APUSH STUDY GUIDE: Period 7-1890–1945

Readings (Textbook and Zinn Only)
• Read textbook Chapter 19 and answer “Recall and Reflect” questions (Due 2/8)
• Read textbook Chapter 20 and answer “Recall and Reflect” questions (Due 2/15)
• Read textbook Chapter 21 and answer “Recall and Reflect” questions (Due 3/2)
• Read textbook Chapter 22 and answer “Recall and Reflect” questions (Due 3/8)
• Read textbook Chapter 23 and answer “Recall and Reflect” questions (Due 3/9)

One-Pager
• Choose one topic from Key Terms, Locations, & Vocabulary below (Due 2/6)

Key-Terms, Locations, & Vocabulary (Due 9/23)

3. Belligerents 15. Internal migration 27. Populism
5. Feminism 17. Isolationism 29. Red scare
8. Culture wars 20. Liberalism 32. Victorian morality
10. Economic collectivism 22. Regulatory liberalism 34. Welfare capitalism

American politics, society, and global presence were changing as the world began to come into conflict, the involvement in which would catapult America to the status of world power.

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.

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.
   A. 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.
   B. 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.
   C. Preservationists and conservationists both supported the establishment of national parks while advocating different government responses to the overuse of natural resources.
   D. 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.

A. 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.
B. 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.
C. 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.

I. 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.

A. 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.
B. Migration gave rise to new forms of art and literature that expressed ethnic and regional identities, such as the Harlem Renaissance movement.
C. 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.
D. In the 1920s, cultural and political controversies emerged as Americans debated gender roles, modernism, science, religion, and issues related to race and immigration.

II. Economic pressures, global events, and political developments caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both international and internal migrants.

A. 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.
B. 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.
C. 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.
D. 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.

Thematic Question Review
1890-1917 (Due 3/6)

American and National Identity

1. What accounted for increased ethnic and racial tensions in American cities in the early years of the twentieth century?

2. What arguments were voiced by both black and white leaders about the rights and the roles of African Americans in the years leading to World War I?

3. Why and how did the relationships between men and women change between 1890 and 1920?

4. Why were women often in the forefront of Progressive reforms?

5. Why did gay subcultures emerge in American cities in the early twentieth century?

Work, Exchange, and Technology

1. Why was the coinage issue so controversial in the years leading to the twentieth century and even beyond, into the 1930s?

2. How were class differences reflected in the use of new technologies in the years prior to World War I?

3. What were the milestones in the struggle between American corporations and American workers in the years before World War I?

4. What role did Progressive presidents play in reforming the American economic system?

5. Progressive reforms that protected workers often turned out to be a double-edged sword. Why?

6. In what ways was the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire a watershed event in American history?
7. What were the successes and failures of the American labor movement in the years prior to World War I?

Politics and Power
1. What did the Populists demand of government, and how responsive was government to the needs of rural Americans?
2. Why was it that the Populists garnered so much support in the 1890s only to fade from the national political landscape a decade later?
3. In what ways did the Populist movement of the late nineteenth century pave the way for the progressive era of the early twentieth century?
4. What new challenges did American cities face at the turn of the century, and how did government address these problems?
5. Many scholars argue that progressivism was largely a middle-class movement. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
6. Government intervention was not the only approach used to combat the problems facing urban America. How successful were private individuals and organizations in effecting change in American cities?
7. There is an argument that a major shift in Republican policy occurred when Theodore Roosevelt was in the White House. To what degree were Roosevelt’s policies a major departure from those of his nineteenth-century Gilded Age predecessors?
8. In what ways were the policies and actions of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson similar? Which president better deserves to be called “progressive”?
9. Despite restrictions on the voting rights of blacks and immigrants, government actions in the early twentieth century gave more power to some voters. What changes strengthened democracy in the years prior to World War I?

America in the world
1. What caused Americans to embrace imperialism in the late nineteenth century, only to reject it in the early twentieth century and into the 1930s?
2. Why did the United States go to war against Spain in 1898?
3. How wise do you think it was for the United States to intervene in Cuba and the Philippines?
4. How did Theodore Roosevelt’s foreign policy reflect the assertion of masculinity that was so prevalent in American culture?
5. We often think of American intervention in other nations to be primarily military in nature. In what other ways did the United States involve itself in political and economic life of other countries, especially in the Western Hemisphere, in the years before World War I?

Culture and Society
1. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, America was becoming “modern.” What did it mean to become modern, and in what ways did science, religion, literature, art, consumerism, popular culture, and feminism embrace modernity?
2. How were tensions between science and faith manifested in this period, and how did Americans attempt to reconcile “fact worship” and traditional religious beliefs?
3. How did the realist and naturalist writers at the turn of the century portray life in America? What accounts for this change in focus from previous literary portrayals of America?
4. How did the new music of the turn of the century, ragtime and blues, both reflect and shape American culture?
5. What is the difference between popular and high culture, and how did urban life in the early twentieth century reflect these differences?
6. How did the emergence of mass culture affect the delivery of the news to Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
7. How do you define progressivism, and why were Progressives such an important force in the early twentieth century?
1917-1929 (Due 3/10)
American and National Identity
1. How was the United States able to mobilize for war so quickly?
2. What contributions did African Americans, Native Americans, and women make to the war effort?
3. How did World War I influence the debates over the role of women in the decade after this war?
4. Shortly after World War I ended, a journalist said, “The World War has accentuated all our differences.” In what ways was this true in postwar America?

Work, Exchange, and Technology
1. Why was the automobile such a significant technological development?
2. What were the most important characteristics of the consumer culture that emerged in the 1920s? Account for the emergence of consumerism in the 1920s and explain how it differed from the consumer culture of the late nineteenth century.

Politics and Power
1. What were the most persuasive arguments in support or and in opposition to women’s suffrage?
2. What arguments were made in support of limited government in the 1920s? What specific government actions supported limited government, and which increased the scope of government?
3. In what ways were the presidencies of Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover different from those of Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson? Account for the changes that occurred in the role of the presidency in the years from 1900 to 1929.
4. How did the United States justify limitations placed on individual liberty during World War I?
5. Why did so many Americans oppose President Wilson’s plans for the postwar world?

America in the world
1. How was President Wilson able to reconcile his idealism with his decision to take the United States into war in 1917?
2. To what extent were Wilson’s Fourteen Points both idealistic and a reflection of global political and economic realities?
3. How was the United States able to quickly mobilize for war in the years just prior to 1917 and 1941?
4. In what ways did World War I set the stage for the outbreak of war only two decades later, in 1939?

Culture and Society
1. What were the battlefields of the “culture wars” of the 1920s? How were these conflicts fought and to what extent were they resolved?
2. The conflicts of the 1920s can also be viewed through the lens of the tension between tradition and change. What caused this tension and what were some examples?
3. What accounted for the burst of creativity we call the Harlem Renaissance?
4. What are some examples of the ways that critics of modern society in the 1920s challenged the prevailing views of war, technology, corporate power, and conformity?

1929-1945 (Due 3/28)
American and National Identity
1. How did the Depression exacerbate the struggles that Mexican Americans and Native Americans confronted?
2. Despite the fact that women and minorities gained relatively little from New Deal programs, many women and African Americans became part of the Roosevelt coalition. Why did this happen?
3. Wartime work for women “combined new opportunities with old constraints.” What new opportunities did the war bring for women, and in what ways were they still constrained?
4. How did World War II influence debates about race and ethnicity during and after the war?

Work, Exchange, and Technology
1. How did urban workers and farmers respond to the challenges they faced after the collapse of the stock market in 1929?
2. How did economic forces affect the American political landscape in the years between the two world wars?
3. What steps did Franklin Roosevelt’s administration take to improve the American economy and the lives of workers?
4. How did the American workplace change when the United States went to war in 1941?
5. What impact did the development of the atomic bomb by the United States have on the American economy and on American culture in the decades following World War II?

Migration and Settlement
1. As cities grew in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, what new forms of amusement appeared? What functions did these new activities serve?
2. What efforts were made to help the poor as they became increasingly visible in American cities?
3. What demographic changes occurred in the United States as a result of American entry into each of the world wars? How did these demographic shifts affect the economic, political and social fabric of the nations?

Politics and Power
1. What are two competing visions of government? Compare these visions and analyze how the battle between them shaped American politics from the 1930s to the present.
2. What personal beliefs were at the heart of Herbert Hoover’s response to the Great Depression? Why was his response to the problems confronting the nation considered inadequate?
3. In what ways did the depression and the New Deal alter the structure and power of the federal government?
4. What groups joined the Roosevelt coalition, and why did they feel that their interests were served by the Roosevelt presidency?
5. What new challenges to his leadership did Roosevelt face in his second administration? How did he confront these challenges?
6. How effectively did Franklin Roosevelt and Congress address the crises brought about by the Great Depression?
7. In what ways did the Great Depression and New Deal contribute to a realignment of American political parties?
8. What were the characteristics of the American welfare state that was established during the 1930s, and why was this development so significant?

America in the world
1. Despite the growing threat of fascism, why were so many Americans opposed to intervention in Europe? How did President Roosevelt overcome that opposition?
2. What wartime strategies were most effective in achieving victory for the United States and its allies?
3. In what ways was World War II also fought on the home front?
4. In what ways were both World War I and World War II turning points in American history?
5. In what ways did World War II hasten “profound social change” and expand the scope and authority of the federal government?
6. Despite having other options, why did Harry Truman opt to use the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
7. How did actions taken during World War II lay the groundwork for the Cold War?

Geography and the Environment
1. How did urban reforms change the landscape of American cities in the years prior to World War I?
2. What milestones in the environmental movement were due to the actions of Progressives?
3. What environmental and geographic features contributed to the demographic changes of the World War II years?

Culture and Society
1. In what ways did New Deal programs facilitate “art for the millions”?
2. How did beliefs held by many Americans before and during World War II influence policies toward Jews in Europe and Japanese Americans in the United States?