From the College Board Content Outline for Period 8

Main Idea: After World War II, the United States grappled with prosperity and unfamiliar international responsibilities, while struggling to live up to its ideals.

Key Concept 8.1: The United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and attempting to defend a position of global leadership, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences.

Key Concept 8.2: Liberalism, based on anticommunism abroad and a firm belief in the efficacy of governmental and especially federal power to achieve social goals at home, reached its apex in the mid-1960s and generated a variety of political and cultural responses.

Key Concept 8.3: Postwar economic, demographic, and technological changes had a far-reaching impact on American society, politics, and the environment.

Objectives:

- Identify and analyze the causes and effects of the Cold War tensions in the 1960s.
- Trace the growth of US involvement in Vietnam and the impact of the war on US society and politics.
- Evaluate significant changes in Civil Rights under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.
- Compare JFK’s New Frontier & LBJ’s Great Society reform programs.
- Describe American culture, counterculture and the anti-war movement in the 1960s.

Outside Readings and resources

⇒ Henretta, Chapter 25, pp. 830-833, Chapter 28 pp. 904-926


Background Information

In 1945, one major war (World War II) ended and another began. The Cold War lasted about 45 years. There were no direct military campaigns between the two main antagonists, the United States and the Soviet Union. Yet billions of dollars and millions of lives were lost in the fight.

The United States became the leader of the free-market capitalist world. America and its allies struggled to keep the communist, totalitarian Soviet Union from expanding into Europe, Asia, and Africa. Theaters as remote as Korea and Vietnam, Cuba and Grenada, Afghanistan and Angola, became battlegrounds between the two ideologies. One postwar pattern quickly became clear. The United States would not retreat into its former isolationist stance as long as there was a Cold War to wage.

Berlin, Germany's wartime capital was the prickliest of all issues that separated the United States and Soviet Union during the late 1940s. The city was divided into four zones of occupation like the rest of Germany. However, the entire city lay within the Soviet zone of occupation. Once the nation of East Germany was established, the Allied sections of the capital known as West Berlin became an island of democracy and capitalism behind the Iron Curtain. [http://www.ushistory.org/us/52a.asp]
After World War II, the United States grappled with prosperity and unfamiliar international responsibilities, while struggling to live up to its ideals.

1. The Election of 1960...

Nixon...

Kennedy...

Campaign...

Results...

What was the key issue in this election? (besides JFK’s good looks?!)  

What role did technology play in this election?

JFK was the first Catholic president as well as the youngest at 43 years of age. Nixon was only 47. What is significant about their “youth?”

2. Domestic Policy 594

Characterize the cabinet that JFK created (Robert McNamara, Robert Kennedy)

New Frontier Programs ~ Goals and challenges

JFK and his wife Jackie were idolized by the media and their fairy tale life was nicknamed Camelot. What does this reveal about American culture in the modern age?
As the United States focused on containing communism, it faced increasingly complex foreign policy issues, including decolonization, shifting international alignments and regional conflicts, and global economic and environmental changes.

Cold War competition extended to Latin America, where the U.S. supported non-Communist regimes with varying levels of commitment to democracy.

3. Foreign Affairs 595

Peace Corps, Alliance for Progress, Trade Expansion Act ~ the “soft” side of diplomacy.

Concerned by expansionist Communist ideology and Soviet repression, the United States sought to contain communism through a variety of measures, including major military engagements in Korea and Vietnam.

Cold War competition extended to Latin America, where the U.S. supported non-Communist regimes with varying levels of commitment to democracy.

Bay of Pigs Invasion 1961 ~ Purpose and reasons for failure?

Berlin, Germany’s wartime capital was the prickliest of all issues that separated the United States and Soviet Union during the late 1940s. The city was divided into four zones of occupation like the rest of Germany. However, the entire city lay within the Soviet zone of occupation. Once the nation of East Germany was established, the Allied sections of the capital known as West Berlin became an island of democracy and capitalism behind the Iron Curtain.

Berlin Wall 1961. How did Berlin represent the conflict between Western democracy and Soviet communist dictatorship?

Khrushchev, Kennedy

Cuban Missile Crisis (CMC) 1962 ~ Causes, US Response, and positive impacts?

How might the Bay of Pigs and CMC have negatively affected US-Cuban relations?
I. JFK’s New Frontier 593-597

As the United States focused on containing communism, it faced increasingly complex foreign policy issues, including decolonization, shifting international alignments and regional conflicts, and global economic and environmental changes.

Cold War competition extended to Latin America, where the U.S. supported non-Communist regimes with varying levels of commitment to democracy.

Flexible Response. What prompted JFK’s move to this defense policy? (Dulles & massive retaliation, McNamara, )

4. Assassination in Dallas 1963 (Oswald, the Warren Commission) p.597

II. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON’S (LBJ) GREAT SOCIETY p.597-599

Liberalism reached its zenith with Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society efforts to use federal power to end inatute poverty, and address other social issues while attacking communism abroad.

In what ways did LBJ continue the efforts of JFK?

1. The War on Poverty

How did The Other America help prompt federal aid to the unemployed and the poor? (OEO, Head Start, Job Corps)

2. Election of 1964. Barry Goldwater ran against LBJ in 1964. What was the key ideological issue dividing the Republicans and the Democrats in this election? What did LBJ’s victory enable him to do?

3. Great Society Reforms

For in your time we have the opportunity to move not only toward the rich society and the powerful society, but upward to the Great Society. The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time....But that is just the beginning. The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents. LBJ, Commencement Address at University of Michigan, May 1964

What is the main idea of LBJ’s speech excerpt?
II. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON’S (LBJ) GREAT SOCIETY p.597-599

Liberal ideas found expression in Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, which attempted to use federal legislation and programs to end racial discrimination, eliminate poverty, and address other social issues while attacking communism abroad.

Despite the perception of overall affluence in postwar America, advocates raised awareness of the prevalence and persistence of poverty as a national problem, sparking efforts to address this issue.

3. Great Society Reforms (continued)

Explain how the Great Society attacked poverty

Explain how the GS tried to improve education

Explain the GS’s efforts to expand health care programs

Unsafe at Any Speed & Silent Spring

What are the alternative views about the effectiveness of the Great Society? P.599

Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political successes in ending segregation, although progress toward equality was slow and halting.


Civil Rights Act

24th Amendment

Voting Rights Act
III. CIVIL RIGHTS AND CONFLICT, pp. 599-602

Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political successes in ending segregation, although progress toward equality was slow and halting.

During and after World War II, civil rights activists and leaders, most notably Martin Luther King Jr., combatted racial discrimination utilizing a variety of strategies, including legal challenges, direct action, and nonviolent protest tactics.

Kennedy’s Actions in response to Southern opposition. James Meredith, George Wallace

1. The Leadership of Dr. MLK, Jr. Explain King’s role & impact in each of the following

“Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

March on Washington

(Selma) to Montgomery March

Continuing white resistance slowed efforts at desegregation, sparking a series of social and political crises across the nation, while tensions among civil rights activists over tactical and philosophical issues increased after 1965.

2. Black Muslims and Malcolm X. How did X’s approach contrast with MLK’s approach? Black nationalism/separatism, Nation of Islam, Organization of Afro-American Units (OAAU)


What is the connection between the Kerner Commission findings and the riots of the 1965 & 1968? “Burn, baby, burn”, de jure segregation, assassination of MLK, Jr.
IV. The WARREN COURT AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS  PP. 602-603

Liberal ideas found expression in Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, which attempted to use federal legislation and programs to end racial discrimination, eliminate poverty, and address other social issues. A series of Supreme Court decisions expanded civil rights and individual liberties.

How did the Warren court differ from previous courts in its focus? [read intro to section & the paragraph after “Griswold v. CT”]

1. Criminal Justice. Note the years of the cases & the court’s decision

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

Miranda v. Arizona

2. Reapportionment. How did Baker v. Carr uphold the “one man, one vote” principle?

3. Freedom of Expression and Privacy

Read the 1st Amendment and note the 6 restrictions on Congress’ power (internet search)

Engel v. Vitale

Griswold v. Connecticut

V. SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS AND CULTURAL MOVEMENTS (New Left, Counterculture, Sexual Revolution) p. 603-605

Feminists and young people who participated in the counterculture of the 1960s rejected many of the social, economic, and political values of their parents’ generation, introduced greater informality into U.S. culture, and advocated changes in sexual norms.

1. Student movement and the “New Left”:

SDS & Port Huron Statement

New Left & Free Speech Movement

The Weathermen

In 1960, nearly 50 percent of America’s population was under 18 years of age. This surplus of youth set the stage for a widespread revolt against the status quo: against previously upheld structures of racism, sexism and classism, against the violence of the Vietnam War and America’s interventions abroad. At college campuses throughout the country, anger against “the Establishment’s” practices turned to protest, both peaceful and violent.
V. SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS AND CULTURAL MOVEMENTS (New Left, Counterculture, Sexual Revolution)

Young people who participated in the counterculture of the 1960s rejected many of the social, economic, and political values of their parents’ generation, initiated a sexual revolution, and introduced greater informality into U.S. culture.

2. The Counterculture: hippies, music and Woodstock

New demographic and social issues led to significant political and moral debates that sharply divided the nation.

3. Sexual Revolution

How did Alfred Kinsey’s report, technology, medicine and advertising prompt a changing attitude about sexual behaviors?

Although the image of the traditional nuclear family dominated popular perceptions in the postwar era, the family structure of Americans was undergoing profound changes as the number of working women increased and many social attitudes changed.

4. The Women’s Movement

Betty Friedan

NOW

ERA

Glass ceiling

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 is a United States federal law amending the Fair Labor Standards Act (part of New Deal of the 1930s), aimed at abolishing wage disparity based on sex. It was signed into law on June 10, 1963 by John F. Kennedy as part of his New Frontier Program. In passing the bill, Congress denounces sex discrimination for the following reasons:

- It depresses wages and living standards for employees necessary for their health and efficiency;
- It prevents the maximum utilization of the available labor resources;
- It tends to cause labor disputes, thereby burdening, affecting, and obstructing commerce;
- It burdens commerce and the free flow of goods in commerce; and
- It constitutes an unfair method of competition.
Americans debated policies and methods designed to expose suspected communists within the United States even as both parties supported the broader strategy of containing communism.

1. Early Stages

Buildup under Kennedy. What actions did JFK take to prevent the “domino theory” from happening in Vietnam?

Domino theory (Eisenhower), advisers, strategic hamlet program

What challenges did Ngo Dinh Diem pose to US efforts in Vietnam?

Tonkin Gulf Resolution (REALLY IMPORTANT!)

Barry Goldwater & the Vietcong

How did the Tonkin Gulf Resolution empower LBJ? Why did some criticize the TGR?

What conflict did LBJ face concerning the Vietnam War and his Great Society programs?

2. Escalating the War. Trace the U.S. escalation of the war from 1965-1969
Americans debated policies and methods designed to expose suspected communists within the United States even as both parties supported the broader strategy of containing communism.

Although anticommunist foreign policy faced little domestic opposition in previous years, the Vietnam War inspired sizable and passionate antiwar protests that became more numerous as the war escalated, and sometimes led to violence.

3. Controversy

Credibility Gap

Hawks v. Doves & other opponents of the war

To what extent was the TET Offensive a turning point? [what was it, and how did a US military victory turn into a NV/Vietcong political victory?]

Why did LBJ refuse to run for another term as the Democratic nominee for President? (Joint Chiefs of Staff, Eugene McCarthy)

VII. COMING APART AT HOME, 1968, p. 609

The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tet Offensive, the assassination of Robert Kennedy (JFK’s brother and U.S. Attorney General 1961-1963, US Senator, and Democratic presidential candidate in 1968), and the Chicago riot make 1968 a terrible year in U.S. history. I smell a party shift!

How did the events at the Democratic Convention in Chicago reflect a nation still mired in conflict?

How did the strong showing by Nixon (Republican) and Wallace (Independent) reflect a reaction against the excesses of the 1960s?
The Vietnam War ended with an armistice in 1973 and then the fall of South Vietnam in 1975.

After reading historical perspectives on page 611-11, list three important lessons of the Vietnam War. (paragraphs 1, 2, 3)

1. 

2. 

3. 

DYK... The American Revolution is often compared to the Vietnam War. The local population fought against larger, more powerful overseas-based forces. While the 18th century British and 20th century Americans controlled most cities, rural areas tended to be controlled by the colonial American forces and the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese forces. Peace accords in both wars were signed in Paris. Guerrilla tactics were significant in both wars. That's cool history!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In what ways did the federal government (President, Congress, Supreme Court) seek to extend civil rights protections for African-Americans in the US during the 1960s?</td>
<td>Respond in complete sentences in a paragraph(s) response. Use specific evidence (names, laws, events) in your responses. Include years for the events where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. In what ways did both the women’s rights movement and the civil rights movement represent a direct challenge to the traditional views of the role and place of women and African-Americans in American society?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. How did both the Warren Court’s decisions and the growth of the New Left represent a shift in relationship between “the government” and “the people”?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How did the year 1968 represent a turning point in US history, so far as marking the end of various eras? (consider MLK’s assassination, the Tet Offensive, LBJ’s refusing to run for the Presidency, the election of Nixon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>