**APUSH Period 9: 1980 - Present**

AP Exam Weighting: 4 - 6%

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| **9.1 - Contextualizing Period 9**  |
| **Thematic Focus - Skill - Contextualization** Identify and describe a historical context for a specific historical development or process.  |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the context in which the United States faced international and domestic challenges after 1980. | **Historical Developments**A newly ascendant **conservative** movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980s and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades. * Conservative beliefs regarding the need for **traditional social values** and a **reduced role for government** advanced in U.S. politics after 1980.

Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant **technological**, **economic**, and **demographic** changes* New developments in **science** and **technology** enhanced the economy and transformed society, while manufacturing decreased.
* The U.S. population continued to undergo demographic shifts that had significant cultural and political consequences.

The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and role in the world. * The **Reagan administration** promoted an **interventionist** foreign policy that continued in later administrations, even after the end of the Cold War.
* Following the attacks of **September 11, 2001**, U.S. foreign policy efforts focused on fighting **terrorism** around the world.
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| **8.2 - Reagan and Conservatism**  |
| **Thematic Focus - Politics and Power** Debates fostered by social and political groups about the role of government in American social, political, and economic life shape government policy, institutions, political parties, and the rights of citizens. |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the causes and effects of continuing policy debates about the role of the federal government over time. | **Historical Developments**Ronald Reagan’s victory in the presidential **election of 1980** represented an important milestone, allowing conservatives to enact **significant tax cuts** and continue the **deregulation** of many industries. Conservatives argued that liberal programs were counterproductive in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth. * Some of their efforts to reduce the size and scope of government met with inertia and liberal opposition, as many programs remained popular with voters.

Policy debates continued over **free-trade agreements**, the scope of the government social safety net, and calls to reform the U.S. financial system. Conservative beliefs regarding the need for **traditional social values** and a reduced role for government advanced in U.S. politics after 1980. Intense political and cultural debates continued over issues such as * Immigration policy
* Diversity
* Gender roles
* Family structures.
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| **9.3 - The End of the Cold War**  |
| **Thematic Focus - America in the World**Diplomatic, economic, cultural, and military interactions between empires, nations, and peoples shape the development of America and America’s increasingly important role in the world.  |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the causes and effects of the end of the Cold War and its legacy | **Historical Developments**Reagan asserted U.S. **opposition to communism** through* Speeches
* Diplomatic efforts
* Limited military interventions
* A buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons.

**Important factors in ending the Cold War:*** Increased U.S. military spending
* Reagan’s diplomatic initiatives
* Political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

The end of the Cold War led to new diplomatic relationships but also new U.S. military and peacekeeping interventions, as well as continued debates over the appropriate use of American power in the world. |

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| **9.4 - A Changing Economy**  |
| **Thematic Focus - Work, Exchange, and Technology** The interplay between markets, private enterprise, labor, technology, and government policy shape the American economy. In turn, economic activity shapes society and government policy and drives technological innovations.  |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the causes and effects of economic and technological change over time. | **Historical Developments**Economic productivity **increased** as improvements in **digital communications** enabled increased American participation in worldwide economic opportunities. Technological innovations in **computing**, **digital mobile technology**, and the **internet** transformed daily life, increased access to information, and led to new social behaviors and networks. Employment increased in service sectors and decreased in manufacturing, and union membership declined. Real wages stagnated for the working and middle class amid growing economic inequality. |

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| **9.5 - Migration and Immigration in the 1990s and 2000s**  |
| **Thematic Focus - Migration and Settlement** Push and pull factors shape immigration to and migration within America, and the demographic change as a result of these moves shapes the migrants, society, and the environment.  |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the causes and effects of domestic and international migration over time. | **Historical Developments**After 1980, the political, economic, and cultural influence of the **American South** and **b** continued to increase as the population shifted to those areas. International migration from Latin America and Asia increased dramatically. The new immigrants affected U.S. culture in many ways and supplied the economy with an important labor force. |

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| **9.6 - Challenges of the 21st Century**  |
| **Thematic Focus - America in the World**Diplomatic, economic, cultural, and military interactions between empires, nations, and peoples shape the development of America and America’s increasingly important role in the world.  |
| **Learning Objective** Explain the causes and effects of the domestic and international challenges the United States has faced in the 21st century | **Historical Developments**In the wake of attacks on the **World Trade Center** and the **Pentagon** in 2001, the United States launched military efforts against **terrorism** and lengthy, controversial conflicts in **Afghanistan** and **Iraq**. The **war on terrorism** sought to improve security within the United States but also raised questions about the protection of civil liberties and human rights. Conflicts in the Middle East and concerns about climate change led to debates over U.S. dependence on **fossil fuels** and the impact of economic consumption on the environment. Despite economic and foreign policy challenges, the United States continued as the world’s leading superpower in the 21st century. |