



PERIOD 9 (1980-2000+) ➔ As the United States transitioned to a new century, it faced renewed ideological and cultural debates, sought to redefine its foreign policy, and adapted to economic globalization and huge advances in technology.

The College Board has identified the following **KEY CONCEPTS** for Period 9 (1980-2000+). The total items (multiple-choice, short answer, and longer essay) related to Period 9 on the APUSH National Exam comprise approximately 5 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.

A new conservatism grew to prominence in American culture and politics, defending traditional social values and rejecting liberal views about the role of government.

Reduced public faith in the government’s ability to solve social and economic problems, the growth of religious fundamentalism, and the dissemination of neoconservative thought all combined to invigorate conservatism.

Conservatives achieved some of their political and policy goals, but their success was limited by the enduring popularity and institutional strength of some government programs and public support for cultural trends of recent decades.

The end of the Cold War and new challenges to America’s leadership in the world forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and global role.

The Reagan administration pursued a reinvigorated anti-Communist and interventionist foreign policy which set the tone for later administrations.

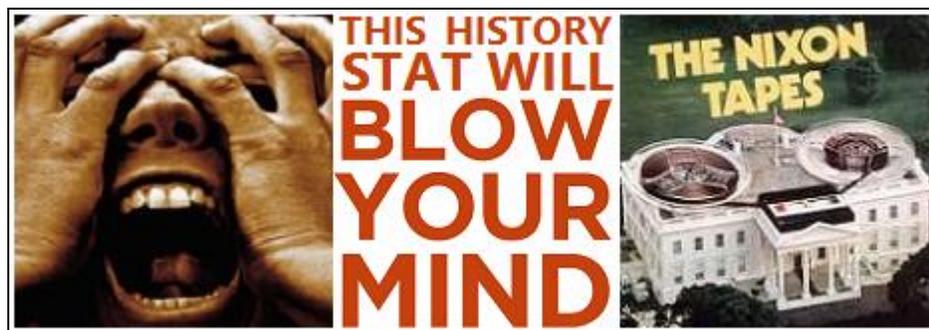
After the September 11, 2001 attacks, American foreign policy and military involvement focused on war against terrorism, which also generated debates about domestic security and civil rights.

Moving into the new millennium, the United States continued to experience challenges stemming from social, economic, and demographic changes.

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European overseas expansion and sustained contacts with Africans and American Indians
The increasing integration of the United States into the world economy was accompanied by economic instability and major policy, social, and environmental challenges.

America's population continued to undergo significant demographic shifts that had profound cultural and political consequences.



Three presidential administrations, those of Ulysses S. Grant, Warren Harding, and Richard Nixon, have oozed corruption. The Nixon impropriety is distinct for two important reasons. Whereas Grant and Harding were not personally involved, Nixon was a willing participant. And, while the dishonesty of the Grant and Harding presidencies (as examples, the Whiskey Ring and Teapot Dome, respectively) were at the base level about money, the Watergate scandal represented a lust for political power. That fact, coupled with the high degree of Nixon's involvement, is alarming. (Whether or not Nixon approved the initial action is unknown; his knowledge of the crime, within just three days, is confirmed). From nothing more than an apparent "third-rate burglary" (Nixon's words) at the Democratic National Headquarters in Washington's Watergate office complex, the case ballooned into a "national nightmare" (words of President Gerald Ford, Nixon's successor). The scandal was solved by a combination of dogged investigative journalism by the *Washington Post* (namely reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein); a secret informer called "Deep Throat" (named after a popular current pornographic movie of the same title); numerous Oval Office tapes (eventually secured from Nixon's grasp through *United States v. Nixon*); and damning turncoat testimony by one of Nixon's pawns (White House counsel John Dean). [So absorbed in corruption was the Nixon administration that more than 40 officials—the Vice-President, four Cabinet members, and several top White House aides, among others—would be named in criminal indictments \(some apart from Watergate\), sooner or later. The charges included obstruction of justice, fraud, extortion, burglary, perjury, violation of campaign funding laws, illegal wiretapping, destruction of evidence, and conspiracy to commit illegal acts.](#) Nixon would not be subjected to judiciary action; in August of 1974 evidence and circumstances against him were so insurmountable that he resigned (the first President ever to do so) rather than face certain removal from office as a result of impending impeachment proceedings.