

unit 7 apush

unit 7 apush covers a critical period in American history, focusing on the years from 1890 to 1945. This unit examines the transformation of the United States into a global power, the progressive reforms that reshaped society, and the challenges faced during the Great Depression and World War II. Key themes include imperialism, economic growth, social change, and the fluctuating role of government. Understanding unit 7 apush is essential for grasping how the United States navigated modernization, international conflicts, and domestic upheavals. This article provides a detailed overview of the major events, policies, and movements during this era, tailored for students preparing for the AP U.S. History exam. The following sections will explore the expansionist foreign policy, the Progressive Era, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the impact of World War II.

- American Imperialism and Expansion
- The Progressive Era Reforms
- The Roaring Twenties and Cultural Shifts
- The Great Depression and New Deal Policies
- World War II: Causes and Consequences

American Imperialism and Expansion

During the period covered by unit 7 apush, the United States emerged as a significant imperial power. The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked a shift from continental expansion to overseas territories and influence. This era was characterized by the acquisition of new lands, military interventions, and an assertive foreign policy that sought to extend American economic and political interests globally.

Causes of American Imperialism

The motivations behind American imperialism included economic interests, strategic considerations, and ideological beliefs such as Social Darwinism and the "White Man's Burden." Industrial growth created a need for new markets, while naval strategists like Alfred Thayer Mahan emphasized the importance of a strong navy and overseas bases. Additionally, there was a prevailing sense of cultural superiority that justified expansion.

Key Events in Expansion

Unit 7 apush highlights several critical events illustrating American expansionism:

- The Spanish-American War (1898), which resulted in the U.S. acquiring Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.
- The annexation of Hawaii in 1898, expanding American influence in the Pacific.
- The construction of the Panama Canal, which facilitated naval and commercial movement between oceans.
- The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, asserting the right to intervene in Latin America.

The Progressive Era Reforms

The Progressive Era, spanning the first two decades of the 20th century, was a period of widespread social activism and political reform aimed at addressing the problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and corruption. Unit 7 apush emphasizes how progressives sought to improve society through government intervention and regulation.

Political Reforms

Reforms during this era targeted political machines and increased democratic participation. Key measures included the introduction of the direct primary, the initiative, referendum, and recall processes, as well as the 17th Amendment, which established the direct election of U.S. senators. These changes aimed to reduce corruption and give citizens more control over their government.

Economic and Social Reforms

Progressives tackled issues like labor conditions, monopolies, and public health. The establishment of regulatory bodies such as the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Federal Trade Commission helped curb corporate abuses. Landmark legislation like the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act improved consumer protections. Additionally, labor reforms addressed child labor, working hours, and workplace safety.

Key Progressive Figures

Several leaders shaped the Progressive movement:

- Theodore Roosevelt, known for trust-busting and conservation efforts.
- Woodrow Wilson, who advanced progressive reforms through his New Freedom platform.
- Jane Addams, a pioneer in social work and settlement house movements.

The Roaring Twenties and Cultural Shifts

The decade following World War I, often called the Roaring Twenties, was marked by economic prosperity, cultural dynamism, and significant social changes. Unit 7 apush covers how this period reflected both modernism and traditionalism in American society.

Economic Growth and Consumerism

Technological innovations and mass production techniques fueled rapid economic expansion. The automobile industry, led by Henry Ford's assembly line, revolutionized transportation and manufacturing. Consumer culture blossomed, with increased availability of radios, household appliances, and entertainment options like movies and jazz music.

Social and Cultural Developments

The 1920s saw shifts in social norms, including greater independence for women symbolized by the flapper culture and the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. The Harlem Renaissance showcased African American cultural achievements, while prohibition sparked both reform efforts and organized crime. At the same time, nativism and racial tensions increased, exemplified by the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan and restrictive immigration laws.

Political Climate

The decade was characterized by a conservative political atmosphere, with presidents favoring limited government intervention in the economy. The administration of Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge promoted business-friendly policies and tax cuts, reflecting a return to laissez-faire principles after the wartime economy.

The Great Depression and New Deal Policies

Unit 7 apush extensively covers the Great Depression, the most severe economic downturn in U.S. history, and the federal government's response through the New Deal. This era reshaped American political and economic life profoundly.

Causes and Impact of the Great Depression

The stock market crash of 1929 symbolized the onset of the Great Depression, but underlying causes included overproduction, uneven wealth distribution, banking failures, and weak international trade. The depression led to massive unemployment, poverty, and widespread hardship affecting millions of Americans.

The New Deal Programs

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal implemented a series of programs and reforms aimed at relief, recovery, and reform. These included:

- The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), providing jobs in natural resource conservation.
- The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), which sought to stabilize agricultural prices.
- The Social Security Act, establishing a safety net for the elderly and unemployed.
- The National Labor Relations Act, protecting workers' rights to unionize.

These initiatives expanded the role of the federal government in economic and social affairs, setting precedents for future policies.

Criticism and Legacy

The New Deal faced opposition from both conservatives, who viewed it as government overreach, and radicals, who demanded more extensive reforms. Nevertheless, it fundamentally altered the American political landscape and helped restore public confidence.

World War II: Causes and Consequences

The final segment of unit 7 apush focuses on World War II, exploring the conflict's origins, America's involvement, and its profound effects on the nation and the world.

Entry into the War

Initially committed to neutrality, the United States gradually shifted toward intervention due to Axis aggression and threats to global stability. The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 propelled the U.S. into the war, aligning with Allied powers to defeat Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Homefront and Mobilization

The war effort transformed American society through mass mobilization of troops and resources. The government coordinated industrial production, leading to an economic boom that ended the Great Depression. Women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," while rationing and war bonds became commonplace.

Impact and Outcomes

World War II resulted in significant geopolitical changes, establishing the United States as a global superpower. The conflict also set the stage for the Cold War and accelerated movements for civil rights and decolonization worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes covered in Unit 7 of APUSH?

Unit 7 of APUSH covers the period from 1890 to 1945, focusing on American imperialism, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and World War II.

How did American imperialism manifest during the Unit 7 period?

American imperialism during Unit 7 included the Spanish-American War, the annexation of territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, and increased involvement in Latin America and Asia.

What were the key goals of the Progressive Movement in Unit 7?

The Progressive Movement aimed to address problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and corruption by promoting reforms such as antitrust laws, labor rights, women's suffrage, and government regulation.

How did World War I impact the United States domestically and internationally?

World War I led to increased government power, the Espionage and Sedition Acts, shifts in the economy, the Red Scare, and established the U.S. as a more active participant in global affairs.

What cultural changes characterized the Roaring Twenties in Unit 7?

The Roaring Twenties saw a cultural boom with jazz music, flappers, the Harlem Renaissance, increased consumerism, and clashes over traditional values such as Prohibition and immigration.

What were the causes and effects of the Great Depression covered in Unit 7?

Causes included stock market speculation, bank failures, and overproduction. Effects were widespread unemployment, poverty, and the implementation of the New Deal programs under FDR to provide relief and reform.

How did the New Deal change the role of the federal government during Unit 7?

The New Deal expanded federal government involvement in the economy and social welfare through programs like Social Security, public works, and financial regulations to combat the Great Depression.

What were the major causes for the United States' entry into World War II?

Major causes included the attack on Pearl Harbor, threats from Axis powers, and economic and political ties to Allied nations, leading to war declarations in 1941.

How did World War II affect American society and the economy during Unit 7?

World War II spurred economic recovery through wartime production, led to

social changes including the roles of women and minorities, and paved the way for the United States to emerge as a global superpower.

Additional Resources

1. *"The American Pageant: A History of the Republic"* by David M. Kennedy and Lizabeth Cohen

This comprehensive textbook is widely used in APUSH courses and provides detailed coverage of Unit 7 topics, including the Progressive Era, World War I, and the Roaring Twenties. The authors explore political, social, and economic changes in early 20th-century America, emphasizing reform movements and international involvement. Its clear narrative and engaging visuals make complex events accessible for students.

2. *"The Progressive Era"* by Murray N. Rothbard

Rothbard's analysis offers a critical perspective on the Progressive Era, focusing on the political and economic reforms that shaped early 20th-century America. The book discusses key figures, legislation, and social movements that sought to address issues like corruption, labor rights, and social justice. It provides essential context for understanding the reforms and challenges of Unit 7 in APUSH.

3. *"Over Here: The First World War and American Society"* by David M. Kennedy

This book examines the impact of World War I on American society, politics, and culture. Kennedy explores how the war accelerated social change, influenced government policy, and transformed the United States into a global power. It is an important resource for understanding America's wartime experience during Unit 7.

4. *"The Jazz Age: The American 1920s"* by Arnold Shaw

Shaw's work delves into the cultural revolution of the 1920s, highlighting the rise of jazz music, changing social norms, and the clash between traditional and modern values. The book captures the vibrancy and contradictions of the decade, providing insight into the cultural landscape students study in Unit 7.

5. *"Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression"* by Studs Terkel

Through firsthand accounts, this book presents the human side of the Great Depression, exploring the struggles and resilience of ordinary Americans. Terkel's oral histories offer a personal perspective on the economic hardships and societal changes that followed the 1920s, setting the stage for the New Deal era covered in Unit 7.

6. *"The Great Crash 1929"* by John Kenneth Galbraith

Galbraith's classic analysis details the causes and consequences of the 1929 stock market crash that precipitated the Great Depression. The book explains the economic factors and speculative behaviors that led to the financial collapse, providing crucial background for understanding the economic context of Unit 7.

7. *“Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945”* by David M. Kennedy

This Pulitzer Prize-winning work covers the entire span from the Great Depression through World War II, focusing on how Americans responded to economic crisis and global conflict. Kennedy offers a thorough narrative of political leadership, social changes, and wartime mobilization, making it essential for grasping the full scope of Unit 7.

8. *“Flapper: A Madcap Story of Sex, Style, Celebrity, and the Women Who Made America Modern”* by Joshua Zeitz

Zeitz’s book explores the flapper phenomenon, a symbol of women’s liberation and the cultural shifts of the 1920s. The narrative discusses how flappers challenged traditional gender roles and influenced fashion, music, and social attitudes, illustrating important themes in Unit 7’s cultural studies.

9. *“The New Deal and the Triumph of Liberalism”* by Sidney M. Milkis and Jerome M. Mileur

This book analyzes the New Deal policies implemented in response to the Great Depression and their long-lasting impact on American liberalism and government intervention. The authors examine key programs, political debates, and the reshaping of the federal government, providing insight into one of the era’s most significant developments covered in Unit 7.

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