

APUSH Big Themes

1. Colonial Era
 - a. Mercantilism promotes more colonialism
 - b. Feitorias, plantations, and the encomienda promote slavery and dominate early colonialism
 - c. The Atlantic World and triangular trade
 - d. Geography and climate cause sectionalism
 - e. The first Great Awakening provides a model of independence from authority.
 - f. The Enlightenment sets the stage for the U.S.
 - g. Salutary Neglect-the American Revolution starts in 1607
 - h. The end of salutary neglect provokes American independence

2. Early Republic
 - a. Federal vs. State authority
 - b. Federalist vs. Democratic-Republicans
 - c. Hard vs. soft money (east vs. west)

3. Antebellum
 - a. Second Great Awakening provokes social reform
 - b. Technology creates greater sectionalism
 - c. Manifest Destiny and western settlement
 - d. Additions of western land provoke confrontations over slavery

4. Civil War and Reconstruction
 - a. Northern Economic development during the war pushes the U.S. into the modern age
 - b. Total war and attrition bring the war to an end
 - c. Jim Crow and sharecropping replace slavery

5. Gilded Age
 - a. The end of the frontier
 - b. The development of the corporation and national market
 - c. Monopolies develop and dominate government
 - d. Populism and free coinage of silver

6. Progressive Era
 - a. Progressives want government involvement in economic and social problems
 - b. Trade with warring nations provokes unrestricted submarine warfare
 - c. Unrestricted warfare causes the U.S. to enter WWI

7. New Era and Great Depression
 - a. Post WWI inflation creates labor unrest
 - b. Normalcy and the rejection of Versailles
 - c. The Great Migration provokes social and cultural changes
 - d. Trickle-down economics creates income inequality and speculative bubbles
 - e. Income inequality creates low levels of spending and depression

8. WWII
 - a. Isolation vs. involvement in world affairs
 - b. Mobilization brings home-front social and economic change

9. Post-WWII and Civil Rights
 - a. Post-war boom creates suburban consumer culture
 - b. Conformity vs. nonconformity of the 50s
 - c. Montgomery Way
 - d. Move toward black pride and violent confrontation

10. Cold War
 - a. Containment and the Truman Doctrine
 - b. McCarthyism
 - c. Containment vs. Liberation and Brinkmanship

11. Vietnam War Era
 - a. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution as a blank check
 - b. Escalation to Vietnamization with Tet '68 as a turning point
 - c. The Generation gap and counterculture develop
 - d. Bipolar world to a multipolar world

12. Modern Era

- a. Hippie Capitalism
- b. Supply side trickle-down
- c. The Evil Empire falls
- d. The new world order and the peace dividend