**What is the role of history in society? Should we use the study of history to celebrate our past? Should we use it to look critically at the United States’ decisions over time? Or is there another reason we should study the past?**

The role of history serves many purposes in society. It serves as a recollection of past events, a guide for future actions, and a way for different cultures to understand each other. History should be used to celebrate our past, but it should also be used to examine past decisions critically, like those of the United States. By understanding history, we can learn from mistakes, understand the causes of current issues, and make better and more informed decisions about the future.

**In 1865, a former Confederate general noted that “the emancipated slaves own nothing, because nothing but freedom has been given to them.” Would this be an accurate assessment of Reconstruction twelve years later? Why or why not?**

Twelve years into Reconstruction, the statement that emancipated slaves owned "nothing but freedom" remained partially true. Although the Freedmen's Bureau was established to help former slaves transition to freedom, including assistance in acquiring land, efforts were largely unsuccessful. Many freed slaves ended up working as sharecroppers on the same plantations where they were enslaved, trapped in a cycle of debt and poverty.

**How did expansion of the United States transform the West socially, economically, and environmentally?**

The expansion of the United States into the West during the 19th century had profound social, economic, and environmental effects. Socially, it displaced many Native American tribes while it also created a unique blend of cultures. Economically, it led to new industries like mining and railroads. Environmentally, expansion led to changes in land use, causing deforestation, the extinction or endangerment of many species, and destruction of natural landscapes.

**How did immigration trends and changes to work affect Americans in the early part of the 20th Century?**

Immigration trends and changes to work in the early part of the 20th Century had profound effects on Americans. Many immigrants provided cheap labor for growing industries, which contributed to America's fast paced industrialization. Also, competition for jobs and cultural differences led to social tension, xenophobia, and the passage of restrictive immigration laws. The rise of labor unions also started to improve working conditions and wages for many American workers.

**In your view, did the American Wars of Empire succeed in making life better for the people of the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico?**

The American Wars of Empire had mixed effects on the lives of the people in the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. While the United States introduced reforms such as improved infrastructure, education, and health services, they also exerted control over these territories, often suppressing local protest and limiting political freedoms. While the lives of some people were made better, it is hard to say whether it was made better for the people in general.

**In what ways did the Progressive Era make society more and less democratic?**

The Progressive Era was interesting because it both democratized and restricted American society. For example, reforms like the introduction women's suffrage expanded democratic participation. However, other aspects of the era, such as prohibition, represented limitations on individual rights and freedoms.

**Woodrow Wilson claimed the US entered World War I to make the world safe for democracy. To what extent did democracy flourish both at home and abroad during the war and in its aftermath?**

Woodrow Wilson's claim that the US entered World War I to make the world safe for democracy had mixed results. At home, the war helped the women's suffrage movement which expanded democracy. It also led to limitations on civil liberties, such as restrictions on free speech through the Espionage Act and Sedition Act.

**Do you think people experienced the 1920s as more liberating (ie experiencing more freedom) or more confining? Give specific examples to support your point of view.**

The extent to which people experienced the 1920s as liberating or confining largely depended on their social, economic, and racial backgrounds. For some, like women who benefited from suffrage and new social norms (the flapper culture), and those who prospered in the economic boom, it was a liberating decade. However, for African-Americans facing segregation, immigrants subjected to xenophobic policies, and rural communities impacted by the agricultural depression, the 1920s could be viewed as more confining.

**In what ways did Americans’ views on the role of government change during the 1930s?**

During the 1930s, in response to the Great Depression, Americans' views on the role of government changed significantly. Many began to see the need for greater governmental intervention in the economy, leading to the development of the New Deal programs. These policies marked a shift toward a more active government, responsible for providing social safety nets and regulating economic activity.