

The AP United States History Curriculum Framework

Key Terms: Period 1- Period 9

Below you will find a list of specific **terms** that are included in the AP United States History Curricular Framework. Therefore, these terms may appear on the AP United States History Exam in May. So, please enlighten yourself as to the meaning and significance of the specific terms. **In addition, know and understand why the dates were chosen for each Time Period.**

PERIOD 1: 1491–1607

On a North American continent controlled by American Indians, contact among the peoples of Europe, the Americas, and West Africa created a new world.

maize cultivation	Great Basin	Great Plains
hunter-gatherer economy	agricultural economy	permanent villages
Western Hemisphere	Spanish exploration and role of traders	Portuguese exploration and role of traders
West Africa	encomienda system	slave labor
plantation-based agriculture	empire building	feudalism
capitalism	white superiority	political autonomy
Columbian Exchange	European goods that transformed Native life	American goods that transformed European life
cultural autonomy (Examples of Africans seeking to preserve cultural autonomy)		European subjugation of Africans & Natives

PERIOD 2: 1607–1754

Europeans and American Indians maneuvered and fought for dominance, control, and security in North America, and distinctive colonial and native societies emerged.

Spanish colonization	French colonization	Dutch colonization
British colonization	intermarriage	cross-racial sexual unions
indentured servants	Atlantic slave trade	ways Africans resisted slavery
covert/covert resistance	New England colonies	Puritans
homogeneous society	diverse middle colonies	staple crops
Southern colonies	Pueblo Revolt	English view of land ownership and gender roles
“Atlantic World”	African slave trade	Anglicization
Enlightenment ideas	British imperial system	mercantilist economies

PERIOD 3: 1754–1800

British imperial attempts to reassert control over its colonies and the colonial reaction to these attempts produced a new American republic, along with struggles over the new nation’s social, political, and economic identity.

French-Indian fur trade	encroachment	Seven Year’ War and Impact
colonial elites	artisans	loyalist
patriots (& reasons for victory in Rev. War)	French Revolution	George Washington
Washington’s farewell address	republican government	natural rights
Thomas Paine	Common Sense	Declaration of Independence
Articles of Confederation	legislative branch	property qualifications
Constitution	separation of powers	Bill of Rights
federalism	ratification process	American Revolution
multi-ethnic	multi-racial	backcountry
mission settlements	trans-Appalachian west	Northwest Ordinance
Republican Motherhood	free navigation of the Mississippi	White-Indian conflict after Seven Year’s War

PERIOD 4: 1800–1848

The new republic struggled to define and extend democratic ideals in the face of rapid economic, territorial, and demographic changes.

participatory democracy	constituencies	Federalists
Democratic-Republicans	Democrats	Whigs
Second Great Awakening	human perfectibility (perfectibility of man)	secular reforms
international slave trade	free African Americans	xenophobia
steam engines	interchangeable parts	canals
railroads	agricultural inventions	textile machinery
telegraph	semi-subsistence agriculture	urban entrepreneurs
the American System	market revolution	national bank
tariffs	internal improvements	Louisiana Purchase
Missouri Compromise	arable land	Supreme Court Decisions (Marshall Court)

PERIOD 5: 1844–1877

As the nation expanded and its population grew, regional tensions, especially over slavery, led to a civil war — the course and aftermath of which transformed American society.

Manifest Destiny	Mexican-American War	intensified sectionalism
slave-based agriculture	abolitionists	nullification
slavery as a positive good	secession	Compromise of 1850
<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i>	Kansas-Nebraska Act	Second American party system
Republican Party	Abraham Lincoln	free-soil
Confederacy	Union	Emancipation Proclamation
Nativist movement	sharecropping system	radical Republicans
13 th Amendment	14 th Amendment	15 th Amendment

PERIOD 6: 1865–1898

The transformation of the United States from an agricultural to an increasingly industrialized and urbanized society brought about significant economic, political, diplomatic, social, environmental, and cultural changes.

big business	urbanization	Gilded Age
subsidies	monopolies	Social Darwinism
conspicuous consumption	New South	tenant farming
sharecropping	People's (Populist) Party	national parks
or unions	increased S. and E. European immigration	“Americanize”
political machines	settlement houses (Hull House)	women's clubs
self-help groups	transcontinental railroads	assimilation policies (Native Americans)
laissez-faire economics	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>	Social Gospel
Decimation of the buffalo	Mechanization of agriculture	

PERIOD 7: 1890–1945

An increasingly pluralistic United States faced profound domestic and global challenges, debated the proper degree of government activism, and sought to define its international role.

Great Depression	Progressive era and reformers	laissez-faire capitalism
limited welfare state	New Deal	tradition v. innovation
transformation from rural to urban society	management. labor	
native born v. new immigrants	fundamentalist Christianity v. scientific modernist	
white v. black	idealism v. disillusionment	Harlem Renaissance
xenophobia	freedom of speech	Red Scare
“Great Migration”	closing of the frontier	Spanish-American War
Philippines	neutrality	Woodrow Wilson
American Expeditionary Force	Treaty of Versailles	League of Nations
unilateral foreign policy	isolationism	World War I
Axis Powers	Pearl Harbor	World War II
Japanese Internment	Decision to drop the Atomic bombs on Japan	“Closing of the Frontier”

PERIOD 8: 1945–1980

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

World War II	containment	Korean War
Vietnam War	decolonization	nationalist movements
Middle East	military-industrial complex	non-violent civil disobedience
<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Civil Rights Act of 1964	desegregation
Lyndon Johnson	“Great Society”	baby boom
middle-class suburbanization	“Sun Belt”	Immigration Act (Laws) of 1965
nuclear family	counterculture	environmental problems
Détente	Civil Rights activists and techniques	

PERIOD 9: 1980–Present

As the United States transitioned to a new century filled with challenges and possibilities, it experienced renewed ideological and cultural debates, sought to redefine its foreign policy, and adapted to economic globalization and revolutionary changes in science and technology.

neo-conservatism	deregulation of industry and taxation	“big government”
end of the Cold War	Ronald Reagan and Administration	interventionist foreign policy/foreign policy “failures”
Mikhail Gorbachev	September 11, 2001 (causes and results)	war of terrorism
World Trade Center	war (conflicts) in Afghanistan	war (conflicts) in Iraq
climate change	technology boom (computer technology, internet, etc.)	“Evil Empire”
free trade agreements (NAFTA)	religious fundamentalists	televangelists
Iran-Hostage Crisis	government social safety net	supply-side economics
“Star Wars”	Iran-Contra Affair	government social safety net
demographic shifts in US population		