

Unit 3: Transformations—America from 1945 to the Present (Lessons 1-3)

Prompt Sheet With Additions Made In Response to On-Campus Class Questions

Abbreviations used in this Study Guide:

- Nations: **US** (United States), **USSR** (now with Russia separate), **FR** (France), **Br** (Great Britain)
- Regions where US/USSR **proxy** wars occurred: **EU** (Europe) **FE** (Far East), **LA** (Latin America), **ME** (Middle East)
- Political parties: **Dem** (Democrat), **Rep** (Republican), **Dix** (Dixiecrat) and **Am Ind** (American Independent)—both **segregationist**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post war realities: US occupation of Japan; Germany partitioned by FR, Br, US (later West Germany), USSR (later East Germany) Europe and its colonies: devastated; some colonies nationalistic Communist: USSR, China; partition of Korea Atomic bomb: Japan bombed; US only had the technology 2. Presidency: F.D. Roosevelt dead; Harry S Truman (Missouri machine/boss politics, vice-president but not informed) 3. ME: war; Israel declares itself a nation; US recognizes Note: Six Day War (1967), Yom Kippur War (1973) 4. Europe: Marshall Plan 5. US Gov. changes: CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), NSC (National Security Council), Department of Defense (no longer called War Department) 6. Beginning of 2nd Red Scare: Rise of Republicans Richard Nixon (House UAC) and Senator Joe McCarthy. Targets: Alger Hiss/Whittaker Chambers, Hollywood. Techniques: analogy of Salem Witchcraft trial (Arthur Miller's play <i>The Crucible</i>) 7. 1945+ labor: Post-war end to price controls, inflation. Strikes by organized labor for higher wages; negative public response. Taft-Hartley Act, "right to work" states & industries move to low-wage states in South and West. (Note: unions had usually voted Dem.)^j 8. 1947+ race: Cold War issue by Communists; Jackie Robinson/Dodgers; executive order to desegregate the US military 9. 1948 Election: Thomas E. Dewey (Rep) vs. Harry S Truman (Dem) vs. J. Strom Thurmond (Dix) His Program: Fair Deal 10. Late 1940s-1950s Domestic: consumerism (pent-up demand), GI Bill (home loans/education/medical care), ongoing draft, white suburbs, large families, women expected to leave jobs and be the family consumer; television develops from prior radio networks—ABC, NBC, CBS 11. 1952 Election: Dwight D. Eisenhower (Rep) vs. Adlai Stevenson (Dem) – Eisenhower's VP is Richard Nixon (corruption scandals even in the 1950s) 12. 1956 Election (a repeat): Dwight D. Eisenhower (Rep) vs. Adlai Stevenson (Dem) – Eisenhower's VP is still Richard Nixon (unpolished; some foreign policy experience for Eisenhower) 13. 1950s Domestic: spending above + on military, on airports& on Federal Highway Act of 1956 (interstate highways-as defense issue) Congressional investigations into organized labor. Note: car culture/Holiday Inn/McDonalds. 14. 1950s Joe McCarthy stopped by many people standing up to stop him—IKE, Edward R. Murrow, the Army's attorney Joseph Welch, finally the Senate (TV - The hearing was televised.) 15. 1950s race: Montgomery, Alabama, boycott (Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King), <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i>; Little Rock HS (1957) Eisenhower sends in paratroopers to stop mob 16. 1950s Cohort: Elvis Presley (and TV) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. 1950s Foreign Policy: Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (brinkmanship/massive retaliation) and his brother Allen, head of the CIA). Covert (secret from whom?) operations. Examples of Covert Operations: Iran (1953) and how that blew up (1979), Guatemala (1954), and in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs (1961, January, planning as last actions of Eisenhower) 18. 1950s Foreign Policy FE: End of the Korean War at the same partition line. Funding of FR war vs North Vietnam (Viet Cong) 19. 1960 Election: Richard Nixon (Rep) vs. John F. Kennedy (Dem, Senator, wealthy family, polished) –1st televised debate. His Program: New Frontier 20. 1960s Foreign Policy in LA: Cuban Bay of Pigs (1961, April-implementing as first actions of Kennedy. Admits "colossal mistake." USSR/Cuba missile crisis, spy planes (1962)– "quarantine." Cuba missiles/Turkey missiles; wheat deal; "hotline" 21. 1960s Foreign Policy in FE: Vietnam "advisors," 16,000 by 1963; more discord, more troops; college as way to avoid draft 22. 1960s+ Foreign General: Green Berets. "flexible response" for guerrilla war. 23. 1960s Foreign Policy in Europe: USSR wall around East Berlin 24. 1960s Domestic: Growing white anger ("silent majority"); Betty Friedan <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>; birth control by FDA; hippies 25. 1960s Race segregation by law and custom, but African Americans and whites beginning to challenge it: nonviolent sit-ins (Greensboro, NC); Freedom Riders on buses as interstate commerce (KKK, firebomb of bus, beatings) + media; Martin Luther King, Birmingham Jail, "nonviolent civil disobedience" vs. "Bull" Conner; Gov. George Wallace/ University of Alabama + media 26. Presidency: Kennedy assassinated; Lyndon B. Johnson (Texas politics, vice-president, experienced Senate Majority Leader, a New Dealer, unpolished) 27. 1964 Election: Barry Goldwater (Rep, opposed to Civil Rights Act, atomic bomb advocate), vs. L.B. Johnson (Dem) Note: Johnson realized with the Civil Rights Act that the Democrats would not win an election again in the South for a generation. 28. 1964 pre/post His Program: Great Society – a few examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil Rights Act of 1964 (integrated public accommodations, not schools—too volatile an issue); - Medicare (for over 65), Medicaid (for poor); War on Poverty; - 1965 Immigration law (undoes 1924 law on quotas and replaces it with a law to reunite families). Immigration now comes from LA and Asia, not northern Europe.
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29. **1963+ Foreign Policy in FE:** 1st US bombing of Vietnam; 2nd Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
1968 Tet offensive to Saigon; then Viet Cong withdraws
30. **1968 Pre-election:** Assassination of M.L. King, race riots; assassination of Robert Kennedy
31. **1968 Election:** Richard M. **Nixon** (Rep, appeals to “silent majority”) vs. Hubert Humphrey (Dem, MN) vs. George Wallace (Am. Ind.)
32. **1968+ Domestic:** Inflation - Nixon does wage and price controls
- **Title IX** = no discrimination in ed. funding based on sex (1972).
- Supreme Court decides *Roe v. Wade* (1973).
- Nixon tries to slow down desegregation especially to schools.
- Public opinion move from the New Deal to conservatism.
33. **1968+ Foreign:** -Nixon announces “Vietnamization” a way to get the US out of the Vietnam War.
- US bombs Cambodia (1969). US **says** we will bomb it (1970).
- Daniel Ellsberg, a Pentagon employee, leaks the Pentagon Papers (history of US involvement in Vietnam to 1965) (1971).
--Nixon upset; set up “plumbers” to find the “leak.” They will be paid within the White House, including for the burglary below
- Nixon goes to China (1972) – the only one who could.
- **Watergate begins**ⁱⁱ. Those who stand up are 2 Washington Post reporters, a judge hearing about the burglary of the Democratic headquarters, the special prosecutor, the members of the committee of Congress investigating the evidence, the people.
- The key to proving this is that Nixon secretly recorded the White House offices on tapes. His own words convicted him.
34. **1972 Election:** Richard M. **Nixon** (Rep) vs. George S. McGovern (Dem)
35. **Presidency:** Nixon resigns after impeachment articles (1974), Gerald Ford (prior speaker of house, vice president after prior vice president Agnew resigns for corruption).
36. **1974-1976** President Ford pardons Nixon—this was perhaps the best for the country, but not for him to be elected in 1976. During President Ford’s administration,
- Congress also passes the War Powers Act (President can only send troops for short period without Congressional declaration of war or mandate.)
- Saigon falls; Vietnam is in the hands of the Viet Cong (1975).
37. **1976 Election:** Gerald R. Ford (Rep) vs. **Jimmy Carter** (Dem, Georgia governor, very religious, honorable man)
38. **1976-1980 – Domestic:** Inflation + slow economy + job losses (stagflation)
39. **1976-1980 – Foreign:**
- Camp David Accords, Egypt and Israel negotiate
- Israel gives the Sinai back to Egypt
- Egypt recognizes Israel’s right to exist
- Iran Revolution, American hostages (1979). Failed rescue; not released until the next President’s inaugural.
Note: USSR gets bogged down in its own Vietnam—a revolution by Afghanistan and Muslims—for the next 9 years.
40. **1980 Election:** Ronald W. **Reagan** (Rep, actor, California politician) vs. Jimmy Carter (Dem)
41. **1980-1988 – Domestic:**
- starts “supply side economics” with prediction of reducing the national debt but the result is a huge climb in our debt (see the chart with the Concepts for Unit 3)
- individuals spend more than they make (TV as watching the rich)
- appoints first woman to Supreme Court, Sandra Day O’Conner
- era of rise of computers, Microsoft, Bill Gates
- era of AIDS, something the administration did not act on
42. **1980-1988 – Foreign:**
- plan to beat the USSR – “Star Wars” (Strategic Defense Initiative) and spending themselves (and ourselves) to death – 2T \$ to the Pentagon
- Iran-Contra. The NSC sold arms to Iran to get money to give to government death squads in Nicaragua called Contras. Contrary to Congressional law
43. **1988 Election:** George **H. Bush** (Rep, Vice President for Reagan, father of the president in 2000-2008) vs. Michael Dukakis (Dem)
44. **1988-1992– Domestic:** major challenge was the national debt from the Reagan years and need for new taxes when Bush had promised not to.
- Deregulation of the savings and loan industry in Reagan’s term also resulted in a collapse of those accounts in H. Bush’s termⁱⁱⁱ
45. **1988-1992– Foreign:**
- USSR disintegrating, Berlin Wall pulled down by citizens (the first sign of the end), USSR exits Afghanistan (1989) – It is an end to a Cold War since 1945 but the lack of stability in their regions could be dangerous to all.
- Iraq invades Kuwait for the oil (1990). Bush Sr. does not want to get caught in a ground war in that region. They do it with multinational force (Desert Storm) and do not want to “put boots on the ground.” – 1st Gulf War
46. **1992 Election:** **George H. Bush** (Rep) vs. William Clinton (Dem, governor of Arkansas, seems himself as a New Democrat with some conservative/pro-business traits) vs. Ross Perot (Independent, tech person, rich, upset about free trade agreements which he called “a giant sucking sound” of jobs going away).
47. 1992-2000– Domestic:
- NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement – Canada, US, Mexico
- **bipartisan** reduction in the national debt to **\$25B**, the **lowest since 1968**, after the Reagan administration had gotten the debt up to \$297B
- Lack of success with the high costs of medical care in the US
48. **2000 Election:** **George W. Bush** (Rep, governor of Texas, son of H. Bush) vs. Albert Gore (Dem, vice president for President Clinton) vs. Ralph Nader (Green, a consumer advocate)
49. **2000 Election dispute:** popular vote to Gore, electoral college vote to W. Bush because of “hanging chads” in Florida.
50. **2000-2008–Foreign:** 9/11/2001 World Trade Centers (Twin Towers); war in Afghanistan and later Iraq on justification of weapons of mass destruction (Colin Powell –“You break it. You own it.) Budget deficits of the “war on terror”
- Passage of Patriot Act allowing spying; Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp; Abu Ghraib
51. **2000-2008– Domestic:**
- Rising number of immigrants and the Republican party becoming a minority. Tried bipartisan solution with guest workers but failed
- Tried to privatize Social Security, but too much opposition
- Interconnections create a disaster^{iv} on the level of the 1929 crash**
- Lowered interest rates by Federal Reserve
- Lowered taxes –Laffer curve quote
- Lowered standards for lending (“subprime” lending)
- Housing bubble burst with losses of **trillions** of dollars(2007)
- Collapse results in a bank bailout fund called the **Troubled Asset Relief Program TARP^v**-W. Bush signed October 2008
- Result:** wipes out bipartisan low debt of **\$25B** from Clinton presidency. 9 million unemployed. Called the Great Recession
- Also disaster with Katrina and FEMA
52. **2008 Election:** John McCain (Rep, Senator from Arizona, POW) vs. **Barack Obama** (Dem, Senator).
53. **2009** With the inaugural, Obama **inherits:**
a) the war in Afghanistan
b) the war in Iraq
c) The Great Recession (and how to keep it from continuing)
d) The disorder in banking
54. 2010–Dodd-Frank bill to prevent the problems in the crash of the banks and financial services above; Affordable Care Act
55. Problems with Libya; Syria and Putin

ⁱ With Taft-Hartley and labor unions, glad to provide scans of the pages from the two prior textbooks (chosen by the History Department) so you can read it for yourself.

ⁱⁱ With Watergate, the textbook does cover the issues.

ⁱⁱⁱ With the savings and loan disaster, glad to provide scans of the pages from the Ayers textbook so you can read it for yourself. The Ayers textbook provides details that show changes over time that would normally require me to provide pages from many sources.

This link lets you see the interconnections visually: http://www.cibibus.com/1980s_reform_disasters_savings_and_loan_exampleREV.pdf

^{iv} With TARP, glad to provide scans of the pages from the two prior textbooks (chosen by the History Department) so you can read it for yourself. The Ayers textbook provides details that show changes over time.

This is from prior textbook (Ayers, *American Passages*). Recession in 2001 and the actions that lead to the collapse of the housing industry and the banking system:

a) Fed. Reserve lowers interest rate;

b) Bush administration does tax cuts;

c) Lenders did "teaser loans" to get people to borrow for **homes**; packaging of loans of mixed quality sold to banks/financial institutions (page 880), with the less secure loans "dubbed 'subprime.'"

The housing loans crashed; by early 2008 the banks began to fail. Since globalization works as it does, the shaky economy spread.

Result at end of Bush administration:

a) "huge national debt"

b) "shrunk manufacturing base"

c) "Economy without the resources needed for a quick rebound." Ayers page 881).

– Also see the description on 1148-1149 of the Essentials textbook that precedes the paragraph typed below.

^v On October 3, 2008, just before the Presidential election, President Bush signed into law a bank bailout fund called the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), which called for the Treasury Department to spend \$700 billion to keep **big banks and other large financial institutions from collapsing**. Yet the passage of the **bill did little to restore confidence**. In early October [2008] with the onset of the what came to be called the **Great Recession**, which technically lasted from December 2007 to January 3009, and forced almost **9 million people out of work**. But its effects would last long thereafter.

The economic recovery that began in June 2009 would be the **weakest since the end of the Second World War**. 'The Age of the Prosperity is over,' announced the prominent Republican economist Arthur Laffer in 2008." (p. 1150) Laffer is the creator of the Laffer curve (AKA the trickle down theory).