

Topic Outline for Advanced Placement U.S. History

1. Pre-Columbian Societies

- Early Inhabitants of the Americas
- American Indian empires in Mesoamerica, the Southwest, and the Mississippi Valley
- American Indian cultures of North America at the time of European contact

2. Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings, 1492-1690

- First European contacts with Native Americans
- Spain's empire in North America
- French colonization of Canada
- English settlement of New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, and the South
- From servitude to slavery in the Chesapeake region
- Religious diversity in the American colonies
- Resistance to colonial authority: Bacon's Rebellion, the Glorious Revolution, and the Pueblo Revolt

3. Colonial North America, 1690-1754

- Population growth and immigration
- Transatlantic trade and growth of seaports
- The eighteenth-century back country
- Growth of plantation economies and slave societies
- The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening
- Colonial governments and imperial policy in British North America

4. The American Revolutionary Era, 1754-1789

- The French and Indian War
- The Imperial Crisis and resistance to Britain
- The War for Independence
- State constitutions and the Articles of Confederation
- The federal constitution

5. The Early Republic, 1789-1815

- Washington, Hamilton, and shaping of the national government
- Emergence of political parties: Federalists and Republicans
- Republican Motherhood and education for women
- Beginnings of the Second Great Awakening
- Significance of Jefferson's presidency
- Expansion into the trans-Appalachian West; American Indian resistance
- Growth of slavery and free Black communities
- The War of 1812 and its consequences

6. Transformation of the Economy and Society in Antebellum America

- The transportation revolution and creation of a national market economy
- Beginnings of industrialization and changes in social and class structures
- Immigration and nativist reaction
- Planters, yeoman farmers, and slaves in the cotton South

7. The Transformation of Politics in Antebellum America

- Emergence of the second party system
- Federal authority and its opponents: judicial federalism, the Bank War, tariff controversy, and states' rights debates
- Jacksonian democracy and its successes and limitations

8. Religion, Reform and Renaissance in Antebellum America

- Evangelical Protestant revivalism
- Social reforms
- Ideals of domesticity
- Transcendentalism and utopian communities
- American Renaissance: literary and artistic expressions

9. Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny

- Forced removal of American Indians to the trans-Mississippi West
- Western migration and cultural interactions
- Territorial acquisitions
- Early U.S. imperialism: the Mexican War

10. The Crisis of the Union

- Pro- and antislavery arguments and conflicts
- Compromise of 1850 and popular sovereignty
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the emergence of the Republican Party
- Abraham Lincoln, the election of 1860, and secession

11. Civil War

- Two societies at war: mobilization, resources, and internal dissent
- Military strategies and foreign diplomacy
- Emancipation and the role of African Americans in the war
- Social, political, and economic effects of the war in the North, South, and West

12. Reconstruction

- Presidential and Radical Reconstruction
- Southern state governments: aspirations, achievements, failures
- Role of African Americans in politics, education, and the economy
- Compromise of 1877
- Impact of Reconstruction

13. The Origins of the New South

- Reconfiguration of southern agriculture: sharecropping and crop lien system
- Expansion of manufacturing and industrialization
- The politics of segregation: Jim Crow and disenfranchisement

14. Development of the West in the Late Nineteenth Century

- Expansion and development of western railroads
- Competitors for the West: miners, ranchers, homesteaders, and American Indians
- Government policy toward American Indians
- Gender, race, and ethnicity in the far West
- Environmental impacts of western settlement

15. Industrial America in the Late Nineteenth Century

- Corporate consolidation of industry
- Effects of technological development on the worker and workplace
- Labor and unions
- National politics and influence of corporate power
- Migration and immigration: the changing face of the nation
- Proponents and opponents of the new order, e.g., Social Darwinism and Social Gospel

16. Urban Society in the Late Nineteenth Century

- Urbanization and the lure of the city
- City problems and machine politics
- Intellectual and cultural movements and popular entertainment

17. Populism and Progressivism

- Agrarian discontent and political issues of the late nineteenth century
- Origins of Progressive reform: municipal, state, and national
- Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson as Progressive presidents
- Women's roles: family, workplace, education, politics, and reform
- Black America: urban migration and civil rights initiatives

18. The Emergence of America as a World Power

- American imperialism: political and economic expansion
- War in Europe and American neutrality
- The First World War at home and abroad
- Treaty of Versailles
- Society and economy in the postwar years

19. The New Era: 1920s

- The business of America and the consumer economy
- Republican politics: Harding, Coolidge, Hoover
- The culture of Modernism: science, the arts, and entertainment
- Responses to Modernism: religious fundamentalism, nativism, and Prohibition
- The ongoing struggle of equality: African Americans and women

20. The Great Depression and the New Deal

- Causes of the Great Depression
- The Hoover administration's response
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal
- Labor and union recognition
- The New Deal coalition and its critics from the Right and the Left
- Surviving hard times: American society during the Great Depression

21. The Second World War

- The rise of fascism and militarism in Japan, Italy, and Germany
- Prelude to war: policy of neutrality
- The attack on Pearl Harbor and United States declaration of war
- Fighting a multifront war
- Diplomacy, war aims, and wartime conferences
- The United States as a global power in the Atomic Age

22. The Home Front During the War

- Wartime mobilization of the economy
- Urban migration and demographic changes
- Women, work and family during wartime
- Civil liberties and civil right during wartime
- War and regional development
- Expansion of government power

23. The United States and the Early Cold War

- Origins of the Cold War
- Truman and containment
- The Cold War in Asia: China, Korea, Vietnam, Japan
- Diplomatic strategies and policies of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations
- The Red Scare and McCarthyism
- Impact of the Cold War on American society

24. The 1950s

- Emergence of the modern civil rights movement
- The affluent society and “the other America”
- Consensus and conformity: suburbia and the middle class
- Social critics, nonconformists, and cultural rebels
- Impact of changes in science, technology, and medicine

25. The Turbulent 1960s

- From the New Frontier to the Great Society
- Expanding movements for civil rights
- Cold War confrontations: Asia, Latin America, and Europe
- Beginning of Détente
- The antiwar movement and the counterculture

26. Politics and Economics at the End of the Twentieth Century

- The election of 1968 and the “Silent Majority”
- Nixon’s challenges: Vietnam, China, Watergate
- Changes in the America economy: the energy crisis, deindustrialization, and the service economy
- The New Right and the Reagan revolution
- End of the Cold War

27. Society and Culture at the End of the Twentieth Century

- Demographic changes: surge of immigration after 1965, Sunbelt migration, and the graying of America
- Revolutions in biotechnology, mass communication, and computers
- Politics in a multicultural society

28. The United States in the Post-Cold War World

- Globalization and the American economy
- Unilateralism vs. multilateralism in foreign policy
- Domestic and foreign terrorism
- Environmental issues in a global context