

# PERIOD 9 Content Outline: 1980-Present

The content for APUSH is divided into 9 periods. The outline below contains the required course content for Period 9. The Thematic Learning Objectives are included as well. You should be confident in answering these questions with substantial historical evidence by the end of the unit. All questions on your assessments will measure understanding of both content and themes as well as mastery of skills. Bold items emphasize some of the important people/places/things that you are likely to be asked directly about on the AP exam. All content in this outline is potential material on any assessment.

Although Period 9 is only 5% of the AP exam, do not count it out... there have been many questions that carry over into this era, and remember 80,000 students failed last year by just one question! Don't let your focus blur just because it is less tested. Texas students... also remember this era is heavily tested for the end of course exam! In 2014, the EOC was 26% modern times!

*Being familiar with general content and specific expectations of knowledge and skills is imperative for preparation for the AP exam. The content outline will be a regular requirement for unit reading.*

## **Key Concept 9.1:**

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.

## **Key Concept 9.2:**

Moving into the **21st century**, the nation experienced significant **technological, economic, and demographic changes**.

## **Key Concept 9.3:**

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**.

**Key Concept 9.1:** 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**.

- I. **Conservative beliefs** regarding the need for **traditional social values** and a **reduced role for government** advanced in **U.S. politics after 1980**.
  - A) **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.
  - B) **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.
  - C) **Policy debates** continued over **free-trade agreements**, the scope of the government **social safety net**, and calls to reform the **U.S. financial system**.

## **Thematic Learning Objectives**

**POL-1.0:** Explain how and why political ideas, beliefs, institutions, party systems, and alignments have developed and changed.

**POL-2.0:** Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.

**POL-3.0:** Explain how different beliefs about the federal government's role in U.S. social and economic life have affected political debates and policies.

**WXT-2.0:** Explain how patterns of exchange, markets, and private enterprise have developed, and analyze ways that governments have responded to economic issues.

**Key Concept 9.2:** Moving into the **21st century**, the nation experienced significant **technological, economic, and demographic changes**.

I. **New developments in science and technology** enhanced the economy and transformed society, while **manufacturing decreased**.

- A) Economic productivity increased as improvements in **digital communications** enabled increased American participation in **worldwide economic opportunities**.
- B) **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**.
- C) **Employment** increased in **service sectors** and decreased in **manufacturing**, and **union membership** declined.
- D) **Real wages** stagnated for the **working** and **middle class** amid growing **economic inequality**.

### Thematic Learning Objectives

**WXT-1.0:** Explain how different labor systems developed in North America and the United States, and explain their effects on workers' lives and U.S. society.

**WXT-2.0:** Explain how patterns of exchange, markets, and private enterprise have developed, and analyze ways that governments have responded to economic issues.

**WXT-3.0:** Analyze how technological innovation has affected economic development and society.

II. The **U.S. population** continued to undergo **demographic shifts** that had significant **cultural and political consequences**.

- A) **After 1980**, the **political, economic, and cultural influence** of the **American South and West** continued to increase as **population shifted** to those areas.
- B) **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**.
- C) Intense **political and cultural debates** continued over issues such as **immigration policy, diversity, gender roles, and family structures**.

### Thematic Learning Objectives

**NAT-4.0:** Analyze relationships among different regional, social, ethnic, and racial groups, and explain how these groups' experiences have related to U.S. national identity.

**CUL-3.0:** Explain how ideas about women's rights and gender roles have affected society and politics.

**MIG-1.0:** Explain the causes of migration to colonial North America and, later, the United States, and analyze immigration's effects on U.S. society.

**MIG-2.0:** Analyze causes of internal migration and patterns of settlement in what would become the United States, and explain how migration has affected American life.

**Key Concept 9.3:** 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.**

- I. The **Reagan administration** promoted an **interventionist foreign policy** that continued in **later administrations**, even after the end of the Cold War.
  - A) **Reagan** asserted **U.S. opposition to communism** through **speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons.**
  - B) Increased **U.S. military spending, Reagan’s diplomatic initiatives, and political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union** were all important in **ending the Cold War.**
  - C) 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.**

### Thematic Learning Objectives

**WOR-2.0:** Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives in North America and overseas.

- II. Following the attacks of **September 11, 2001**, **U.S. foreign policy efforts** focused on **fighting terrorism** around the world.
  - A) In the wake of attacks on the **World Trade Center and the Pentagon**, the United States launched **military efforts against terrorism and** lengthy, controversial conflicts in **Afghanistan and Iraq.**
  - B) 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.**
  - C) **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.**
  - D) Despite **economic and foreign policy challenges**, the **United States** continued as the world’s leading **superpower** in the **21st century.**

### Thematic Learning Objectives

**NAT-2.0:** Explain how interpretations of the Constitution and debates over rights, liberties, and definitions of citizenship have affected American values, politics, and society.

**NAT-3.0:** Analyze how ideas about national identity changed in response to U.S. involvement in international conflicts and the growth of the United States.

**GEO-1.0:** Explain how geographic and environmental factors shaped the development of various communities, and analyze how competition for and debates over natural resources have affected both interactions among different groups and the development of government policies.

**WOR-2.0:** Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives in North America and overseas.