American society.

America Transformed into an Industrial Giant (1870-1910)

- The industrial growth that occurred in the United States during this era made the United States the major industrial producer of the world.

- The industrial growth was largely based on the expansion of heavy industry; the availability of steel was critical to this expansion.
- Taylorism and the assembly line created major changes in the workplace for factory workers.
- Horizontal consolidation and vertical integration allowed businesses to expand dramatically during this era; Standard Oil (John D. Rockefeller) and U.S. Steel (Andrew Carnegie) are the best examples of this type of expansion.
- Andrew Carnegie's "Gospel of Wealth" proclaimed it was the duty of the wealthy to return large amounts of their wealth back to the community.
- American workers began to unionize in this era by joining the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, and the Industrial Workers of the World. Because of intimidation by company bosses and the publicity that came from several unsuccessful strikes, union membership remained low, even into the twentieth century.
- The impact of the "new immigrants" from eastern and southern Europe on American cities and in the workplace was immense.
- The American city became transformed in this era, with new methods of transportation allowing many from the middle and upper class to move to suburbia and still work in the city.
- Political life at the state and city level during this era was dominated by various political machines, although reforms were instituted at the federal level and in some states to create a professional civil service system.

The Rise of American Imperialism (1890-1913)

- America became the economic and imperialistic equal of the major European powers by the beginning of the twentieth century.
- The United States acquired territory in the years immediately following the Civil War, but then entered a period where little foreign expansion took place.
- Americans and natives friendly to America increased the economic and political control of Hawaii by the United States, signaling a new trend in foreign policy.
- America desired trade in China; these desires were represented in John Hay's Open-Door policy.
- Economic, political, and strategic motives pushed America to pursue imperialist goals in the 1890s.
- Many in this era also opposed imperialism, often on moral or humanitarian grounds.
- The Spanish-American War allowed American imperialistic impulses to flourish; religious figures also supported imperialism in this era.
- Spanish incompetence and the strength of the American navy were important factors in the American victory in the Spanish-American War.

- America was deeply conflicted but finally decided to annex the Philippines, with three years of fighting between Americans and Filipino rebels to follow.
- The Panama Canal was built by the United States after Americans encourage a Panamanian revolt against their Colombian leaders. It was built for military, strategic, and economic reasons; its construction began in 1904 and was completed in 1914.
- The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine increased American control over Latin America.

The Progressive Era (1895-1914)

- Political, economic, and social inequities and problems existed in America in the late 1890s, and the Progressive movement developed to attempt to address some of those problems.
- The Progressive movement did not have a unifying set of goals or leaders.
- Progressives shared some of the same critiques of American society as the socialists, but wished to reform and not attack the American system.
- Progressive reformers were closely tied to the Social Gospel movement of the Protestant church; progressivism and religious fervor often marched hand in hand.
- Muckraking magazines and newspapers of the era oftentimes created and published the progressive agenda.
- Many progressives were determined to reform city government and the services provided by city governments and political machines.
- Progressive political reforms included the initiative process, the referendum, recall and the direct primary.
- Hull House was an example of a settlement house copied by reformers across the country (think community center).
- The presidency of Theodore Roosevelt was a high point of progressivism; Roosevelt's "Square Deal" included many progressive measures.
- Progressive policies were sometimes challenged by Roosevelt's successor, William Howard Taft; the advent of World War I blunted the progressive reform impulse for many.
- Progressivism succeeded in achieving some of its goals but fell short in aiding farmers and minorities in America.

The U.S. and World War I

- World War I greatly impacted the American mind-set and America's role in world affairs; this was the first time that America became directly involved in affairs taking place on the European continent.

- Many Americans expressed support for the Allied powers from the beginning of the war; German U-boat (submarine) attacks solidified American support for Britain and France.
- The sinking of the *Lusitania* and the Zimmermann note (to Mexico) did much to intensify American anger against Germany.
- Germany's decision to utilize unrestricted submarine warfare caused President Wilson to call for war in 1917; Wilson claimed that this policy violated America's rights as a neutral power.
- The American Expeditionary Force (U.S. soldiers in World War I) did much to aid the Allied war effort, both militarily and psychologically.
- The federal government did much to mobilize the American population at home for the war effort; Liberty Bonds were sold, voluntary rationing took place, and propaganda was used to encourage Americans to oppose the "Hun" however possible.
- Many blacks moved to northern cities to work in factories during World War I (the Great Migration); the migration would continue through the 1920s.
- Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points met opposition from French and English leaders at the Paris Peace Conference; many of them had to be abandoned to create the League of Nations.
- The Treaty of Versailles was opposed by U.S. Senators who felt that America should pursue an isolationist policy after the war. As a result, the treaty was never signed by the United States and the United States never joined the League of Nations.
- Many European leaders expected America to be active as a leader in world affairs after World War I. Instead, America adopted neo-isolationist policies that lasted until America entered World War II.

The Beginning of Modern America (1920s)

- A consumer economy was created in the 1920s on a level unprecedented in American history.
- Advertising, newspapers, radio and motion pictures provided new forms of entertainment in the 1920s and helped to create a uniform national culture.
- The changes of the 1920s were resisted by many in small-town/rural America, creating many of the cultural conflicts of the decade.
- Assembly line techniques and the ideas of scientific management of Frederick W. Taylor helped to make industrial production in the 1920s quicker and more efficient, ultimately creating cheaper goods.
- Installment buying helped to fuel consumer buying in the 1920s.
- The Republican party controlled the White House, the Congress, and the Supreme Court in the 1920s, generally sponsoring government policies friendly to big business.
- The scandals of the Harding Administration were among the worst in history.

- Resentment against blacks existed in both the American South and North in the years after World War I, resulting in race riots in the North and lynchings and the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan in the South.
- The Red Scare of 1919 and 1920 resulted in the suspension of civil liberties and deportation of hundreds of immigrants, the vast majority of which had committed no crime.
- Nativist fears also resulted in restrictive quota legislation passed in the early 1920s.
- Cultural conflicts between urban and rural Americans also developed over the issues of Prohibition and the teaching of evolution in schools (resulting in the Scopes Trial in Tennessee).
- During the Jazz Age many Americans rejected the prominent business values of the decade and turned to jazz, alcohol, and looser sexual mores for personal fulfillment.
- The flapper was the single most prominent image of the Jazz Age.
- Writers of the Lost Generation expressed extreme disillusionment with American society of the era; writers of the Harlem Renaissance expressed the opinions of American blacks concerning American culture.

The Great Depression and New Deal

- The Great Depression had numerous long-lasting effects on American society.
- Franklin Roosevelt was the first activist president of the twentieth century who used the power of the federal government to help those who could not help themselves.
- The Great Depression's origins lay in economic problems of the late 1920s.
- The 1929 stock market crash was caused by, among other things, speculation on the part of investors and buying stocks "on the margin."
- The stock market crash began to affect the economy almost immediately, and its effects were felt by almost all by 1931.
- Herbert Hoover did act to end the Depression, but believed that voluntary actions by both business and labor would lead America out of its economic difficulties.
- Franklin Roosevelt won the 1932 election by promising "The New Deal" to the American people and by promising to act in a decisive manner.
- Suffering was felt across American society; many in the Dust Bowl were forced to leave their farms.
- During the first hundred days, Roosevelt restored confidence in the banks, established the Civilian Conservation Corps, stabilized farm prices, and attempted to stabilize industry through the National Industrial Recovery Act.
- During the Second New Deal, the WPA was created and the Social Security Act was enacted; this was the most long-lasting piece of legislation from the New Deal.

- Roosevelt was able to craft a political coalition of urban whites, Southerners, union members and blacks that kept the Democratic party in power through the 1980s.
- The New Deal had opponents from the left who said it didn't do enough to alleviate the effects of the Depression and opponents from the right who said the New Deal was socialist in nature.
- Roosevelt's 1937 plan to pack the Supreme Court and the recession of 1937 demonstrated that the New Deal programs were not entirely successful in ending the Great Depression.
- Many Americans turned to the radio and the movies for relief during the Depression.

World War II

- War production for World War II pulled America out of the Great Depression.
- World War II turned America into one of the two major world powers.
- America continued to pursue a foreign policy of isolationism throughout the 1930s.
- Lend-lease and other measures by Franklin Roosevelt brought America into the war on the side of England one year before America actually entered the war.
- The Pearl Harbor attack was part of an overall Japanese strategy, and it mobilized American public opinion for war.
- Battles fought by American GIs in Africa, Italy and Western Europe were crucial in creating a "second front" and important in the eventual defeat of Hitler.
- Decisions made at the Yalta Conference did much to influence the post-war world.
- Superior American air and sea power ultimately led to the defeat of the Japanese in the Pacific.
- The decision to drop the atomic bomb was based on the calculations of the human cost of an American invasion of Japan and as retaliation for Japanese actions during the war.
- Americans sacrificed greatly during the war and contributed through rationing, extra work, and the purchase of war bonds to the Allied victory.
- American women contributed greatly to the war effort, especially by taking industrial jobs that had been held by departed soldiers.
- Blacks continued to meet discrimination both in and out of the armed services, as did the Japanese. Japanese citizens from the West Coast were forced to move to internment camps. The American government in 1988 issued a formal apology for these actions.

The Origins of the Cold War (1945-1960)

- Winning the Cold War was the central goal of American policy for 45 years.
- The economic impact of the Cold War on American industry was enormous; many plants continued making military hardware throughout the Cold War.

- The debate over who “started” the Cold War has occupied the minds of historians since 1945.
- Decisions made at the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences ushered in Cold War tensions between the World War II victors.
- The concept of the “iron curtain” was first articulated by Winston Churchill in 1946.
- The American strategy of containment motivated many foreign policy decisions in the Cold War era.
- The Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and NATO united America and Western Europe both militarily and economically against the Soviet Union and its satellites.
- America’s resolve to oppose communism was tested during the Berlin Crisis and the Korean War.
- 1949 was a critical year in the Cold War, as the Soviet Union got the atomic bomb mainland China turned communist.
- Some Americans feared the communists had infiltrated the American government and the entertainment industry; investigations by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and Senator Joseph McCarthy were dedicated to “rooting out” communists in America.
- Under President Dwight Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles formulated an aggressive foreign policy that would not just contain communism, but also attempt to roll communism back whenever possible.
- During the Eisenhower administration, crises in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America further tested American resolve.
- Both the Soviet Union and the United States built up their nuclear arsenals to dangerous levels in this era.

The 1950s: Prosperity and Anxiety

- The 1950s is viewed by some as a decade of complacency and by others as a decade of growing ferment.
- Large-scale economic growth continued throughout the 1950s, spurred by Cold War defense needs, automobile sales, housing sales and the sale of appliances.
- The advertising industry did much to shape consumer desires in the 1950s.
- The GI Bill gave many veterans low-income mortgages and the possibility of a college education after World War II.
- Many families moved to suburbia in the 1950s; critics maintained that this increased the conformity of American society.
- During the baby boom the birthrate drastically increased; the baby boom lasted from 1945 to 1962

- Presidents Truman and Eisenhower were both dwarfed by the memory of the personality and the policies of Franklin Roosevelt.
- Jackie Robinson did much to advance the cause of the rights in the post-war era.
- *Brown v. Board of Education* was a tremendous victory for those pushing for school integration in the 1950s.
- The Montgomery bus boycott and the events at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, demonstrated the techniques that would prove to be successful in defeating segregation.
- Many men and many women felt great frustration with suburban family life of the 1950s.
- 1950s teenagers are often called the “silent generation,” although James Dean, the Beat generation of writers, and Elvis Presley all attracted followers among young people who did rebel in the 1950s.

American in an Era of Turmoil (1960-1975)

- The events that dramatically altered America including protests and cultural rebellion in the 1960s are seen by some in a positive light and others in a negative light.
- John Kennedy projected a new image of presidential leadership, although few of his domestic programs were actually passed by Congress.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis was the critical foreign policy crisis of the Kennedy administration, and may have brought the world close to world war.
- After Kennedy’s death Lyndon Johnson was able to get Congress to pass his Great Society domestic programs, which included Head Start and Medicare.
- Nonviolence remained the major tactic of the civil rights movement throughout the 1960s, although some black leaders began to advocate “black power.”
- Women strove to achieve equal rights in the 1960s through the National Organization for Women and consciousness-raising groups.
- Lyndon Johnson determined early in his presidency that an escalation in the war in Vietnam would be necessary, and more materials and men went to Vietnam from 1965-1968.
- The military in Vietnam was frustrated by the military tactics of the enemy and by faltering support at home.
- The Tet Offensive did much to turn American public opinion against the war.
- Student protesters held increasingly large demonstrations against the war; SDS was the main organization of student activists.
- Members of the counterculture advocated a personal and not a political rebellion in this era.

- Richard Nixon removed American troops from Vietnam through the policy of Vietnamization; the South Vietnamese government fell two years after American troops departed.

Decline and Rebirth (1968-1988)

- One of the low points of American political life in the twentieth century was the Watergate Affair.
- Richard Nixon's greatest accomplishments were in the field of foreign policy, as he crafted new relationships with both China and the Soviet Union.
- The Watergate Affair developed from the paranoid view of American politics held by Richard Nixon and several of his top aides.
- Gerald Ford's presidency was tainted from the beginning by his pardoning of Richard Nixon.
- Ford faced huge economic problems as president; during his presidency America suffered from both inflation and unemployment.
- Jimmy Carter and many politicians of the post-Watergate era emerged victorious by campaigning as outsiders.
- President Carter's outsider status hurt him, especially in terms of getting legislation passed in Congress.
- Carter demonstrated his diplomatic skills by forging the Camp David Accords; he was unable to negotiate a release of the American hostages in Iran, and this may have cost him the presidency.
- Ronald Reagan was elected as a conservative and restored the pride of many Americans in America.
- Reagan practiced "supply-side" economics, which benefited the American economy but which also helped to create large deficits.
- Under Reagan the gap between the wealthiest Americans and the poorest Americans increased.
- Reagan reinstituted Cold War rhetoric but later created cordial relations with the leaders of the Soviet Union.
- Reagan's lack of direct control over the implementation of presidential policies was demonstrated by the Iran-Contra Affair.
- The legacy of Ronald Reagan is a large one.

Prosperity and New World Order (1988-Present)

- The ability to manage domestic issues were critical for a president's political success in the post-Cold War era.

- George Bush alienated many conservatives, especially when he broke his “no new taxes” pledge.
- The end of the Cold War can be attributed to American policy decisions and to weaknesses in the infrastructure of the Soviet Union.
- George Bush skillfully managed the “Desert Storm” operation against Iraq.
- Bill Clinton presented himself as a “New Democrat” and concerned with economic issues in the 1992 presidential campaign; these were important factors in his victory.
- Clinton’s failure on national health insurance helped pave the way for large Republican gains in the 1994 congressional elections.
- Clinton and Newt Gingrich were formidable opponents in the budget battles of the mid-1990s.
- The Whitewater Affair and investigations of the personal life of Bill Clinton were the defining political events of the second term of Clinton’s presidency.
- George W. Bush’s election demonstrated the difficulties of arriving at a “final tally” in any election and was finally secured by the intervention of the United States Supreme Court.