**American History II Final Exam Review**

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**Unit 1 (The Gilded Age)**

1. Gilded Age—time period after the Civil War in which society looked good on the outside but experienced conflict and corruption
2. Civil War Amendments—laws passed after the Civil War to end slavery (13th), create black citizenship and equality (14th), and allow black suffrage (15th)
3. Compromise of 1877—political deal that ended Reconstruction in the South, which allowed southern governments to undermine black rights
4. *Plessy v. Ferguson*—Supreme Court case that upheld segregation on the grounds that races could be kept “separate but equal”
5. Disenfranchisement—the removal of voting rights, which occurred for black southerners after Reconstruction ended through literacy tests, poll taxes, etc.
6. Second Industrial Revolution—a time after the Civil War of high industrial growth, pro-business tariffs, large factories, new technology, and big business trusts
7. Captains of Industry—leading businessmen such as Rockefeller (oil), Vanderbilt (railroads), Carnegie (steel), and Morgan (investment banking)
8. Social Darwinism—idea that applied “survival of the fittest” principles to society that was used to justify the gap between rich and poor and also to justify imperialism
9. Gospel of Wealth—Andrew Carnegie’s belief that the wealthy had a responsibility to use their money to help society improve
10. Robber Barons—nickname given to corrupt businessmen who abused power to gain wealth; often enabled by government
11. Labor Unions—workers that organized to protest conditions, sometimes by striking; struggled due to yellow-dog contracts, blacklisting, etc.; had little success during the Gilded Age
12. Communism—political belief, often associated with unions and “new” immigrants, that (in reality) gives complete control of the economy and citizens to the government
13. Haymarket Square Riot—violent event during a Knights of Labor strike that caused Americans to associate unions with political radicalism
14. Pullman Strike—railroad union strike, led by future socialist Eugene V. Debs, that was ended by the federal government
15. American Federation of Labor—moderate labor union, led by Samuel Gompers, whose “back to basics” approach helped the public image of unions
16. Urbanization—growth of cities, which led to issues of overcrowding, nativism, and cultural conflict with rural areas
17. “New” Immigrants—people who came from southern and eastern Europe and Asia; often experienced nativism, especially after World War I
18. Social Gospel—movement that emphasized the Christian duty to help the poor and immigrants; opposed the ideas of Social Darwinists and nativists
19. Jane Addams—helped immigrants assimilate into American society by using settlement houses
20. Political Machines—often corrupt political organizations that were opposed by Thomas Nast and (later) by Lincoln Steffens
21. Pendleton Act—reform law that required many government jobs to be given based on qualification, not the spoils system
22. Homestead Act—law that encouraged western settlement, especially for western farmers and ranchers
23. Transcontinental Railroad—structure that accelerated American westward expansion and trade, which increased tension with Native Americans
24. Buffalo (Bison)—natural resource whose destruction hurt Native Americans and symbolized American attitudes toward the environment
25. Reservations—poor areas of land used to segregate Native Americans from settlers and encourage them to adopt American culture
26. Battle of Little Bighorn—the most significant victory for Native Americans, led by Chief Sitting Bull, over the United States military during the Plains Indians Wars
27. Chief Joseph—Native American leader whose statement, “I will fight no more forever,” symbolized the failure of Native American resistance to the United States’ policies
28. Dawes Act—failed law that offered individual Native Americans 160 homesteads; the law intended to break up tribes and encourage assimilation
29. Wounded Knee Massacre—violent event that marked the last significant resistance of Native Americans during the Plains Indians Wars
30. Frontier Thesis—essay that evaluated the role of the western frontier; described frontier as a “safety valve” for the country that was closed

**Unit 2 (The Progressive Era)**

1. Populism—grassroots political movement, driven largely by farmers, that pushed for federal government action to improve conditions; foreshadowed progressivism
2. Interstate Commerce Commission—first federal agency created to regulate interstate commerce (trade), representing a shift away from “laissez-faire” policies
3. Omaha Platform—listed Populists’ goals, including bimetallism, government regulation of railroads, an income tax, direct election of senators, and the 8-hour work day
4. William Jennings Bryan—politician who promoted Populist goals with his “Cross of Gold” speech; lost the Election of 1896
5. Progressivism—reform movement that grew in reaction to Gilded Age conditions that sought government intervention to improve society
6. Muckrakers—progressive journalists whose writings exposed problems in society and led to reforms
7. Ida Tarbell—muckraker whose book, *The History of the Standard Oil* Company, exposed the monopolistic practices of the trust and helped lead to its break-up
8. Lincoln Steffens—muckraker whose book, *The Shame of the Cities*, exposed the corruption of political machines and led to political reforms
9. Jacob Riis—muckraker whose book, *How the Other Half Lives*, exposed the living conditions of the urban poor, especially immigrants
10. Upton Sinclair—muckraker whose book, *The Jungle*, exposed meat packing conditions and led to the Meat Inspection Act
11. John Spargo—muckraker whose book, *The Bitter Cry of the Children*, exposed the conditions and impact of child labor
12. Ida B. Wells—muckraker whose book, *The Red Record*, exposed issue of lynching, a problem that continued even after the Progressive Era
13. Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire—tragedy in New York City that led to improved work safety laws
14. Robert La Follette—reform-minded politician who sought to expand democracy through methods such as the direct primary
15. Referendums, Initiatives, and Recalls—legal measures that gave more law-making power to citizens in order to bypass the power of corrupt political machines
16. 17th Amendment—law established the direct election of senators by citizens as a way to expand democracy and bypass the control of political machines
17. Eugene V. Debs—famous American socialist who wanted government control of major industries; later jailed for publicly opposing World War I
18. Theodore Roosevelt—progressive president whose “square deal” involved a balanced approach to the “three Cs:” control of corporations, consumer protection, and conservation of the environment
19. Anthracite Coal Strike—event in which President Roosevelt’s “square deal” approach to a union strike represented a pro-union shift in government policies
20. *Northern Securities v. United States*— Supreme Court case in which President Roosevelt helped break up a business trust, earning him the nickname, “trustbuster”
21. William Taft—progressive president who eventually worked against many progressive ideals
22. Election of 1912—election that involved several progressive candidates, included the “Bull-Moose” candidate Theodore Roosevelt; won by Woodrow Wilson
23. Woodrow Wilson—progressive president who worked against trusts, banks, and high tariffs
24. Underwood Tariff—law that reduced tariffs to improve American business quality but also created the first federal income tax
25. Federal Reserve—government system created to regulate the nation’s banks and money supply to provide economic stability
26. Clayton Anti-trust Act—law that strengthened a previous law (Sherman Anti-trust Act) to break up trusts; also protected labor unions
27. 19th Amendment—law that established women’s suffrage and contributed to women further challenging traditional roles
28. Booker T. Washington—black rights leader who promoted gradual racial equality through education and economic development; founded the Tuskegee Institute
29. W.E.B. Du Bois—black rights leader who promoted immediate racial equality through federal government action
30. NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)—large civil rights organization that formed to promote racial equality

**Unit 3 (Rise of Imperialism through World War I)**

1. Imperialism—domination of smaller countries; motivated in the United States by Social Darwinism, Anglo-Saxonism, and the desire for military expansion and overseas markets
2. Anglo-Saxonism—the belief that white English culture, government, and religion is superior and that it is the “white man’s burden” to civilize and Christianize other nations
3. Alfred T. Mahan—promoted the idea that a large navy spread worldwide on bases helped a country’s power and security
4. Open Door Policy—this allowed the United States to trade with China despite not having a “sphere of influence” there
5. Annexation of Hawaii—acquisition of land in the Pacific Ocean that occurred largely to access overseas markets and was justified largely by Anglo-Saxonism
6. Yellow Journalism—biased, sensationalist, or false reporting (propaganda) that helped start of the Spanish-American War, especially after the explosion of the *U.S.S. Maine*
7. Jingoism—an intense form of nationalism that caused Americans to favor both imperialism and fighting the Spanish-American War
8. Spanish-American War—conflict that established the United States as an imperialist world power and made Theodore Roosevelt a national hero
9. Platt Amendment—this gave the United States power and influence over Cuba after the Spanish-American War despite previous promises of Cuban independence
10. Anti-imperialist League—this group, which included prominent Americans, formed to oppose imperialism and the Annexation of the Philippines
11. Annexation of the Philippines—acquisition of land after the Spanish-American War that represented American imperialism and led to violent resistance from its inhabitants
12. Big Stick Diplomacy—Roosevelt’s foreign policy that promoted a strong military to deter challenges from other countries
13. Roosevelt Corollary—addition to the Monroe Doctrine that stated the United States, not Europe, would intervene in Latin America if needed and maintain influence there
14. Panama Canal—structure built to help the United States trade and move military forces quickly between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
15. Dollar Diplomacy—Taft’s foreign policy that promoted business investment in other countries, especially Latin American countries
16. Moral Diplomacy—Wilson’s foreign policy that opposed imperialism and promoted democracy in other countries, especially Latin American countries
17. World War I—major conflict that the United States entered following German unrestricted submarine warfare, the Zimmermann Telegram, and the Russian Revolution, with the goal to “make the world safe for democracy”
18. Russian Revolution—event that resulted in Russia falling to communism; helped spark the Red Scare in the United States after World War I
19. War Industries Board—federal agency that coordinated the factory production of war materials during World War I
20. National War Labor Board—federal agency that improved labor conditions to prevent wartime strikes during World War I
21. Great Migration—major movement of southern blacks to northern cities during World War I; caused postwar race riots
22. Committee on Public Information—federal agency that used propaganda to promote World War I to American citizens; led to increased nationalism and nativism
23. Espionage and Sedition Acts—laws passed during World War I that made disrupting the war effort or publicly criticizing the government illegal; limited free speech
24. *Schenk v. United States*—Supreme Court case that ruled that restricted free speech was legal during World War I as a national security measure
25. Fourteen Points—Wilson’s postwar plan that promoted self-determination and included a “League of Nations;” plan mostly rejected by other Allied Powers
26. Treaty of Versailles—peace treaty that ended World War I, punished Germany, and created a “League of Nations,” but whose terms help lead to World War II
27. Isolationism—the idea that the United States is safer and prosperous if it avoids international affairs; caused Congress to reject the League of Nations
28. The Red Scare—postwar time of anti-communist hysteria that included increased nativism, race riots, labor union strikes, and terrorist attacks
29. Palmer Raids—series of actions in which government officials, sometimes violating civil liberties, arrested and/or deported people suspected of radicalism during the Red Scare
30. Election of 1920—this event represented a “return to normalcy” after World War I and marked the end of the Progressive Era

**Unit 4 (The Roaring 20s and Great Depression)**

1. Roaring 20s—time period characterized by isolationism, consumerism, nativism, a growing national popular culture, and challenges to traditional values
2. Consumerism—a culture of buying products that was promoted in the 1920s by advertising, installment plans, and the mass production of cheap goods
3. Mass Media—widespread media, largely driven by the radio, that encouraged consumerism and helped create a more uniform national culture
4. Assembly Line—manufacturing method, improved by Henry Ford, that made products cheaper, especially the car
5. The “Flapper”—popular image of the “new woman” of the 1920s that challenged traditional gender roles and morality
6. Harlem Renaissance—a surge of black culture centered around literature, music, art, and racial pride that occurred in the 1920s
7. Marcus Garvey—promoted black nationalism, racial separation and independence, and the idea that blacks go “back to Africa;” helped inspire later black power movements
8. Nativism—a strong dislike of foreigners; evident during the 1920s in the Sacco-Vanzetti Trial, the growth of the Ku Klux Klan, and restrictive immigration laws
9. The Lost Generation—group of authors were critical of society, the events of World War I, and consumerism during the 1920s
10. Modernism—growing ideology, especially in urban areas, that promoted nontraditional views on gender roles, morality, science, and religion; opposed by fundamentalism
11. Scopes Trial—event in which a teacher was convicted for teaching about evolution; represented the clash of modernist and fundamentalist values
12. Prohibition—federal ban on alcohol, supported by fundamentalists, that started with the 18th Amendment, proved difficult to enforce, and was repealed by the 21st Amendment
13. Rugged Individualism—idea that Americans could take care of themselves without government help; became unpopular during the Great Depression
14. The Great Depression—the worst economic decline in American history; caused by overspeculation, bank collapses, overproduction, and government economic policies
15. Hoovervilles—shantytowns that homeless Americans built during the Great Depression; inhabitants often sought food from charity and looked for work as hobos
16. Dust Bowl—area of the Great Plains that experienced erosion, drought, and dust storms that ruined agriculture during the Great Depression
17. Bonus Army—veterans who gathered and protested in Washington, D.C. during the Great Depression; were violently removed
18. The New Deal—term for the wide-ranging laws and programs that focused on relief, recovery, and reform; created under FDR’s leadership to fight the Great Depression; represented an expansion of federal power
19. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)—New Deal agency that insures Americans’ bank accounts to prevent bank runs
20. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)—New Deal agency that regulates the stock market to prevent overspeculation and fraud
21. National Recovery Administration (NRA)—New Deal agency that regulated businesses to create jobs and helped participating businesses with a “blue eagle” label; later ruled unconstitutional
22. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—New Deal agency that paid Americans to do rural environmental work such as planting trees and building parks
23. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—New Deal agency that paid Americans to build dams that produced electricity and modernized the Southern Appalachian area
24. Works Progress Administration (WPA)—largest New Deal agency; paid Americans for public works projects including buildings, infrastructure, and controversial art and history projects
25. Social Security Act—law that created financial benefits for people who were retired, unemployed, disabled, or widowed
26. National Labor Relations (Wagner) Act—law that empowered labor unions by guaranteeing the right to organize unions and collectively bargain with employers
27. Fair Labor Standards Act—law that established a minimum wage, maximum work hours, and abolished child labor
28. Eleanor Roosevelt—revolutionized the role of First Lady by actively working to report on the New Deal and promote the rights and equality of underprivileged Americans
29. Huey Long—liberal critic of FDR who boldly promised guaranteed incomes for Americans but was assassinated before he could challenge FDR for the presidency
30. Court-Packing Plan—FDR’s plan to replace conservative Supreme Court justices; was seen by many as an attempted abuse of power that threatened “checks and balances”

**Unit 5 (World War II and the Beginning of the Cold War)**

1. Fascism—system in which all power goes to government, not individuals, and is led by a dictatorship; tends to be aggressively nationalistic, militaristic, and imperialistic
2. The *St. Louis* Affair—incident in which a ship of Jewish refugees to the United States was denied due to nativist immigration laws; many later died in the Holocaust
3. The Neutrality Acts—series of laws that aimed to keep the United States out of World War II by avoiding the causes of World War I; opposed by FDR
4. Lend-Lease Act—law, promoted by FDR, that allowed Britain (and other countries) to “borrow” war materials without technically violating the Neutrality Acts
5. Pearl Harbor—site of surprise Japanese attack that caused the United States to enter World War II on the side of the Allies (included Britain and communist Soviet Union)
6. War Production Board—federal agency that regulated industrial production and converted many factories to produce war materials during World War II
7. Office of Price Administration—federal agency that regulated prices, required rationing, encouraged the donation of scrap materials, and promoted growing “victory gardens” during World War II
8. Sun Belt—southern and western region of the United States; many Americans moved here during and after World War II for better weather, job opportunities, and lower taxes
9. “Rosie the Riveter”—famous symbol that encouraged women to work in factories on the home front during World War II; contributed to women challenging traditional roles
10. “Double V” Campaign—encouraged black Americans to fight against both Hitler’s racism and racism in the United States; helped inspire postwar civil rights movements
11. *Korematsu v. United States*—Supreme Court ruling that said Japanese internment during World War II was constitutional as a national security measure and did not violate the 14th Amendment
12. Operation Overlord (D-Day)—turning point battle in European Theater where American forces, led by Dwight Eisenhower, liberated France and began closing in on Germany
13. Yalta Conference—meeting of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin in which they agreed to divide Germany after the war, prosecute Nazi war criminals, and create the United Nations
14. Battle of Midway—turning point battle in the Pacific Theater that marked the beginning of the decline of Japanese control in the Pacific Ocean
15. Island-Hopping Campaign—American strategy of capturing islands across the Pacific Ocean to enable stronger attacks on mainland Japan; characterized by brutal fighting
16. The Manhattan Project—secret American government project that created the first atomic bomb but was also infiltrated by spies of the Soviet Union
17. Hiroshima and Nagasaki—cities that were destroyed by atomic bombs in order to force Japanese surrender and avoid an American land invasion during World War II
18. United Nations—international peacekeeping organization created after World War II which the United States joined and led; stronger than previous “League of Nations”
19. Israel—country created in the Middle East after World War II as a homeland for Jews; American support for Israel led to tension with oil-exporting Middle Eastern countries
20. The Cold War—long postwar time of tension between communist and anti-communist countries, especially between the Soviet Union and United States
21. “Iron Curtain”—“barrier” that isolated Soviet-controlled countries in Eastern Europe and separated them, along with West Berlin, from democratic nations in Western Europe
22. Containment—American foreign policy of keeping communism from spreading to new countries, often with military or economic aid; saw limited success in Asia
23. Marshall Plan—containment strategy that sent money to stabilize countries in Western Europe and keep communism contained; this strategy failed in China
24. Berlin Airlift—event in which President Truman bypassed the Stalin’s blockade with airplanes to deliver Marshall Plan aid and save West Berlin from communism
25. Dixiecrats—political party that formed among southern Democrats who opposed expanded federal power and civil rights for blacks
26. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)—anti-communist military alliance formed among the United States and Western European countries
27. Korean War—military conflict fought in the 1950s to successfully prevent communism from spreading further in Southeast Asia
28. Second Red Scare—time in the United States of high fear of communism, spies, and nuclear war during the Cold War; characterized by the building of fallout shelters, “duck and cover” drills, and increased church attendance
29. HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee)—committee in Congress that sought out communist spies such as Alger Hiss (or the Rosenbergs)
30. McCarthyism—strategy of using fear and false accusations to gain power; exploited by Senator who accused people of being communist spies during the Second Red Scare

**Unit 6 (The 1950s, 1960s, and the Vietnam War)**

1. Fair Deal—President Truman’s liberal domestic agenda that included expanded civil rights and national health insurance; largely limited by a more conservative Congress
2. G.I. Bill—law that gave returning veterans college tuition and low-interest home loans, which helped the economy, including the growth of suburbs
3. Baby Boom—birthrate increase after World War II when Americans who had delayed marriage could afford families because of growing economic prosperity
4. Federal Highway Act—law that created a national interstate highway system; built due to increasing role of cars; also reflected an increasing dependency on foreign oil
5. Conformity—uniform national culture; emphasized gender roles and respect of authority; promoted by mass media, television, advertising, and a desire not to seem un-American
6. Counterculture—movements that challenged traditional and/or conformist American culture; represented by Beatniks in the 1950s, hippies in the 1960s, and by rock ‘n’ roll music
7. Covert Operations—using secret actions in other countries to fight the Cold War; used to overthrow Iran’s government but later failed in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs
8. Space Race—Cold War competition in space exploration, missile technology, and world image; sparked by the Soviet launch of *Sputnik* and later won by United States
9. U-2 Incident—event in which the Soviet Union shot down an American spy plane, increasing distrust between the countries and making the United States look weaker
10. Military-Industrial Complex—the relationship between the military and defense-related industries, which President Eisenhower warned was dangerous
11. John F. Kennedy—inspirational president whose TV image helped win the Election of 1960; pursued a “New Frontier” domestic policy and sought to improve the United States’ world image
12. Berlin Wall—structure built in Germany that symbolized worldwide Cold War division and tension
13. Cuban Missile Crisis—event that was the high point of Cold War tension; occurred over Soviet nuclear weapons near the United States and nearly resulted in nuclear war
14. JFK’s Assassination—event that created a presidential legacy of activism but increased the distrust Americans had toward the government
15. *Brown v. Board of Education*—Supreme Court ruling that ended school segregation and overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*; challenged in events regarding the Little Rock Nine and James Meredith
16. Nonviolent Protest—protest strategy championed by Martin Luther King, Jr., the sit-in movement, and the “freedom rides;” this strategy often forces government action
17. Civil Rights Act of 1964—gave federal government power to stop segregation in public places; passed after the MLK-led Birmingham campaign and March on Washington
18. Voting Rights Act of 1965—gave federal government power to protect black suffrage from discrimination; passed after the MLK-led Selma march
19. Black Power—civil rights movement that promoted black nationalism and violence, included Malcolm X and the Black Panthers
20. Great Society—LBJ’s domestic agenda that expanded federal power to create reforms including a “war on poverty,” civil rights, education, healthcare, immigration, and the environment
21. Earl Warren—liberal Supreme Court Chief Justice who oversaw significant rulings on civil rights, the rights of due process, and the rights of free expression
22. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)—group of youth protested poverty, racism, and the Vietnam War; partially merged with the 1960s hippie counterculture movement
23. Second-Wave Feminism—movement that challenged traditional gender roles and promoted women’s equality; opposed by conservative women
24. Cesar Chavez—nonviolent civil rights activist who led strikes and boycotts that increased collective bargaining rights for Mexican farm workers
25. Domino Theory—idea that if South Vietnam fell to communism, many other Asian countries would also fall; this idea supported American involvement in the Vietnam War
26. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution—action by Congress that gave LBJ power to take “all measures necessary” to fight North Vietnam; marked the beginning of the Vietnam War
27. Vietnam War—conflict where the United States tried to stop the spread of communism; characterized by brutal fighting, distrust of government, and division among Americans
28. Credibility Gap—distrust Americans had in government, largely due to TV news, during the Vietnam War, especially after the Tet Offensive; contributed to antiwar movements
29. 26th Amendment—law that lowered the voting age to 18 following protests that called the Vietnam War draft unfair
30. Election of 1968— event which saw the assassination of Robert Kennedy, riots, and the election of Richard Nixon, who promised an end to the Vietnam War and “law and order” at home

**Unit 7 (The 1970s, 1980s, and End of the Cold War)**

1. Kent State Massacre—event in which college students were killed by the National Guard during a protest of American attacks on Cambodia; increased distrust in government
2. My Lai Massacre—event in which South Vietnamese civilians were killed by American soldiers during the Vietnam War, causing increased antiwar protests
3. Pentagon Papers—leaked secret government documents that revealed mistakes, lies, and illegal activities made by government officials regarding the Vietnam War
4. Détente—term for lowered Cold War tension that occurred between the United States and communist countries after President Nixon’s visits to China and the Soviet Union
5. Fall of Saigon—event in which South Vietnam fell to communism following American withdrawal
6. War Powers Act—law that limited the power of the president to wage war and returned more of this power to Congress following the Vietnam War
7. New Federalism—President Nixon’s conservative domestic policy to return more federal government power to states; represented the rise of conservatism
8. Watergate scandal—event in which Nixon abused power to hide a possible link to a crime; led to his resignation and pardoning; increased American distrust in government
9. Cultural pluralism—idea that minority groups embrace their unique culture within the United States; idea grew after the Immigration Act of 1965 and civil rights movements
10. Affirmative Action—government program that aimed to prevent discrimination by requiring schools and businesses to recruit minorities
11. Environmentalism—movement promoting the environment and the creation of the EPA, grew due to work of Rachel Carson and the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island
12. Stagflation—term that represented economic conditions of the 1970s; the combination of job stagnation and inflation
13. OPEC Oil Embargo—event in which Arab-Muslim, oil-producing countries restricted oil sold to the United States, causing gas shortages and damaging the American economy
14. Camp David Accords—foreign policy victory for President Carter in which Egypt became the first Arab-Muslim country in the Middle East to recognize Israel as a country
15. Iranian Hostage Crisis—foreign policy failure for President Carter in which American hostages were held for 444 days by Iranian revolutionaries
16. Afghanistan—country invaded by the Soviet Union, which marked the end of détente; American aid to anticommunist rebels there prevented its fall to communism
17. Liberalism—ideology characterized by belief in stronger government regulations and social programs and higher taxes on the wealthy; often associated with the Democratic Party
18. Conservatism—ideology characterized by belief in limited government regulations and social programs, lower taxes on the wealthy, and promotion of traditional values; often associated with the Republican Party
19. Moral Majority—political group that formed to help elect conservative Christian politicians; received support from televangelists
20. Reagan Revolution—move toward conservative government policies, including tax cuts, deregulation, and less favor toward unions that occurred after Ronald Reagan won the Election of 1980
21. “Reaganomics”—idea of cutting taxes, especially for wealthy business owners, so they invest more in businesses and create jobs, causing prosperity to “trickle down” to middle and lower classes too
22. AIDS—deadly disease whose rapid spread in the United States began in the 1980s and grew into an epidemic
23. Discount Retailing—business strategy of selling items in bulk at low prices; led to the rise of major chain stores such as Wal-Mart
24. Home Media—widespread use of cassette and VHS tapes, cable and satellite television, and video games which made the consumption of media more personally customized
25. *Challenger* Disaster—event in which a NASA Space Shuttle exploded on live television
26. Reagan Doctrine—foreign policy that sought to defeat communism by helping anti-communist groups worldwide, especially in Afghanistan and Latin American countries
27. “Peace through Strength”—Reagan’s strategy of starting a military buildup to fight the Cold War and bait the Soviet Union into an arms race it could not afford
28. Mikhail Gorbachev—Soviet leader who increased economic and political freedom in the Soviet Union and satellite nations; oversaw the collapse of the Soviet Union
29. Iran-Contra Affair—event in which members of Reagan’s administration were caught illegally funding anticommunist Nicaraguan rebels, tarnishing Reagan’s reputation
30. George Bush—President who oversaw collapse of communist satellite nations, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the end of the Cold War

**Unit 8 (The 1990s to Present Day)**

1. Persian Gulf War—event, codenamed Operation Desert Storm, in which American forces helped prevent the invasion of Kuwait by attacking Iraq with heavy missile attacks
2. Americans with Disabilities Act—law that outlawed discrimination, including public accommodation, based on physical or mental disabilities
3. Brady Bill—law that placed restrictions on handgun ownership and was opposed by gun rights advocates
4. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)—arrangement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico that reduced tariffs to increase trade but also led to the outsourcing of American jobs to Mexico
5. “Contract with America”—pledge of Republican congressmen to enact conservative laws, helped Congress become more conservative and limit President Clinton’s policies
6. Computers—technology that revolutionized the way people live by vastly increasing communication and processing of information, increasingly through cellular phones
7. The Internet—revolutionary system of commination between computers, which led to the creation of the World Wide Web; has had an increasing role in people’s lives
8. Lewinsky scandal—political scandal in which President Clinton became the second president to be impeached, though he was not convicted
9. Bosnia and Kosovo—places in the Balkans of Eastern Europe where post-Cold War conflicts occurred; the United States and NATO used military action there to bring peace
10. Illegal Immigration—increasingly divisive national issue that has involved debating over deportation, amnesty, and/or naturalization of illegal immigrants to the United States
11. Globalization—process by which trade has become increasingly international through arrangements like NAFTA, opposed by some Americans who blame it for losing jobs
12. “Graying of America”—term describing the growth of the elderly segment of the population, caused by increased life expectancy and the aging of Baby Boomers and expected to led to increased healthcare and Social Security costs
13. Election of 2000—close and controversial election in which George W. Bush became president after the Supreme Court ruling, *Bush v. Gore*
14. No Child Left Behind Act—controversial law passed to improve education nationwide, partly through the use of standardized testing
15. 9/11 Attacks—major terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. that were masterminded by Osama Bin Laden; sparked the United States’ “War on Terror”
16. War on Terror—international campaign to stop terrorist groups after the 9/11 Attacks, led to military actions, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, controversial treatment of detained suspected terrorists, and the controversial PATRIOT Acts
17. “Axis of Evil”—term President Bush used to identify Iraq, Iran, and North Korea as countries that has supported terrorism and sought to develop weapons of mass destruction
18. PATRIOT Acts—controversial laws that enabled warrantless searches and surveillance in order to stop terrorism
19. Iraq War—divisive military conflict where the United States invaded Iraq to prevent its dictator from developing weapons of mass destruction; created issues of stability in Iraq
20. Hurricane Katrina—major natural disaster whose devastation of New Orleans caused many Americans to question the government’s inadequate response
21. The Great Recession—major economic downturn starting in 2007 that was caused partly by overspeculation in home mortgages and business investments
22. Election of 2008—significant election in which the first mixed-race candidate, Barack Obama, became president after promising an end to the Iraq War and the establishment of national health insurance