



**PERIOD 4 (1800-1848) ➔ The young republic struggled to define and extend democratic ideals in the face of rapid economic, territorial, and demographic changes.**

The College Board has identified the following **KEY CONCEPTS** for Period 4 (1800-1848). The total items (multiple-choice, short answer, and longer essay) related to Period 4 on the APUSH National Exam comprise approximately 10 percent of the test. Use the concepts to strategically frame and guide your personal review plan. Are you able to “make sense” of each statement? Could you generate a written response (short-answer or long) to each statement? Can you add meaningful supportive data to each statement? Can you recall a certain episode in history that would serve well as an example of the situation described by each statement? The bold-faced concepts are generally more encompassing; the others seem to lean toward specificity. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated. You cannot possibly know every square inch of the material.

**The United States developed the world’s first modern mass democracy and celebrated a new national culture, while Americans sought to define the nation’s democratic ideals and to reform its institutions to match them.**

The nation’s transformation to a more participatory democracy was accompanied by continued debates over federal power, the relationship between the federal government and the states, the authority of different branches of the federal government, and the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens.

Concurrent with an increasing international exchange of goods and ideas, larger numbers of Americans began struggling with how to match democratic political ideals to political institutions and social realities.

While Americans celebrated their nation’s progress toward a unified new national culture that blended Old World forms with New World ideas, various groups of the nation’s inhabitants developed distinctive cultures of their own.

**Developments in technology, agriculture, and commerce precipitated profound changes in America’s settlement patterns, regional identities, gender and family relations, political power, and distribution of consumer goods.**

A global market and communications revolution, influencing and influenced by technological innovations, led to dramatic shifts in the nature of agriculture and manufacturing.

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Regional economic specialization, especially the demands of cultivating southern cotton, shaped settlement patterns and the national and international economy.

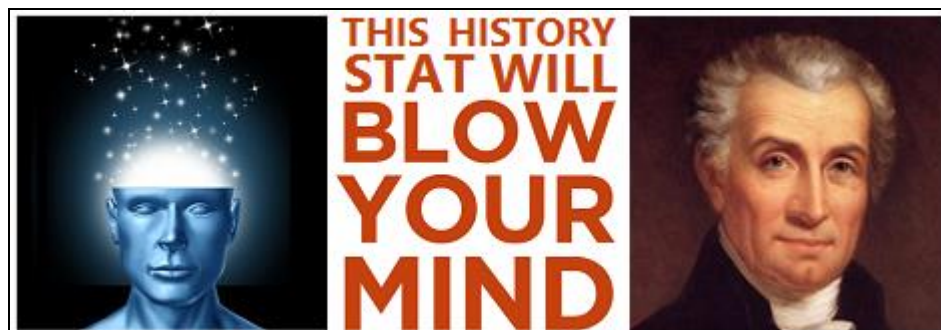
The economic changes caused by the market revolution had significant effects on migration patterns, gender and family relations, and the distribution of political power.

**America's interest in increasing foreign trade, expanding its national borders, and isolating itself from European conflicts shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives.**

Struggling to create an independent global presence, United States policymakers sought to dominate the North American continent and to promote its foreign trade.

Various American groups and individuals initiated, championed, and/or resisted the expansion of territory and/or government powers.

The American acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to a contest over the extension of slavery into the western territories as well as a series of attempts at national compromise.



As President George Washington left office, he advised the nation against the formation of political parties, but to no avail (his Federalist Party was already being challenged by Thomas Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans). Starting with the so-called "Revolution of 1800" (Jefferson's reference to the 1800 presidential election), the Democratic-Republicans began a steady ascent to political dominance. So thorough was the incline (and so thorough was the political ineptitude of the Federalists) that by James Monroe's presidency, the two-party system had reverted back, momentarily, to a single-party system. In fact, Monroe ran essentially unopposed for re-election in 1820. [The outcome of the election was such a lock that many Americans simply did not bother to vote. For example, in Richmond, Virginia, a town of 12,000 people, only 17 men cast votes!](#) Monroe was re-elected one electoral vote shy of unanimous. According to story, the lone elector, William Plumer of New Hampshire, cast his vote for someone else in order to preserve Washington the honor of being the only President elected unanimously. Good story, but not true. The fact of the matter is the elector simply didn't care for Monroe in the White House and therefore cast his vote accordingly. Who got the maverick electoral vote? Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, who coincidentally would become America's next President. Monroe's presidency is often described as the "Era of Good Feelings." However, without detracting from Monroe as President (his performance was excellent), he did not create the prosperity of the period; instead, he happened to enter the White House at a wonderful moment in American history that had already been established by prior factors.