

ap us history period 7

ap us history period 7 covers the critical years in American history from 1890 to 1945, a period marked by profound transformation in the nation's economic, political, and social landscapes. This era encompasses the Progressive Movement, the emergence of the United States as a global power through imperialism, the challenges of World War I and the interwar years, the Great Depression, and the nation's involvement in World War II. Understanding ap us history period 7 is essential for grasping how the United States evolved from a relatively isolated country into a dominant world actor. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the major themes, events, and figures that define this period, highlighting key developments in domestic policy, foreign affairs, and societal changes. The discussion will also explore how these factors interrelated to shape modern America's identity and global role. Following this introduction, the article is organized into main sections that offer detailed insights into the political, economic, social, and international dimensions of ap us history period 7.

- The Progressive Era and Domestic Reform
- American Imperialism and Foreign Policy
- The United States and World War I
- The Roaring Twenties and Cultural Shifts
- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- The Road to World War II and American Involvement

The Progressive Era and Domestic Reform

The Progressive Era, roughly spanning from the 1890s to the 1920s, was a time of widespread social activism and political reform in the United States. ap us history period 7 highlights this era as a response to the problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and political corruption. Progressives sought to address issues such as labor rights, women's suffrage, government regulation of business, and social justice. Key reforms included efforts to break up monopolies, improve working conditions, and expand democratic participation.

Political and Social Reforms

During the Progressive Era, numerous reforms aimed at increasing government accountability and protecting citizens were enacted. Important measures included the introduction of the direct election of senators through the 17th Amendment, the establishment of the initiative, referendum, and recall processes, and the push for prohibition culminating in the 18th Amendment. Additionally, the women's suffrage movement achieved a major victory with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote.

Labor and Economic Changes

The labor movement gained momentum as workers demanded safer conditions, fair wages, and reasonable hours. Progressive reformers supported legislation such as child labor laws, workers' compensation, and the establishment of the Department of Labor. Economically, the era saw increased government regulation of businesses, including the enforcement of antitrust laws to dismantle large corporate monopolies, exemplified by Theodore Roosevelt's "trust-busting" policies.

- 17th Amendment - Direct election of senators
- 19th Amendment - Women's suffrage
- 18th Amendment - Prohibition of alcohol
- Labor reforms - Child labor laws, workplace safety
- Antitrust actions - Breaking up monopolies

American Imperialism and Foreign Policy

ap us history period 7 is marked by the United States' emergence as an imperial power at the turn of the 20th century. Motivated by economic interests, strategic considerations, and a belief in cultural superiority, the U.S. expanded its influence beyond continental borders. This period saw significant acquisitions and interventions in Latin America, the Pacific, and Asia, fundamentally altering the country's foreign policy approach.

The Spanish-American War and Its Aftermath

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was a pivotal moment that propelled the United States onto the world stage. The conflict resulted in the U.S. gaining control of former Spanish territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This war highlighted the growing American interest in overseas expansion and sparked debates about imperialism versus isolationism within the country.

Policies in Latin America and Asia

Following the Spanish-American War, the U.S. pursued a more interventionist foreign policy. The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine asserted the right of the United States to intervene in Latin American countries to maintain stability. In Asia, the Open Door Policy aimed to secure equal trading rights in China and prevent European colonization. These policies reflected America's increasing involvement in global affairs during ap us history period 7.

- Annexation of Hawaii

- Spanish-American War (1898)
- Acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines
- Roosevelt Corollary and “Big Stick” diplomacy
- Open Door Policy in China

The United States and World War I

World War I (1914–1918) was a defining event in ap us history period 7, marking the first major conflict involving the United States on a global scale. Initially committed to neutrality, the U.S. entry into the war in 1917 signaled a shift toward international engagement. The war had profound effects on American society, economy, and foreign policy, setting the stage for the country’s future role as a world leader.

Causes of U.S. Entry into the War

Several factors contributed to the United States abandoning neutrality and joining the Allies in World War I. These included unrestricted German submarine warfare, which threatened American shipping and lives, the interception of the Zimmermann Telegram proposing a German-Mexican alliance, and economic ties to the Allied powers. President Woodrow Wilson framed the war effort as a fight to “make the world safe for democracy.”

Domestic Impact and Aftermath

The war effort led to significant changes within the United States, including the expansion of federal government powers, increased industrial production, and social shifts such as the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to northern cities. The postwar period also saw the rejection of the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations by the U.S. Senate, reflecting isolationist tendencies despite the nation’s wartime involvement.

- Neutrality policy (1914–1917)
- Unrestricted submarine warfare
- Zimmermann Telegram
- Selective Service Act and military mobilization
- Great Migration and social changes

The Roaring Twenties and Cultural Shifts

The 1920s, often called the “Roaring Twenties,” were a time of economic prosperity, cultural dynamism, and social change in the United States. ap us history period 7 captures this decade as a period of innovation and tension, where traditional values clashed with modern attitudes. The era featured significant developments in technology, entertainment, and lifestyle, alongside the rise of consumer culture and cultural conflicts.

Economic Boom and Consumerism

The postwar economic boom fueled widespread consumerism and technological advancements. Automobiles, radios, and household appliances became more common, transforming daily life. The stock market surged, and credit became more accessible. However, underlying economic weaknesses and uneven prosperity foreshadowed the eventual collapse leading to the Great Depression.

Cultural and Social Developments

The decade was also marked by significant cultural shifts, including the Harlem Renaissance, which celebrated African American culture and artistic achievements. The Jazz Age introduced new music and dance styles that challenged traditional norms. At the same time, Prohibition led to the rise of speakeasies and organized crime. Social tensions emerged around immigration, race relations, and changing gender roles.

- Economic growth and stock market boom
- Mass production and consumer goods
- Harlem Renaissance
- Prohibition and organized crime
- Changing social roles and cultural conflicts

The Great Depression and the New Deal

The Great Depression, beginning with the stock market crash in 1929, was the most severe economic crisis in American history and a defining moment of ap us history period 7. It led to widespread unemployment, poverty, and social upheaval. The federal government’s response under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal reshaped the relationship between the government and the American people.

Causes and Impact of the Great Depression

The Great Depression was caused by a combination of factors including stock market speculation, banking failures, agricultural overproduction, and declining consumer spending. The economic collapse had devastating effects on families, businesses, and communities nationwide. Unemployment soared, and many Americans faced homelessness and hunger.

The New Deal Programs

In response to the crisis, Roosevelt implemented the New Deal, a series of programs and reforms designed to provide relief, recovery, and reform. Key initiatives included the Social Security Act, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and banking reforms such as the Glass-Steagall Act. The New Deal expanded the federal government's role in economic and social welfare.

- Stock Market Crash of 1929
- High unemployment and poverty
- Social Security Act
- Public works programs (CCC, WPA)
- Banking reforms and financial regulations

The Road to World War II and American Involvement

The final phase of ap us history period 7 covers the years leading up to and including America's involvement in World War II. The interwar period was characterized by isolationist policies, economic recovery efforts, and growing global tensions. Ultimately, the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 ended isolationism and mobilized the United States for a full-scale war effort.

Isolationism and Neutrality Acts

Throughout the 1930s, the United States sought to avoid entanglement in foreign conflicts by adopting isolationist policies. The Neutrality Acts were passed to restrict American involvement in overseas wars. Despite these efforts, increasing aggression by Axis powers in Europe and Asia raised concerns about global security and the future of democracy.

World War II and U.S. Mobilization

The surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, prompted the U.S. declaration of war on Japan and subsequently on Germany and Italy. The nation rapidly mobilized its military

and industrial resources, leading to significant advancements in technology, production, and military strategy. The war effort united the country and set the stage for the United States' emerging status as a world superpower.

- Neutrality Acts of the 1930s
- Rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe and Asia
- Pearl Harbor attack (1941)
- War mobilization and production
- Allied victory and global leadership

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key themes of AP US History Period 7 (1890-1945)?

The key themes of AP US History Period 7 include American imperialism, the Progressive Era reforms, World War I involvement, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the United States' role in World War II.

How did American imperialism shape US foreign policy in Period 7?

During Period 7, American imperialism led to the expansion of US influence through the acquisition of territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines following the Spanish-American War, as well as increased involvement in Latin America and the Pacific, reflecting a shift toward a more interventionist foreign policy.

What were the major goals of the Progressive Era reforms during Period 7?

The Progressive Era reforms aimed to address problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and corruption by promoting government regulation of business, labor rights, women's suffrage, social welfare programs, and efforts to reduce political corruption.

How did the United States' involvement in World War I impact domestic policies?

US involvement in World War I led to increased government control over the economy, the suppression of dissent through laws like the Espionage and Sedition Acts, and a push for national

unity, but also prompted debates over civil liberties and set the stage for the Red Scare.

What factors contributed to the economic prosperity of the 1920s?

The economic prosperity of the 1920s was driven by technological innovations, mass production techniques like the assembly line, consumer credit expansion, stock market growth, and a booming automobile industry, all contributing to increased consumerism and cultural change.

How did the Great Depression affect American society and government policy?

The Great Depression caused massive unemployment, poverty, and social distress, prompting the federal government under FDR to implement the New Deal programs aimed at economic recovery, financial reform, and social welfare, fundamentally expanding the role of the federal government.

What role did the United States play in World War II during Period 7?

The United States initially maintained neutrality but eventually entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, playing a crucial role in the Allied victory through military engagement in both the European and Pacific theaters and becoming a dominant global superpower by the war's end.

Additional Resources

1. The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

This book by Isabel Wilkerson chronicles the migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North and West between 1915 and 1970. It provides a deeply personal and historical perspective on the social and economic changes that shaped America during Period 7. The narrative highlights the struggles and triumphs of individuals seeking better opportunities and escaping racial oppression.

2. The Age of Roosevelt: The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933

Written by Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., this book explores the transformative era of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency and the New Deal. It examines the political, social, and economic upheavals during the Great Depression and the government's response to widespread hardship. This work is essential for understanding the shift in American liberalism and the role of government in society during the early 20th century.

3. The Grapes of Wrath

John Steinbeck's classic novel captures the plight of American farmers displaced by the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Through the Joad family's journey, the book illustrates the economic struggles and social injustices faced by many during the 1930s. It offers a powerful literary perspective on the human impact of the era's environmental and economic crises.

4. A People's History of the United States

Howard Zinn's renowned work provides an alternative perspective on American history, focusing on the experiences of marginalized groups. Covering the early 20th century, it addresses issues such as labor movements, racial discrimination, and American imperialism. This book encourages readers to rethink traditional narratives and consider the voices often left out of mainstream history.

5. *The Guns of August*

Barbara W. Tuchman's Pulitzer Prize-winning book details the outbreak of World War I and its global consequences. Though primarily focused on Europe, the book contextualizes America's initial neutrality and eventual involvement in the war. It sheds light on the international dynamics that influenced U.S. foreign policy during Period 7.

6. *The Great Depression: America, 1929-1941*

Robert S. McElvaine offers a comprehensive overview of the Great Depression, analyzing its causes, effects, and the government's response. The book details the economic collapse, widespread unemployment, and the social upheaval that defined the era. It is an essential resource for understanding the domestic challenges in the U.S. during the 1930s.

7. *The New Deal and the Triumph of Liberalism*

Sidney M. Milkis and Jerome M. Mileur explore the political and social reforms implemented under FDR's New Deal. The book examines how these policies reshaped American liberalism and expanded the role of the federal government. It highlights key legislation and the debates surrounding the balance between government intervention and individual freedoms.

8. *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*

David M. Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book covers the critical years of the Great Depression and World War II. It provides a detailed narrative of how Americans coped with economic hardship and global conflict. The work emphasizes the resilience and transformation of the U.S. during one of its most turbulent periods.

9. *The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History of Empire and War*

James Bradley's book reveals the lesser-known story of America's imperial ambitions in the early 20th century. Focusing on the 1905 diplomatic mission to Asia, it discusses the racial and political motivations behind U.S. expansionism. This book offers insight into the imperialist policies that shaped America's role on the world stage during Period 7.

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