

**Social Science Department
United States History II
June 8-12**



Greetings USII Students! We hope you are safe and well with your families! Below is the lesson plan for this week:

US II Topic 5. The Cold War: The United States learns to navigate through the concepts of globalization and domestic conservatism during the 1980's and 1990's.

Supporting Questions:

1. How did communism and the Berlin Wall come to an end?
2. How does globalization affect the United States?
3. How have social changes such as conservatism and technology impacted politics and American culture?

Practice Standard(s):

1. Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.
2. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.

Weekly Learning Opportunities:

1. Read the Cold War Overview
2. Active Reading and Discussion Questions
3. Choose 1 of the remaining 2 sections (II or III): Cold War Timeline and/or Cold War Media opportunities. Follow the specific directions for each and complete them demonstrating your best effort.

Long Term Opportunities:

- If you wish to express your feelings or observations in writing or visual about current events including, but not limited to: the Covid-19 pandemic, the contrast between the peaceful demonstrators v. the rioters and looters fueled by the death of George Floyd, the federal, state and local management of the pandemic or of the demonstrations, NASA and Space-X working together to rocket two American astronauts from US soil to the Space Station, or your personal experience with any current event.

Additional Resources:

- **The Century: America's Time - 1971-1975: Approaching the Apocalypse:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cLv5FH0FA>
- **The Century: America's Time - 1971-1975: 1976-1980: Starting Over**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vus0FTWWcXE>

Note to students: Your Social Science teacher will contact you with specifics regarding the above assignments in addition to strategies and recommendations for completion. Please email your teacher with specific questions and/or contact during office hours.

Assignment 1: Cold War Overview

DIRECTIONS:

- **Actively read** the below overview and then the following 5 brief accounts of events at the end of, and in the decade to follow the Cold War. Answer **the two questions** found at the bottom of each in the space provided.

The Cold War was the tense relationship between the United States (and its allies), and the Soviet Union (the USSR and its allies) between the end of World War II and the fall of the Soviet Union. By 1948, the Soviet Union had installed communist-leaning governments in Eastern European countries that the USSR had liberated from Nazi control during the war. The Americans and British feared the spread of communism into Western Europe and beyond. because western democracies had always been hostile to the idea of a communist state. The United States had refused recognition of the USSR for 16 years after the Bolshevik takeover.

It is called the "Cold" War because the US and the USSR never actually fought each other directly (which would be a "Hot War"). It was waged mainly on political & economic grounds. The Cold War was marked by the democratic capitalist in the west and communist nations in eastern Europe and Asia. By 1950 Europe's capitalist and communist nations were divided by an 'Iron Curtain'. The Cold War goals for the United States was to influence international developments in the post-WW II era and to isolate the Soviet Union from spreading communism, encourage democracy and to promote open markets for the US goods.

In the late 1980s the new Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made an effort to make an ally of the United States to fix world problems caused by the war, with the ultimate aim of eliminating nuclear weapons completely. However, this did not take place because the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, insisted on having a nuclear missile defense system. The people of the Soviet Union were divided on their feelings about this. Some wanted President Gorbachev to fight harder to eliminate nuclear weapons, while others did not want him to be talking to the United States at all. These mixed feelings created an atmosphere of political in-

fighting, and the people were no longer united behind one goal. Because of this, the Communist Party started to crumble.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and without Communist rule holding together the countries that comprised the Soviet Union, the USSR, broke into smaller countries. The nations of Eastern Europe returned to capitalism, and the period of the Cold War was over. The Soviet Union ended in December 1991.

*Not all historians agree on when the Cold War ended. Some think it ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Others think it ended when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Or perhaps it never really came to an end...are you feeling **COLD**?*

The Nation in a New World (1970-Present)

Section 1 The Conservative Revolt

VOCABULARY

deregulation reduction of restrictions on business

SUMMARY

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan was elected President. His election began a new conservative era in American politics. Conservatives had a number of goals. (See chart.) Their main goal was to limit the size of the federal government.

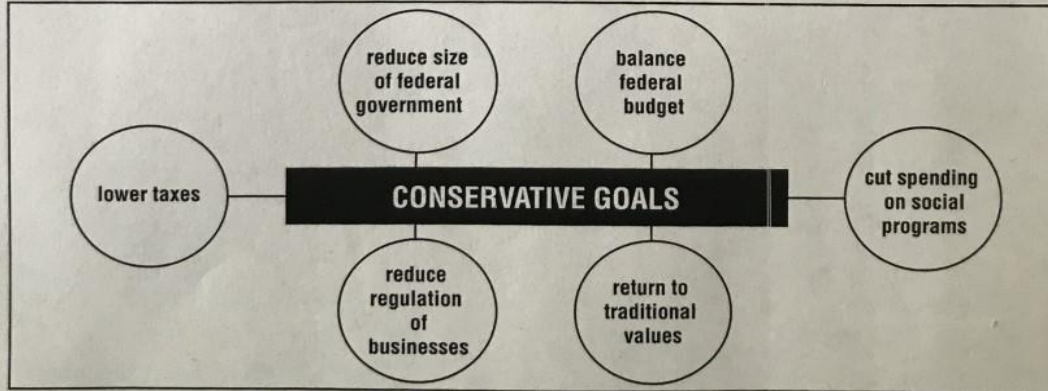
President Reagan persuaded Congress to cut taxes. He also cut government spending on social programs. Reagan increased military spending, however. The federal budget deficit soared. Another policy President Reagan pursued was **deregulation**.

George Bush was elected President in 1988. Bush wanted to continue the Reagan policies. He vowed not to raise taxes, but he was not able to keep this promise. A recession took place during his term in office.

Democrat Bill Clinton won election as President in 1992. He succeeded in

reducing the federal budget deficit. A Clinton plan to reform the health care system, however, was defeated in Congress. In 1994, Republicans won control of Congress. After many conflicts, Congress and Clinton compromised on a plan to balance the federal budget by the year 2002. Clinton easily won reelection in 1996. The economy boomed.

In 2000, Vice President Al Gore ran against George W. Bush, son of President Bush. Gore won the popular vote by a narrow margin. A number of votes in Florida were questioned, however. Gore called for a selective recount, but Bush opposed it. Both sides went to court. After 46 days, the Supreme Court ruled against Gore. Bush was declared President.



REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What occurred two years into President Clinton's first term in office?
2. **Chart Skills** Identify three conservative goals.

1. _____
2. _____

Section 2 American Leadership in a New World

SUMMARY

After the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States became the last superpower. In the 1990s, the country assumed new and greater responsibilities. Sometime it acted as a mediator, working to help conflicting parties iron out their differences. American leaders continued to use military and diplomatic power where they thought it necessary. (See chart.)

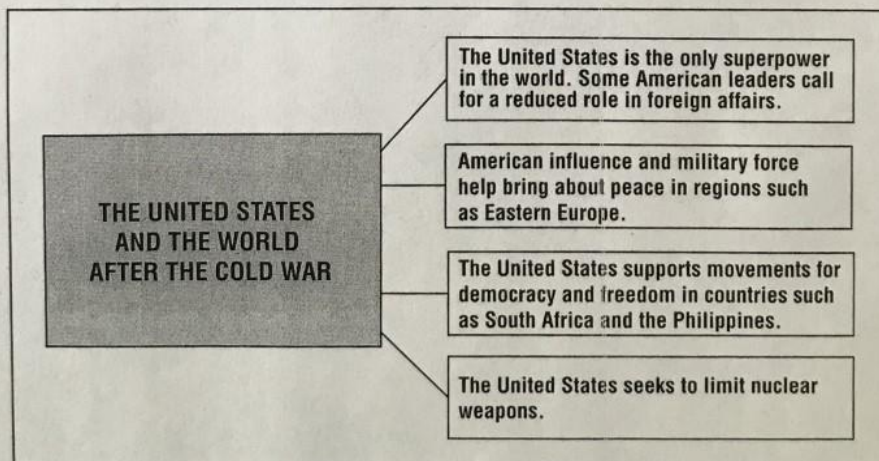
The United States helped promote democracy by encouraging developing countries to practice economic and political freedoms. Countries such as the Philippines, China, North and South Korea, and South Africa have attempted to open their markets or to employ new political systems.

During the 1990s, conflict erupted in the Eastern European country of Yugoslavia. After the fall of communism, Yugoslavia split into several different countries and many quarreling ethnic groups. In 1995,

American negotiators helped arrange a peace treaty in Bosnia, one of the new countries. American troops went to Bosnia to help maintain the peace.

In 1992, American forces led a United Nations mission to Somalia to help distribute food during a severe famine. The United States also helped arrange a peace agreement in Northern Ireland, a region that had experienced violent conflict between Catholics and Protestants for many years.

Another international challenge has been halting the spread of nuclear arms. In 1996, the United States helped draft a treaty outlawing the testing of nuclear weapons. Some countries, however, refused to sign the treaty. In 1998, India and Pakistan both tested nuclear bombs. People outside those countries feared that the testing might lead to a new nuclear arms race.



REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What happened to Yugoslavia after the fall of communism?
2. **Chart Skills** Where in the world has the United States supported democracy since the Cold War ended?

1. _____
2. _____

Section 3

The Spread of Regional Conflict

SUMMARY

In 1973, the United States experienced an oil shortage. The Arab nations of the Middle East cut back on the amount of oil they exported. They were protesting American support for Israel, a Jewish state founded in 1948 in the land known as Palestine. The oil embargo showed how much the United States depended on foreign oil.

The United States has had a long history of involvement in the Middle East. (See chart.) It strongly supports Israel. It also has ties to the Islamic Arab states in the region. The United States has tried to bring peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The United States has also worked for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Palestinians are Arabs who left Israel when it was founded in 1948.

The United States fought a war in the Middle East. In 1990, Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait, a country with a large supply of oil. In this Persian Gulf War, the United States led many other nations in a successful effort to drive Iraq's forces from Kuwait.

The United States was shocked by terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Thousands of people were killed when airplanes struck the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. The United States reacted by declaring war on terrorism and countries that help terrorists, such as Afghanistan. American and British troops were sent to fight in Afghanistan, in southwest Asia. A majority of Americans supported this effort.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA	
1973	Arab nations cut oil exports. Americans realize how much they depend on foreign sources of oil.
1977	President Carter helps negotiate peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.
1979	Iran takes American hostages and holds them until early 1981.
1991	The United States and UN allies push Iraq out of Kuwait in Persian Gulf War.
1993	President Clinton hosts ceremony at which Israel signs peace agreement with Palestinians.
2001	American and British forces begin war on terrorism by attacking forces in Afghanistan.

REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Name two ways that oil in the Middle East affected the United States.
2. **Chart Skills** What two peace agreements did the United States help negotiate between Israel and its Arab neighbors?

1. _____
2. _____

Section 4

A Global Economy

VOCABULARY

trade deficit difference that occurs when a nation buys more goods and services from foreign countries than it sells to them

renewable resource resource that can be replaced by nature or people

e-commerce business or trade over the Internet

SUMMARY

Today American companies do business around the world. But American workers are paid more than workers in many other countries. So, many American goods cost more to produce than similar foreign goods. Foreign competition has caused a **trade deficit**. (See chart.)

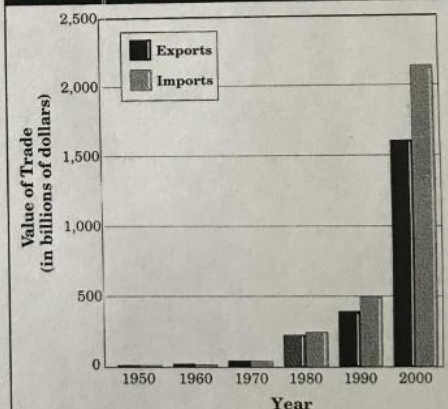
In 1993, Congress approved the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The purpose of this treaty was to end trade restrictions between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Critics of NAFTA argued that free trade would cause a loss of American jobs. Companies might move factories to Mexico, where workers receive lower pay.

The environment is another issue that affects the world economy. Environmental problems require nations to work together. At the Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992, world leaders focused on rising global temperatures and holes in the ozone layer. At home, environmentalists called on Americans to reduce the energy they use and to develop **renewable resources**.

Technology ties the world together even as it changes the way people do business. In recent years, computers have had the greatest impact on people's lives. Using

paggers, cell phones, personal computers, and the Internet, people around the world can exchange information instantly. **E-commerce** allows businesses to trade online.

Foreign Trade, 1950–2000



Sources: Historical Statistics of the United States, Statistical Abstract of the United States.

REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How have computers changed people's lives?
2. **Chart Skills** In 1990, did the United States import more or less than it exported?

1. _____
2. _____

Section 5 New Challenges for the Nation

VOCABULARY

illegal alien person who enters the country without legal permission

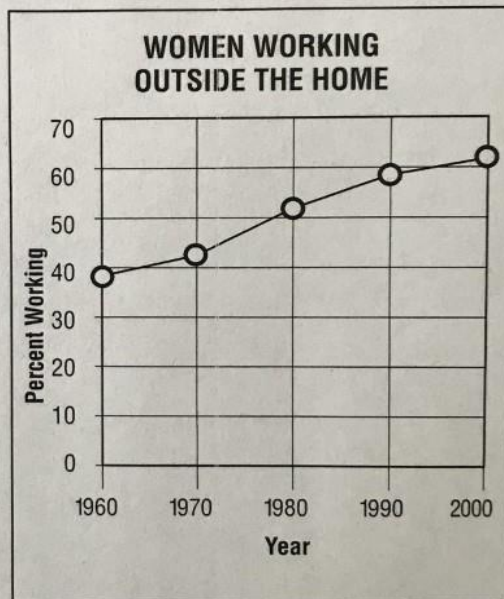
SUMMARY

Americans continue to work for equal rights and greater opportunities. In recent years, Native Americans have worked to develop economic independence. African Americans have fought for economic success and political power. Women have continued to press for equal treatment. More women work outside the home than ever before. (See graph.) Americans with disabilities also have struggled for equal rights. The **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** outlawed discrimination against people with disabilities. Older Americans have, as a political group, developed a powerful voice.

The United States is also being reshaped by new patterns of immigration. In 1965, Congress ended the quota system of the 1920s. Many of the new immigrants came from Asia and Latin America. This was a change from earlier waves of immigrants, who came mostly from Europe. Some immigrants are **illegal aliens**. Congress and the states have passed laws to reduce illegal immigration.

Immigration is just one challenge facing Americans in the twenty-first century. Although greater opportunities exist, racial discrimination and poverty continue. Many lives are being ruined by the abuse of drugs.

Terrorist acts of violence have occurred in the United States. As they face these problems, Americans continue to work together to build a better nation.



Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States

REVIEW

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe how immigration to the United States has changed since Congress ended the quota system.
2. **Graph Skills** Approximately what percentage of women worked outside the home in 2000?

1. _____
2. _____

Part II: End of the Cold War Timeline

DIRECTIONS:

- Create a **Timeline** of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's from the dates and events found in the 5 readings above.
- A good timeline will have at least **15 or more specific events** from the above readings. Try to summarize each event in 1-2 sentences. If you wish to include visuals, this is encouraged!

Part III: Media Opportunities

DIRECTIONS:

- Watch one or more/all of the following **4 video choices**. It doesn't have to be the entire video...you decide. (You may not know which one or ones you like best until you've taken a quick look at all of them first)
- Imagine that you are a journalist who is living during this time. **Write a 1-3 paragraph (or more) account of any scenario(s)/event(s) that you find interesting or compelling.** That is, be convincing to the reader that you actually were there and that you hope that your "primary source" article will be read by students today and for all time, so that those readers will be able to appreciate what it was like to live during the Cold War and its conclusion.

Choices:

1. The Cold War: 1917 - 1991 – Documentary (28:37)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTu9JkxiOtU>

(Hint...If you begin at 23:10 you'll have a good understanding of Reagan, Gorbachev, the Berlin Wall coming down and the end of the Cold War.

2. The Cold War - summary of main stages of conflict (7:46)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsDrYh2Af5Y>

This is very brief but uses global maps to help you understand the global scope of the tension between the two superpowers and other countries that were involved, whether by choice or by force.

3. The Century: America's Time - 1981-1989: A New World (43:27)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNwrhgFrqSU>

A very comprehensive look at the 1980's including medical issues, technology, the economy, the military, the falling of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

4. The Century: America's Time - The 90s And Beyond: Then and Now (44:44)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtSNgdkwXkU>

Life at the end of the Cold War and just after the Cold War. Much like video #3, but focusing on the 1990's.