

## 1. Essay Questions

80. Describe the impact of Europeans on Native American (Indian) cultures and the impact of native cultures on Europeans. Then explain why it was or was not a good thing that European culture prevailed.
81. Summarize the motives, expectations, problems, and rewards associated with the age of European expansion.
82. It is sometimes said that the Europeans who came to the Americas settled a “virgin land” that was unused and unspoiled. Write an essay demonstrating that this is or is not an accurate description of what happened.
83. Write your definition of *culture*. Then use your definition to compare the cultures of Native Americans and Europeans.
84. Write your definition of the concept of *discovery*. Then use this definition to demonstrate that Columbus was or was not the person who discovered America.
85. What was the nature of slavery in Africa before the arrival of the Spanish?
86. Are the *conquistadores* to be considered villains or heroes for their actions in the Americas?
87. Describe the Aztec civilization and the effect that European conquest had on it.

## 2. Essay Questions

99. What lessons do you think English colonists learned from their early Jamestown experience? Focus on matters of fulfilling expectations, financial support, leadership skills, and relations with the Indians. What specific developments illustrate that the English living in the plantation colonies tried to apply these lessons?
100. In many ways, North Carolina was the *least* typical of the five plantation colonies. Describe the unique features of colonial North Carolina and explain why this colony was so unlike its southern neighbors.
101. Write your definition of *progress*. Then use this definition to demonstrate that the discovery of America did *or* did not lead to progress in human history.
102. Which one of the following do you think made the most important contribution to European expansion: Renaissance thought, the search for new trade routes, or new developments in technology? Explain your choice.
103. Rank the items in the following list, starting with the one that you think had the most important consequences. Then justify your ranking. Finally, speculate as to what might have happened had these events not occurred.

- a. The cultivation of tobacco in Virginia
  - b. The introduction of slavery into the plantation colonies
  - c. The “enclosing” of croplands in England
104. Why was tobacco called a poor man’s crop and sugar a rich man’s crop?
105. Discuss English treatment of the Irish and its consequences.

### 3. Essay Questions

122. Select any combination of two of the three colonial settlement areas (South, New England, middle) and compare and contrast them. Focus on the motives of their founders, religious and social orientation, economic pursuits, and political developments.
123. To what degree was the government of Massachusetts Bay simultaneously theocratic, democratic, oligarchic, and authoritarian?
124. Discuss the similarities and differences between the Confederation of New England and the Dominion of New England. Be sure to cite the date of the founding, state the reasons for their creation, describe how they functioned and what they accomplished, and explain why they were ultimately abandoned.
125. Write your definition of *religious fanatic*. Then use this definition to argue that the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay were *or* were not religious fanatics.
126. State and explain your position on whether or not political authority should be used to enforce a particular view of morality. Then explain why you would *or* would not have been in favor of banishing Roger Williams and/or Anne Hutchinson from Massachusetts Bay.
127. Construct a definition of *Puritanism* using the concepts of predestination, calling, covenant, Protestant ethic, and conversion.
128. Which of the New England or middle colonies would you have preferred to live in? Explain your answer by discussing your selection’s social, economic, political, religious, and ethnic characteristics.
129. In your opinion, which three of the twelve colonies founded in the seventeenth century made the most significant contributions to the perennial American values of democratic self-government, educational opportunity, religious toleration, social plurality, and economic materialism? Explain your choice.
130. Make a list of the motives of English people who migrated to America in the seventeenth century. Rank the items in the list from most important to least important. Then justify your ranking.
131. Write your interpretation of John Winthrop’s comment that Massachusetts Bay was to be “as a city upon a hill” and “a beacon to mankind.” In your

opinion, do Americans still hold this view of their nation's role in the world? Why or why not?

132. Some historians have argued that Puritanism was especially suited for life in the wilderness of seventeenth-century America. Do you agree? Why or why not?

#### 4. Essay Questions

72. Compare and contrast the economies, geography and climate, mortality rates, sex ratios, and family relationships of New England and the southern colonies. In which of the two regions would you have preferred to live? Why?
73. Why did colonial masters first adopt the institution of indentured servitude rather than Indian or black slavery to meet their demands for labor? Why, then, did black slavery replace indentured servitude?
74. Were distinctions of wealth and status widening or narrowing as the seventeenth century drew to a close? Why?
75. Write your definition of *racism*. Then use this definition to argue that the origin of slavery in colonial America was *or* was not primarily the result of English racism.
76. Write your definition of *mass hysteria*. Then use this definition to argue that the Salem witchcraft episode was *or* was not a simple case of mass hysteria.
77. Which do you think was the main cause of Bacon's Rebellion: resentment felt by backcountry farmers, Governor Berkeley's Indian policies, or the pressure of the tobacco economy? Justify your choice.
78. Describe what you think town life contributed to the life-style of New Englanders; then consider what was the consequence of the absence of towns in the colonial South.
79. Argue either that an "American" way of life had emerged by the end of the seventeenth century *or* that two wholly distinct ways of life, one New England and the other southern, had emerged by the end of the seventeenth century.

#### 5. Essay Questions

88. Summarize the key features of the American population in the early eighteenth century. Consider its sources, size, location, diversity, and mobility.
89. Did differences in wealth and status in the colonies increase or diminish from 1700 to 1750? Explain.

90. Explain how the Great Awakening, an intensely religious movement, contributed to the development of the separation of church and state in America.
91. Write your definition of *religious fundamentalism*. Then use this definition to argue that the Great Awakening was *or* was not a movement of religious fundamentalists.
92. Write your definition of *democracy*. Then use this definition to argue that colonial politics had *or* had not become democratic by 1760.
93. Early America was not a world of equality and consensus, yet many immigrants poured in, seeing America as a land of opportunity. How could they draw such a conclusion?

## Unit 1

### 6.Essay Questions

75. Compare and contrast the French colonies in North America with their British and Spanish counterparts. Consider, for example, location, timing, economy, political organization, and religious influences.
76. Why did the Ohio Valley become the arena of conflict between the French and British in America?
77. Write your definition of *world war*. Then use this definition to argue that the French and Indian War was *or* was not a world war.
78. Write your definition of *nationalism*. Then use this definition to argue that the French and Indian War was *or* was not a nationalizing experience for colonial Americans.
79. Which of the following do you think contributed most to the British victory in the French and Indian War: the leadership of William Pitt, the aid of American colonists, or the skill of the British regulars? Feel free to cite a reason of your own. Justify your choice.
80. The French and Indian War has also been called the “Great War for Empire.” Explain why this might be an appropriate name for this war.
81. It is sometimes observed that the roots of future wars lie in the results of past wars. In what ways does it appear that the French and Indian War helped to cause the American Revolutionary War?
82. Suppose that the French had won the French and Indian War. What do you think would have been the consequences for the British colonies in America in both the short and long run?

### 7.Essay Questions

97. Explain the relationship between mercantilism, the Navigation Laws, and

British efforts to create an administrative structure for their empire after 1696.

98. Given that the Quebec Act did not apply to the thirteen seaboard colonies, why did the act create such a stir of protest among them?
99. What were the major advantages and disadvantages of the British and the colonists, respectively, as the American Revolutionary War began? What would Britain have to do to win? What would the colonists have to do to win?
100. What does the phrase *point of no return* mean to you? Identify that point in colonial-British relations between 1760 and 1776 and explain why you picked that event/date.
101. Write your definition of *conspiracy*. Then use this definition to argue that the colonists were *or* were not victims of a British conspiracy to rob them of their liberties.
102. Both the British and the colonists were devoted to the principle of “No taxation without representation.” This being true, how did both taxation and representation become major sources of controversy between the colonists and Parliament?
103. In what ways were the mercantilist policies of the British burdensome to the colonists? In what ways were they beneficial? From this comparison, draw a conclusion about the effects of mercantilism and the Navigation Laws on British-colonial relations up to 1763.
104. Which of the following do you think was most responsible for the conflict between Britain and its American colonies: the ineptness of parliamentary leadership, the colonists’ behavior, the high-handedness of King George III, the British mercantilist system and Navigation Laws, or the actions of British officials in the colonies? Justify your choice.
105. List the following in order of their importance to colonial protest: pamphlets, boycotts, mob action, committees of correspondence. Justify your ranking.
106. It might be said that it was the British who were revolutionaries in 1763 and the colonists who were conservatives attempting to preserve the status quo. Explain.
107. The text authors comment, “Insurrection of thought usually precedes insurrection of deed.” What do they mean? In what ways is this generalization an accurate description of the coming of the American Revolutionary War?
108. Create a scenario for the period 1763–1776 to demonstrate that the American Revolutionary War and colonial independence from Great Britain were not inevitable.

109. Historians have argued for many years over why the Revolution occurred. In your opinion, what school of thought is the most convincing, and why?

## **8.Essay Questions**

109. What qualities in George Washington made him a good choice for commanding the Revolutionary army? What were his most valuable contributions to independence?
110. The combat of the Revolutionary War began in spring 1775. Why did colonists wait until the summer of 1776 to declare independence?
111. Account for the widespread and enthusiastic colonial reception of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.
112. Colonists had debated with Parliament and protested its actions since 1763. Why, then, did the Declaration of Independence single out King George III as the tyrant threatening their liberties?
113. Write your definition of *loyalty*. Then explain why the Loyalists were held in such low regard and treated with abuse during the Revolutionary War.
114. List the three most important battles of the Revolutionary War. Justify your selections.
115. Many historians argue that without French aid the colonies could never have won their independence. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
116. Thomas Jefferson was a slaveowner. Why, then, did he state in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal"?
117. Explain why the text's authors conclude that the Franco-American alliance was "not prompted by a love for America but by a realistic concern for the interests of France." In what ways did the French contribute to colonial independence?
118. It is often argued that the British "lost" the Revolutionary War more than the Americans "won" it. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

## Unit 2

### **9.Essay Questions**

92. Why didn't the leaders of the American Revolution extend their spirit of equality to the abolition of slavery and giving women the right to vote?
93. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, especially in regard to the specific powers granted by each to the national government.

94. Write your definition of *democracy*. Then use this definition to evaluate the Constitution as it was penned in 1787. In what ways was it a democratic document, and in what ways did it guard against democracy?
95. In what way was anticolonialism established as a legacy of the American Revolution? How, then, did the United States establish a justification for its own future territorial expansion?
96. Historian Charles Beard described the Constitution as the “reactionary” phase of the Revolutionary era. What did he mean by this, and what could have led him to this conclusion?
97. Had you been a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, how would you have voted on such issues as representation, taxation, regulation of commerce, and the slave trade? Why?
98. Had you been a delegate to a state convention charged with considering ratification of the Constitution, which way would you have voted? Why?
99. List all the reasons why the Articles of Confederation needed to be replaced in order of importance, starting with the most important reason. Justify your selection and arrangement.
100. Thomas Jefferson observed that “173 despots would surely be as oppressive as one.” What was the context of his remark? What was Jefferson warning against?
101. According to the text’s authors, “In some respects, the hated British Navigation Laws were more disagreeable after independence than before.” What is the basis for their conclusion?
102. Thomas Jefferson once said he believed that “all the good” of the new Constitution might have been accomplished by simply amending the Articles of Confederation. According to the text’s authors, it is probably a good thing that the Founding Fathers did not merely amend the Articles of Confederation. With which position do you agree? Why?
103. Assume that the Constitution had not been ratified by the state conventions. What do you think would have been the short- and long-term consequences?

## 10. Essay Questions

111. What was to be the purpose of the National Bank? What particular functions would it perform?
112. Compare and contrast “loose” and “strict” constructionism. What is the basis of support for each position?

113. What was the importance of the Whiskey Rebellion?
114. Compare and contrast the Federalists and Republicans, especially their views on democracy, government power, the economy, and foreign affairs.
115. Which sectional and economic groups generally supported the Federalists and which the Republicans? Why?
116. Write your definition of *democracy*. Then use this definition to argue that Jefferson *or* Hamilton was the better spokesperson for democratic government in the 1790s.
117. How would you have voted on funding, assumption, the National Bank, and protective tariffs in Hamilton's program? Explain why you would advocate strict or loose constructionism.
118. In which party, Federalist or Republican, would you have been most comfortable? Why?
119. Describe what you think would be Hamilton's assessment of government in the United States today. Describe what you think Jefferson's assessment would be.
120. According to the text's authors, "critics claimed [Hamilton] loved his adopted country more than he loved his countrymen." Rephrase this statement in your own words; then supply evidence supporting the statement.
121. The text's authors claim that "it was fortunate for the Republic that the Federalists had the helm [control of the government] for a time." Do you agree? Why or why not?
122. What was the relationship between the French Revolution and American domestic politics in the 1790s?
123. Summarize the central argument of the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions. Explain why they are key documents in American history.
124. Very early in its national history, the United States established a tradition of isolationism in its foreign policy. How did the Neutrality Proclamation and Washington's Farewell Address contribute to this tradition?
125. Write your definition of *majority rule*. Then use this definition to argue that the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions were *or* were not a threat to majority rule.
126. Before 1790, American leaders denounced political parties. Explain why, nonetheless, political parties came into existence and what function they performed in the early Republic.
127. List as many First Amendment freedoms as you can think of. Now explain



why the Jeffersonians were outraged at the Alien and Sedition Acts.

128. List the provisions of Jay's Treaty. Which were most unsatisfactory to American interests? Why?
129. Which of the following do you think made the most important contribution to American national interests: Neutrality Proclamation, Farewell Address, Convention of 1800? Justify your selection.
130. John Adams called his peaceful resolution of the problems with France in 1800 "the most splendid diamond in my crown." Why did he think so? Was his pride justified? Why or why not?
131. A diplomatic historian has said in reference to early American foreign policy that "Europe's troubles became America's opportunities." What events of the 1790s would best illustrate the truth of this remark? Why?

### 11. Essay Questions

99. Why do the text's authors refer to the case of *Marbury v. Madison* as "epochal"? Describe the short- and long-term ramifications of the decision.
100. What basis did Thomas Jefferson have for believing that American trade could be used as a diplomatic tool? Would you judge his economic coercion policy a failure or a success? Why or why not?
101. Write your definition of *revolution*. Then use this definition to argue that the "Revolution of 1800" was a real revolution *or* a more moderate "renovation" in American political history.
102. List at least three key principles of government advanced by Thomas Jefferson and the Republican party before 1800. Describe how these ideals fared during Jefferson's administration. Were they translated into public policy? Explain how or, if not, why not.
103. Suppose you were a faithful Republican party adviser to President Jefferson in 1803. What arguments would you present in favor of the Louisiana Purchase? What arguments opposing the purchase would you have to counter?
104. "The day France takes possession of New Orleans we must marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation," remarked President Jefferson. Why was he so alarmed?
105. The text's authors believe that the Louisiana Purchase was "the most glorious achievement of Jefferson as president." Do you agree? Why or why not?
106. Assess the Jeffersonian presidency. What do you think were his three most important legacies? Explain your choices.

## 12. Essay Questions

131. Why were internal improvements a controversial issue in the decade following the War of 1812?
132. Why was the West the region most seized with the spirit of nationalism following the War of 1812?
133. How might John Quincy Adams's behavior in the Florida Purchase Treaty and Monroe Doctrine earn him the title "lone-wolf nationalist"?
134. Why did the United States reject the British foreign minister's proposal for a joint declaration of opposition to any further colonization in the Western Hemisphere?
135. Write your definition of *isolationism*. Then use this definition to argue that the Monroe Doctrine was *or* was not an isolationist document.
136. Rank the following in the order of what you see as their importance in shaping America's legal system: *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, *Fletcher v. Peck*, *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*, *Cohens v. Virginia*. Justify your ranking.
137. Which of the following made the most important contributions to American nationalism after the War of 1812: John Marshall, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams? Justify your selection.
138. The text's authors claim that the Era of Good Feelings is "something of a misnomer" for the decade following the War of 1812. Do you agree? Why or why not?
139. Historians have sometimes referred to the program of the Jeffersonian Republicans after 1815 as "neo-Federalist." Is this an accurate label? Why or why not?
140. During the Missouri debates, Thomas Jefferson expressed the fear that that "question, like a firebell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror." Why? What was at stake in the Missouri debate that generated such profound concern?
141. The text's authors crown John Marshall as "the foremost of the Molding Fathers," whereas a contemporary newspaper editorial condemned him as "a man whose political doctrines led him always...to strengthen government at the expense of the people." Which point of view do you think has the most substance? Why?
142. Which do you think was the most significant event of the decade following the Treaty of Ghent: panic of 1819, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, Florida Purchase Treaty, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine? Justify your selection.

143. Why were the landlocked South and West so ardently in favor of a war for freedom of the seas that seafronting states in the East opposed?
144. Since both France and Britain were guilty of placing commercial restrictions on American trade, why did the United States declare war only on Britain?
145. Write your definition of *victory*. Then use this definition to argue that the United States did *or* did not win a victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812.
146. Write your definition of *national independence*. Then use this definition to argue that the War of 1812 should *or* should not be called the Second War for American Independence.
147. Which do you think was the major cause of the War of 1812: western war hawk territorial expansion, British violations of American neutrality rights on the high seas, or the urge to uphold national honor and pride? Justify your selection.
148. What do the text's authors mean by stating that the War of 1812 "was 'won' by the United States, so far as it was won at all, in Europe"?
149. Regarding opposition to the War of 1812, the authors remark that "profits dull patriotism." Is this a fair explanation of antiwar sentiment in 1812–1815? Why or why not?
150. What might the president and Congress have done in 1812 to avoid war with Britain and still maintain the nation's honor?

### Unit 3

#### **13. Essay Questions**

120. Why was the election of 1824 so ridden with conflict and confusion? What was at stake between the competing candidates, especially Adams and Jackson?
121. In 1816, John C. Calhoun had supported protective tariff legislation. In 1828, he denounced protective tariffs. Why did he switch?
122. In what ways was Andrew Jackson a states' rightist? In what ways was he a nationalist?
123. Write your definition of *political favoritism*. Then use this definition to argue that the rotation in office/spoils system of the Jacksonians was *or* was not crass political favoritism.
124. Write your definition of *common man*. Then use this definition to argue that Andrew Jackson was *or* was not a common man in the presidency.
125. If you had lived in the 1820, would you have voted for Andrew Jackson? Why or why not?

126. Would you say that Andrew Jackson as president reflected the views, values, and interests of the West or of the South? Explain.
127. Who among the following do you suppose would have supported Andrew Jackson and Jacksonian policies: Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, George Washington? Why?
128. The text's authors describe the Tariff of 1828 as "dishonest," and angry southerners dubbed it the "Tariff of Abominations." Why? What purposes lay behind passage of this tariff law?
129. Summarize the major points of each participant in the Webster-Hayne debate. Explain why the text's authors can claim that Webster "probably did more than any other person to arouse the incoming generation of northerners to fight for the ideal of the Union."
130. Compare and contrast the Whigs and Democrats in regard to their beliefs, public policies, and supporters. Summarize the crucial differences between them.
131. Why did tariff policy become an important national issue by 1832? Summarize the South's position on protective tariffs.
132. Explain why John Quincy Adams's presidency was frustrating for him and was ultimately judged a "failure."
133. Write your definition of *tyrant*. Then use this definition to argue that Andrew Jackson was *or* was not a presidential tyrant riding roughshod over the Constitution.
134. Write your definition of a *great president*. Then use this definition to argue that Andrew Jackson was *or* was not a great president.
135. What basic assumptions are contained in John C. Calhoun's doctrine of nullification? Compare and contrast it to the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions and to the doctrine of secession. Why did Calhoun put forward this view of constitutional propriety?
136. List the chief controversial issues of the Jackson administration. What position did Jackson take on each of them? Why?
137. Did the national government or the state of South Carolina "win" the nullification crisis? Justify your answer.
138. If you had been living in the age of Jackson, would you have been for or against the following: nullification, veto of the bank, and Indian removal? Justify your position.
139. Evaluate the wisdom of Jackson's veto of the recharter bill for the Bank of the United States. Who gained and who lost by his veto?

140. Why has Andrew Jackson been called “the first modern president”?
141. It has been observed that “though Jackson was perhaps not himself a democrat, he was a democratic leader.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
142. How does the election of 1840 “illustrate the shortcomings of democratic politics”?
143. The text’s authors have presented the view that “if Jackson had only strangled the serpent of secession in the cradle [during the nullification crisis], ...there might have been no costly Civil War.” Do you think that Andrew Jackson acted wisely in the nullification crisis? Why or why not?
144. What is the relationship between American democracy and free-market capitalism? What role did class play in Jacksonian democracy?

#### 14. Essay Questions

91. Explain why the Northeast became the first industrial center of the United States and why the South lagged in economic industrialization.
92. Explain why the United States was a full generation behind Britain and Europe in the industrialization of its economy.
93. In what specific ways did the American government contribute to and promote industrial growth and economic expansion in the early nineteenth century?
94. What was the impact of industry, urbanization, and the transportation revolution on American agriculture?
95. Summarize the impact of the industrial revolution on American labor, on the rich and the poor, and on families and home life.
96. Write your definition of *revolution*. Then use this definition to argue that the industrial revolution was *or* was not a revolutionary event.
97. Explain the part played by each of the following in the industrialization of the American economy: technology, immigration, investment, government aid, and internal improvements.
98. Rank the following in terms of their contribution to industrialization: cotton gin, principle of interchangeable parts, Erie Canal. Justify your ranking.
99. Identify the single most significant development in (a) manufacturing technology, (b) transportation, (c) communications technology, and (d) business organization that encouraged industrialization in the United States. Explain your choice in each category.

100. List the five most important inventions of the early nineteenth century and rank them in order of importance. Justify your ranking.
101. How can it be argued that the Erie Canal was the single most important accomplishment contributing to economic expansion prior to the coming of the railroad?
102. The text's authors claim that on the eve of the Civil War, "a truly continental economy had emerged...[in which] the principle of division of labor...applied on a national scale." Briefly explain the operation of this "national" economy and its political implications.
103. If America is indeed a "nation of immigrants," why does it have a history of native prejudice toward new immigrant groups?
104. Explain the impact of the market revolution on American workers, including women.
105. What traits fostered by America's early-nineteenth-century frontier experience are less than admirable? Why did they become American traits?
106. Compare and contrast the Irish and German immigrants of early-nineteenth-century America in terms of their motives for leaving Europe, pattern of settlement in the United States, impact on American life, and reception by native-born Americans.
107. The text's authors state that "the West, with its raw frontier, was the most typically American part of America" in the early nineteenth century. Explain what they mean by this remark. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
108. It has been claimed that the frontier acted as a "safety valve" for the East, allowing the discontented to begin an alternative life on the frontier. To what extent does this seem to have been true?

## 15. Essay Questions

110. Why were women prominent in the reform crusades of the early nineteenth century? What contribution did they make to social reform?
111. Why did the communitarian movement flourish in the early nineteenth century? What were communitarians trying to prove? Why did most fail?
112. How did each of the following encourage social reform: Second Great Awakening, industrialization, nostalgia for the past?
113. Write your definition of *paternalism*. Then use this definition to argue that early-nineteenth-century American reform efforts were in part paternalistic endeavors by middle-class Americans to "do something for" the less fortunate.

114. What do you find the single most worthwhile reform movement of the early nineteenth century? Why?
115. What was the relationship between industrialization and the women's rights movement? What did women reformers want?
116. In what ways did American literature in the early nineteenth century reflect the New Democracy of the Jacksonian age?
117. The text's authors contend that early-nineteenth-century Americans "were more interested in practical gadgets than in pure science," and it is widely believed that Americans have always had a love affair with technology. Why?
118. How do the Knickerbocker group, Hudson River school, and transcendentalists all reflect the "nationalism" of early-nineteenth-century America? What particularly "American" values did each reflect?
119. The text's authors label Poe, Hawthorne, and Melville "literary individualists and dissenters." Against what were they dissenting? Why?
120. What role did women play in the intellectual and literary movements of the early 1800s?
121. The authors claim that in early-nineteenth-century America, public schools "existed chiefly to educate the children of the poor." Why were both upper- and lower-class Americans willing to support public education with their tax dollars?
122. Explain why the Mormons became a target for religious intolerance in America.
123. In the reform movements of the first half of the 1800s, historians have regarded some reformers in the abolitionist movement not so much as heroes, but as people who sought social control. What is your opinion?

## 16. Essay Questions

72. In what ways were cotton production and slavery more a burden to the South than a benefit?
73. Why was the proposal for colonizing blacks back to Africa attractive to many whites, even as late as the onset of the Civil War?
74. Write your definition of *extremism*. Then use this definition to argue that abolitionists were *or* were not extremists when they undertook to abolish slavery.
75. Write your definition of *cruelty*. Then use this definition to argue that slavery was *or* was not an exceptionally cruel institution.
76. What would be your view on slavery if you were a typical

- a. planter aristocrat
  - b. small slaveowner
  - c. nonslaveowning white
  - d. mountain southerner
  - e. free black
77. Assume the role of a southern slave. Describe what life is like for you. What experiences have you had, what have you seen happen, what emotions have you felt, and what do you believe and value?
78. Explain why the “gag resolution” symbolized the threat that slavery constituted for all Americans, North and South.
79. It was argued by some that the slaves were better off than both wage earners in northern industry and free blacks back in Africa. Do you agree? Why or why not?
80. Elaborate on the text authors’ comment that with the invention of the cotton gin, “the slave [was]...chained to the gin and the planter to the slave.”
81. The authors observe that “white southerners...liked the black as an individual but despised the race. The white northerner...often professed to like the race but disliked individual blacks.” From what you know of the life of free blacks and slaves, do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
82. Did extreme abolitionists do more harm than good? In what way? How would you have solved the slavery problem?
83. It has been argued that both Britain and the North were tied to the South with “cotton threads.” Explain.
84. Based on Varying Viewpoints, discuss the various ways in which historians have viewed the relationships between master and slave.

#### Unit 4

#### 17.Essay Questions

74. Texas declared its independence from Mexico in 1836. Why wasn’t it annexed to the United States until 1845?
75. Why was President Polk willing to go to war against Mexico over Texas but not against Britain over Oregon?
76. Given the great enthusiasm for territorial expansion, why did the “all of Mexico” movement fail?
77. In what way was the Mexican War a “limited” war?
78. Was there any validity to the charge that the Texas annexation and Mexican War were attempts to expand slavery? Why or why not?



79. Write your definition of *national interest*. Then use this definition to argue that the Webster-Ashburton Treaty or the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo did *or* did not serve the national interests of the United States.
80. Write your definition of *imperialism*. Then use this definition to argue that the United States was *or* was not an imperialistic nation in the 1840s.
81. List the following items in order of their importance as factors in the outbreak of war between the United States and Mexico: Slidell mission, Taylor's troops on the Rio Grande, debt claims of American citizens, Manifest Destiny, Polk's quest for California. Justify your ranking and explain how each item contributed to the outbreak of war.
82. List the following items in order of their importance as contributors to American expansion to the Pacific: land hunger, trade opportunities, suspicion of British intentions, Manifest Destiny. Justify your ranking and explain how each item contributed to territorial expansion.
83. James K. Polk is often ranked as one of America's "near great" presidents. Do you agree that he should be so highly ranked? Why or why not?
84. Was the Mexican War inevitable? Was it necessary? Why or why not? What might either side have done to avoid war?
85. Explain why it is sometimes argued that the Mexican War was a major cause of the Civil War.

### 18. Essay Questions

82. Why was there a reassertion of Manifest Destiny in the 1850s? What were the goals of America's diplomacy at the time?
83. Explain the widespread popularity of the concept of popular sovereignty as a way to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories. Then explain why it ultimately failed.
84. Explain the relationship between the Ostend Manifesto and the slavery controversy in the United States.
85. Write your definition of *compromise*. Then use this definition to argue that popular sovereignty was *or* was not a reasonable compromise between the sections on the slavery expansion issue.
86. Do you believe that there is a "higher law" than the Constitution? What is it? Why is this concept "dangerous to republican government"?
87. In what way did the Compromise of 1850 contribute to the Union victory in the Civil War?
88. Explain why the Kansas-Nebraska Act might be characterized as a serious mistake for southern interests.

89. Compare and contrast the views of Clay, Webster, and Calhoun in the congressional debate that produced the Compromise of 1850.
90. Why might it be argued that the building of the first transcontinental railroad to link the East and the West contributed to the wrenching apart of the North and the South?
91. The text's authors observe that during the debate of 1850, John C. Calhoun, hoping to save the Union, proposed "an utterly unworkable scheme of electing two presidents, one from the North and one from the South, each wielding a veto." Explain why such an arrangement would have been "utterly unworkable."
92. The authors argue that the North "got the better of the Compromise of 1850." Do you agree? Why or why not?
93. It has been said that "the historian who searches for examples of intelligent and tolerant statesmanship in the period 1850–1854 seeks almost in vain." Citing the "statesmanship" of men like Clay, Douglas, Webster, Calhoun, Pierce, and Fillmore, demonstrate that this argument is *or* is not supportable.
94. Do you think that by the end of 1854 the two sections had reached an impasse and that Civil War was inevitable sooner or later? Why or why not?

### 19. Essay Questions

76. What was responsible for the violence in "Bleeding Kansas"? Why might the violence be viewed as a "prelude to Civil War"?
77. What were the implications of the Dred Scott decision for
  - a. the status of free blacks in the United States?
  - b. the concept of popular sovereignty?
  - c. the future of slavery in America?
78. Write your definition of *national self-determination*. Then use this definition to argue that southern secession in 1860–1861 was *or* was not an act of a people conscious of their own separate nationalism and determined to achieve it for themselves.
79. Assess the extent to which each of these individuals contributed to the coming of the Civil War: John Brown, Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln. Who else should be on the list? Why?
80. Compare and contrast the criticism in Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to Helper's *The Impending Crisis of the South*. Which had the more dramatic effect on public opinion? Why?
81. Always—in 1787, 1820, 1833, and 1850—the North and South had been able to compromise over their differences. Why not in 1861?

82. Rank the following in order of their importance to the coming of the Civil War: Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott decision, John Brown's raid, Lincoln's election. Justify your ranking.
83. Explain why Kansas provided "a horrible example of the working of popular sovereignty."
84. Support or refute the text authors' assertion that "it was probably fortunate for the Union that secession and civil war did not come in 1856, following a Republican victory."
85. The authors argue that despite Lincoln's election in 1860, the South "was not badly off." What do they mean? Why, in spite of this, did southern states secede?
86. Was the Crittenden Compromise at all a possible way to avoid Civil War? What modifications might have made it more attractive to both Lincoln and the South?
87. In *Varying Viewpoints*, the authors argue that both Northerners and Southerners saw their way of life threatened. How and why could both feel this way?

## 20. Essay Questions

59. Explain why Britain finally decided against intervention on behalf of the Confederacy. In what ways was Britain helpful to the South anyway?
60. Write your definition of *revolution*. Then use this definition to argue that the Civil War did *or* did not produce a revolution in the political, economic, and social life of the United States.
61. Do you think that President Lincoln was justified in his violations of ordinary civil liberties during the Civil War? Why or why not?
62. It has been said that the South's devotion to states' rights was a major reason for its failure to win the Civil War. In what way is this probably true?
63. During the Civil War many poor Southerners complained that it was a rich man's war but a poor man's fight. On what basis did they make this complaint? Could Northerners have made the same accusation for the same reason? Explain.
64. When confronted with Southern secession in 1861, why didn't Lincoln simply allow the South to separate in peace?
65. The Civil War began in 1861. Why was it 1863 before Lincoln committed the Union to the emancipation of slaves?
66. At the outset of the Civil War, the South confidently anticipated that King Cotton would guarantee it European intervention. Why didn't this

intervention materialize?

67. Identify the significance of the Border States to both the North and the South. How did they influence the shaping of Union strategy?

## **21. Essay Questions**

71. Explain the economic, military, and diplomatic results of the Union victory and Confederate defeat in the Civil War. What do you think was the main reason that the South lost? Explain your choice.
72. Which of the following do you think was the most significant battle of the Civil War: Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg? Why?
73. Historians usually rank the “Great Emancipator,” Abraham Lincoln, as the “greatest” of American presidents. Do you agree? Why or why not?
74. Assess the role of blacks, free and slave, in both North and South, in the Civil War. Did they in any way affect the outcome? If so, how?
75. The Civil War has also been called the “War Between the States” and the “War for Southern Independence.” Which of the three titles do you find most apt? Why?
76. Explain why General Sherman conducted the devastating “march to the sea.” Explain in what ways this was like conducting modern “total war.”
77. The text authors call the Emancipation Proclamation a “proclamation without emancipation.” Why? Explain the role of the proclamation in the formulation of Northern strategy and war goals.
78. The text authors contend that “the removal of Lincoln [as president in 1864] was the last real hope for a Confederate victory.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
79. List the three most significant immediate consequences of the Civil War. Justify your selection and indicate which one consequence you think was the most important and why.
80. Did the Civil War slow the United States Industrial Revolution, or did it help usher in modern America?

## Unit 5

### **22. Essay Questions**

78. Identify those processes of presidential Reconstruction policy to which Congress objected. Why did congressional leaders object?
79. What role did each of the following play in the congressional assumption of control over Reconstruction policy: Black Codes, Southern election of former Confederates, President Johnson’s personality and actions?

80. Why was President Johnson impeached? Why didn't the Senate convict him of "high crimes and misdemeanors"? What do you think his conviction in the Senate might have meant for our system of government?
81. How did freed slaves respond to Reconstruction? How did freedom affect the economic, social, and political life of former slaves?
82. Radical Republicans have been both credited with having high ideals and accused of crass partisanship as motives for their Reconstruction policies. Which argument do you find more persuasive? Why?
83. With hindsight it is sometimes claimed that Reconstruction was a failure. Why?
84. Assess the achievements and shortcomings of "radical" regimes in the South. What did they do that is worth admiring and worth condemning? What else might they have done to better achieve their goals?
85. Compare and contrast Lincoln's, Johnson's, and Congress's plans for Reconstruction. Cite what was included and what was omitted. Which program do you think was the best? Why?
86. There are several examples in American history of rapid reconciliation with the defeated foe. Why didn't the South receive this sympathetic treatment in Reconstruction? Who or what do you fault for the "harshness" of Southern Reconstruction? Why?
87. Had you been present, would you have been a supporter of President Johnson's plan for Reconstruction, a moderate Republican, or a radical Republican? Why?
88. It has been wryly observed that "the North won the Civil War, but the South won Reconstruction." Interpret this statement and assess its truth.
89. The Fourteenth Amendment is commonly referred to as one of the most important additions to the Constitution. Why?
90. The text authors claim that the midterm elections of 1866 were "more crucial than some presidential elections." Do you agree? Why or why not?

### 23. Essay Questions

116. Compare and contrast the Democratic and Republican parties of the late 1800s in terms of
  - a. their leadership.
  - b. their position on issues.
  - c. the constituencies to whom they appealed.
117. Why did late-nineteenth-century presidential elections tend to focus on the personalities of the candidates rather than on "real" issues?

118. List what appears to you to have been the requirements for election to high political office in the 1870s and 1880s.
119. For one of only a few times in its history, the treasury showed a surplus in the 1880s. Why was this a problem?
120. American politics in the late nineteenth century has been referred to as the “politics of equilibrium.” Why? List some consequences of this equilibrium in the party system.
121. The presidents of the late nineteenth century have been referred to as merely “custodial”—that is, nonassertive. Is this true? If so, why?
122. Who do you think was the best president in the Gilded Age? Why?
123. Which of the following do you think was the most important issue of the late nineteenth century: the “bloody shirt,” tariffs, civil-service reform, currency? Why?
124. Explain the seeming paradox that at a time when successful presidential candidates were usually “bland” and “forgettable,” public enthusiasm for election campaigning was at an all-time high.
125. One historian claims that in the Gilded Age, “Democrats were separated from Republicans more by accident of national origin, geography, history, and emotion than by economic issues.” Elaborate.
126. How did racial issues—including Chinese immigration—affect economic and political developments of the Gilded Age?
127. What explains the rise of the Populist Party in the 1890s? Were the Populists reflecting only farmers’ discontent, or did they express a deeper disaffection with the weaknesses of the two-party system?
128. Was Grover Cleveland’s gold deal with J.P. Morgan justified? Why or why not?
129. What were the causes and effects of the depression of the 1890s?
130. Why did the Populists’ initial movement for a biracial coalition fail? Was it inevitable that black voting would be eliminated in the South?

## 24. Essay Questions

96. Compare and contrast the methods used by late-nineteenth-century corporations to control competition—especially the pool, trust interlocking directorate, and vertical integration.
97. Describe the provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Explain the motives behind their enactment and evaluate the success of each.

98. Compare and contrast the National Labor Union, Knights of Labor, and American Federation of Labor in regard to their origins, goals, and leadership. Account for the failure of the first two and for the success of the AFL.
99. Why did labor unions find it difficult to organize industrial workers in the late nineteenth century?
100. Write your definition of the *gospel of wealth*. Do you agree with its assumptions? Why or why not?
101. Make a list of the combination of factors that produced the growth and industrialization of the American economy in the late nineteenth century. Then pick two factors that you think were especially important. Explain your choice.
102. Business leaders of the late nineteenth century have been characterized both as greedy and unscrupulous “robber barons” *and* as great “captains of industry” whose entrepreneurial skill and tactics produced economic growth. Which view do you find more persuasive? Why?
103. In what ways does the development of the railroad industry in the late nineteenth century illustrate the limitations of the myth of individual free enterprise in American history? What did government hope to attain by its promotion of railroad construction? What, in fact, did it attain?
104. Present an argument that “the Constitution and the courts were on the side of the corporations” in the late nineteenth century. Cite passages from the Constitution and court decisions to illustrate your argument.
105. What do you think were the three most significant consequences of the industrialization of the American economy after the Civil War? Explain your choices.
106. The text authors contend that “more than any other single factor, the railroad network spurred the amazing industrialization of the post-Civil War years.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
107. The authors state that “competition was the bogeyman of most business leaders” during the late nineteenth century. What do they mean by this? How did these business leaders respond to the “bogeyman” of competition?

## 25. Essay Questions

85. The arrival of immigrants on American shores in the late nineteenth century involved both “push” and “pull” factors. Describe the major motives that caused emigrants to leave Europe and come to the United States during this period.
86. Fear of newly arriving immigrants has been a constant in American history. With respect to the New Immigrants of the late nineteenth century, describe what the native-born Americans were concerned about. Do you think their

fears were well founded? Why or why not?

87. Do you think that the United States needed laws restricting immigration in the nineteenth century? List the kinds of restrictions actually imposed and state whether you agree with each restriction. Why or why not?
88. Cite at least one figure in each of the following categories and describe the major theme of his or her work. Then tell why you think your choice reflects the reality of life in the late nineteenth century in each case:
  - a. journalism and popular writing
  - b. serious novels and poetry
  - c. sculpture and architecture
89. What was the impact of industrialization and urbanization on late-nineteenth-century American churches, schools, and family life? Cite at least two changes wrought on each of these institutions during this period.
90. The text's authors allege that "women were growing more independent in the urban environment of the cities" in the late nineteenth century. What did the city environment have to do with women's liberation, and what forms did their new independence take?
91. Explain the statement that the late-nineteenth-century cities "grew up, out, and apart." Had you been alive at the time, what might have attracted you to the city? What might have caused you to stay there or to go back "down on the farm"?
92. In what ways was the city a "frontier of opportunity for women"? Name at least two women who seized this "opportunity" and elaborate on their experiences.

## 26. Essay Questions

120. In what way did the mining, ranching, and farming frontiers respond to the industrial revolution in the same way as entrepreneurs and laborers?
121. What is the "safety-valve" theory? Do you find it plausible? Why or why not?
122. The Homestead Act was less successful than hoped. Why? Consider the provisions of the law and its loopholes, and environmental conditions on the Great Plains.
123. Explain the ultimate defeat of the Plains Indians by whites. Select and discuss at least three major reasons for the decline of the Plains culture; then tell which you think was the most important and why.
124. If you had lived at the time, what would you have proposed as a solution to the "Indian problem"? What would have been your view on "concentration," the Dawes Severalty Act, and the savagery of Indian warfare?



125. If you were a farmer in Kansas in 1887, what would be three or four of your major problems? How would you try to solve them? Would you be likely to seek help? Where? Why?
126. What do you think was the major technological innovation that influenced life on the Great Plains frontier? Why?
127. If you had lived at the time, which would you have most wanted to join: the mining frontier, the ranching frontier, or the farming frontier? Why?
128. Comment on the text authors' observation that "where fighting is protracted and uncivilized, the ethics of combat are ordinarily pulled down to a primitive level." Do you agree? How do the late-nineteenth-century Indian wars illustrate this generalization?
129. Write your definition of *radical*. Then use this definition to argue that the farmers' response to their problems in the 1880s and 1890s was or was not radical.
130. Populists often charged that there was conspiracy between government and big business aimed at holding down farmers and workers, and the federal courts were only the tools of banks and big business. What evidence did they cite for this charge? Does their argument convince you? Why or why not?
131. Explain why the Populist Party became the most successful third party in American history up to that time. Explain why it failed to survive the decade of the 1890s.
132. Explain the gradual decline in the importance of agriculture in the American economy in the late nineteenth century. In what ways was the farmers' protest based primarily on their economic woes, and to what extent was it a protest against the loss of an older American way of life based on agriculture and small towns?
133. Why did free silver become the key issue of the farmers' revolt? What other issues were important to them? Explain why Populism came down to a single-issue movement by 1896, and how this fixation may have harmed their cause.
134. Trace the history of the currency question in American politics from the aftermath of the Civil War to the passage of the Gold Standard Act.
135. For many years historians interpreted the 1896 election as the challenge of "the people" against the candidate of big business and the status quo. Explain why this view has largely fallen into disfavor, and why more of "the people" voted for McKinley. Are there any elements in the traditional view worth retaining?

136. Had you lived during this period, which political party—Democratic, Republican, or Populist—would have attracted your allegiance?
137. Political historians often argue that the election of 1896 was a “watershed election” that marked the beginning of the “fourth party system.” Explain why this is so, and how American politics from 1865 to 1896 differed from the political situation that developed after the election of 1896.
138. The authors contend that “American history cannot be properly understood unless it is viewed in light of the westward-moving experience.” Do you agree? Why or why not? What unique contributions did the frontier make to American life?
139. What makes the Turner Thesis so provocative? Why do most modern historians not accept it, or accept it only with reservations? What are the most valid parts of Turner’s argument that still hold up?
140. How does the “new western history” revive the idea of the West’s uniqueness in American history? How does it differ from the Turner thesis? How does the West compare as a distinctive American region with New England, the South, or the Midwest?

## Unit 6

### 27. Essay Questions

66. Was the Spanish-American War really necessary? List the alternatives to war available to McKinley in 1898 and explain why he rejected them in favor of a war policy.
67. Consider each of the following as a cause of war in 1898:
  - a. public opinion
  - b. yellow journalism
  - c. business interests
  - d. strategic interestsWhich do you consider the key cause of war? Why?
68. Write your definition of *imperialism*. Then use this definition to argue that the conduct of American foreign relations between 1890 and 1900 was or was not imperialistic.
69. Why is it not entirely true that the United States remained isolated from world events in the late nineteenth century? Describe some specific instances of American involvement beyond its own shores between 1865 and 1900.
70. Which president do you think conducted American foreign policy more skillfully in the 1890s, McKinley or Cleveland? Why?
71. Had you lived at the time, would you have been in favor of war with Spain? Why or why not?
72. Had you lived at the time, would you have been in favor of American

acquisition of and occupation of the Philippines? Why or why not?

73. Assess the wisdom of
  - a. the Teller Amendment.
  - b. the Platt Amendment.
  - c. decisions rendered in the insular cases.
74. Assess the U.S. military performance in the Spanish-American War. Why did the United States win?
75. What do you consider the most important domestic and foreign-policy consequences of the Spanish-American War? Why?
76. Rank the following in terms of their ability to explain American interest in “imperialism” at the end of the nineteenth century:
  - a. racial theories
  - b. international rivalry
  - c. trading interests
  - d. religious humanitarianismJustify your ranking.
77. The text authors claim that “America did not start the [Spanish-American War] with imperialistic motives, but [because of the war], it wound up with imperial and colonial fruits in its grasp.” Do you agree with this version of American actions in 1898? Why or why not?
78. Based on Varying Viewpoints and what you read in the chapter, why do you believe the United States became an imperial nation?

## 28. Essay Questions

66. Write a thumbnail sketch of Theodore Roosevelt. Consider both the key characteristics of his personality and his style of leadership.
67. Write your definition of *peacemaker*. Then use this definition to argue that Theodore Roosevelt did *or* did not deserve to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
68. Define the fundamental assumption of the Roosevelt Corollary. Do you accept it? Why or why not?
69. The Spanish-American War lasted three months. The Philippine insurrection lasted three years. Why does virtually every American history textbook devote several times more space to the war than to the insurrection? Do you think that the space allotted should be more balanced, or even reversed? Why or why not?
70. Explain the ways in which (a) the Boxer Rebellion, (b) the Open Door notes, and (c) the Portsmouth and Algeciras conferences signaled a new departure for American foreign policy.

71. Do you think that the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine fundamentally altered the nature of the doctrine and the intentions of its original authors (Monroe and John Quincy Adams)? If so, explain how. If not, explain how the doctrine and corollary are compatible.
72. Does the text authors' conclusion that "China owed its preservation far more to the strength of the competing powers" than to Hay's Open Door policy render the Open Door notes inconsequential? Why or why not?
73. Had you lived at the time, would you have liked and supported Theodore Roosevelt as president? Why or why not? Do you consider him a "great" president? Why or why not?
74. What attitudes and policies shaped American relations with both the government of Japan and Japanese immigrants? What did the San Francisco School crisis reveal about American and Japanese concerns?
75. Assess Theodore Roosevelt's conduct of American foreign policy, especially in Latin America and Asia. Did it result in more harm than good to all concerned, or vice versa? Justify your conclusion.
76. It has been argued that "the error in Roosevelt's Panama policy lay not in the goals he sought but in the means he chose to achieve them." Do you agree? Why or why not?
77. Interpret the text authors' statement that "the Filipinos...preferred less sanitation and more liberty." Assess the United States' performance in its policy of "benevolent assimilation" in the Philippines.

## 29. Essay Questions

95. In the view of progressives, what was wrong with American society? What solutions did they try to use? Be specific.
96. Most active progressives were middle-class Americans. Why was progressive reform more attractive to them than to other "interest groups" at the time?
97. List the five most outstanding achievements of Roosevelt's presidency. Rank these five according to your assessment of their importance. Justify your ranking.
98. President Roosevelt spoke disparagingly of the muckrakers and their work. Do you agree with his view of these journalists? Why or why not?
99. Would you label Theodore Roosevelt a radical, liberal, moderate, or conservative? Justify your choice.
100. Identify the "three Cs" of President Roosevelt's Square Deal. Describe what he did to bring progressive reform action in each of the three areas.

101. Theodore Roosevelt is sometimes called the “first modern president.” Interpret this phrase and explain how it fits Roosevelt’s conduct of the office.
102. Do you think that Theodore Roosevelt’s claim that Taft had abandoned his policies was entirely fair? Why or why not?
103. What were the distinctive contributions of feminists to progressive reform?
104. Defend or refute the following statement: Environmentalism and consumer protection were the two causes that revealed the soul of progressivism.
105. It has been said of Theodore Roosevelt that “he stood close to the center and bared his teeth at the conservatives of the right and the liberals of the extreme left.” Do you think this is an accurate judgment of Roosevelt’s politics? Why or why not? To illustrate your argument, cite specific action taken by Roosevelt.
106. Progressives believed that “the cure for the ills of democracy was more democracy.” Apply this observation to progressive action in city and state governmental reform; then assess the accuracy of the observation.

### 30. Essay Questions

85. Compare and contrast Roosevelt’s New Nationalism and Wilson’s New Freedom programs. Which seems to you to be the more realistic response to industrialization? Why?
86. Compare the issues and candidates in the presidential elections of 1912 and 1916. Account for Wilson’s victory in each case.
87. What were the most important of Wilson’s progressive reforms? Was Wilson actually a more effective progressive than Theodore Roosevelt? Why or why not?
88. It has been said that despite his intentions and idealistic pronouncements, “Woodrow Wilson’s Caribbean policy was a mere extension of Roosevelt’s ‘big stick’.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
89. Assess America’s neutrality at the outset of World War I. Consider both
  - a. Wilson’s policies in regard to Britain and Germany.
  - b. the sentiments of the American public.Were we “neutral in thought as well as deed”? Explain.
90. Had you lived at the time, would you have liked Woodrow Wilson? Why or why not? Consider both his personal qualities and his presidential leadership and policies.
91. Assess Wilson’s conduct of foreign policy from 1914 to 1917. Do you think

that he could have pursued a different course that would have kept the United States out of the war? Should he have? Why or why not?

92. Comment on the observation that Wilson's support for the flood of social-welfare legislation in 1916 was "hypocritical and self-serving."
93. Wilson once remarked that he was "going to teach the South American republics to elect good men." Do you think that this was a proper function for the president of the United States? Why or why not? Use U.S. relations with Mexico to illustrate your view.
94. Based on Varying Viewpoints, who were the Progressives?

### 31. Essay Questions

79. Summarize the impact of American participation in World War I on
  - a. the national economy.
  - b. civil liberties.
  - c. public attitudes.
80. Summarize President Wilson's Fourteen Points. Which were substantially attained as a result of American participation in World War I? Which were not? Why?
81. Why did President Wilson have such difficulty getting his own allies at the Paris Peace Conference to accept the principles of the Fourteen Points? To what extent did the Treaty of Versailles embody the principles of the Fourteen Points?
82. Why did President Wilson finally decide that the United States needed to enter World War I? Do you agree that the United States should have entered the war? Why or why not? Do you think that Wilson took the nation to war for the right reasons? Explain.
83. Why did the United States fail to join the League of Nations? Consider the role of
  - a. Wilson himself.
  - b. Henry Cabot Lodge.
  - c. the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.
  - d. American political traditions.
84. Assess the significance of Wilson's moralistic idealism on his
  - a. call for America's entry into World War I in 1917.
  - b. Fourteen Points.
  - c. campaign for American participation in the League of Nations.
85. Do you agree with the text authors that Wilson's high-minded appeal "worked—perhaps too well"? Why or why not?
86. President Wilson observed that woman suffrage was "a vitally necessary war

measure.” Why? Do you think that prohibition was also a vitally necessary war measure? Why or why not?

87. Assess America’s contribution to the Allied victory in World War I. Do you think that the United States’ involvement was crucial to victory? Why or why not?
88. How do you view the quarrel between Henry Cabot Lodge and Woodrow Wilson? Do you think that it was the deciding factor in the outcome of the Senate’s vote on American participation in the League of Nations, or were other, less personal, forces responsible for the League’s defeat? What were some of these other forces?
89. Do you think that the United States was better off for having participated in World War I? If so, in what ways? If not, why? Create a scenario envisaging the outcome of World War I, had the United States not joined the Allies.
90. Based on the chapter and Varying Viewpoints, do you believe Woodrow Wilson was a realist or an idealist?

## Unit 7

### **32.Essay Questions**

81. The 1920s was a time of “heroes.” Why? Explain why Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford were so greatly admired in this decade.
82. Describe the dominant themes of American literature in the 1920s. Explain why these themes prevailed.
83. Do you think that the 1920s should be most noted as a decade of anxiety and intolerance, hedonism and liberation, or both? Cite specific features of life in the 1920s to explain your view.
84. Do you think that the “noble experiment” of prohibition did more harm than good or vice versa? Explain your view by citing specific consequences of the prohibition amendment.
85. Some historians have considered the tensions of the 1920s in terms of a rural backlash against a rising urban America. Do you agree with this proposition? Why or why not?
86. List at least five major economic and/or technological developments of the 1920s. Select the three most significant ones and explain your choices.
87. Explain how the automobile industry in the 1920s had an impact on the national economy similar to that of the railroad industry in the 1870s and 1880s.
88. Would you like to have lived in the 1920s? Why or why not? Explain what you find most alluring about the decade and what you would *not* have liked.

89. Which of the postwar literary talents seem the most interesting to you? Why? Tell why you have enjoyed reading or would like to read the works of any three of these jazz-age writers.
90. The text authors argue that immigration legislation in the 1920s “caused America to sacrifice something of its tradition of freedom and opportunity, as well as much of its color and variety.” How do you react to this argument? Do you agree that immigration restrictions were necessary? Why or why not?
91. Do you see any hidden dangers in the social and economic life that Americans pursued in the 1920s for which they would one day have to pay? What were these dangers, and in what way were they potentially threatening?

### 33. Essay Questions

78. Compare the personal characteristics of Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. What did they have in common? How do their personal qualities help to explain their political success in the 1920s?
79. What evidence indicated throughout the 1920s that the economy was not as healthy as most believed? Why weren't these weaknesses addressed?
80. In what ways did the Washington Conference, Kellogg-Briand Pact, and Stimson doctrine fall short of ensuring American national security?
81. Why was the Harding administration so scandal-ridden? Consider both Harding's personal qualities and the postwar climate. What long-term impact did these scandals have on Harding's reputation, the Republican party, and American national interests?
82. Outline the causes of the great crash of 1929. Why did it come so unexpectedly?
83. The text authors claim that during the 1920s “isolation [from foreign involvement] was enthroned in Washington.” Do you agree? Why or why not? Cite specific episodes in international affairs that support your interpretation.
84. Describe the relationship between American tariff policy, war debts and reparations, and the Great Depression. Explain why the federal government adopted the tariff and debt-repayment policies it did. Assess the wisdom of these policies.
85. Account for Herbert Hoover's election victory in 1928. Consider the liabilities and advantages of the two candidates, the state of the economy, and the public mood. What were the campaign issues? Why was Hoover so popular?
86. What did Herbert Hoover do to combat the Great Depression? What more do



you think he should have done? Why didn't he? Justify the text authors' description of Hoover as the "Pioneer of the New Deal."

87. Historians have not looked too kindly on the presidents of the 1920s, usually judging them as mediocre. Do you agree with this evaluation of their performance? Explain.
88. Had you been a voter in the 1920s, explain why you might have been drawn to vote for Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover.
89. It has been observed of the politics of the 1920s that "less government in business and more business in government" was needed. Interpret this remark. To what extent did Republican policies in the 1920s meet that "need"? Give examples.

### 34. Essay Questions

85. Account for Franklin Roosevelt's election victory in 1932 and his landslide triumph in 1936.
86. Compare and contrast the first two years of the New Deal with the later New Deal after 1934. Account for the differences.
87. Explain how each of the following contributed to New Deal plans for recovery from the Great Depression:
  - a. ending prohibition;
  - b. abandoning the gold standard;
  - c. the court-packing scheme.
88. How "revolutionary" was the New Deal? Evaluate the significant changes that it wrought and determine how different the nation became because of it.
89. List the major factors that brought a close to the New Deal in the late 1930s. Separate the list into those that President Roosevelt had some control over and those that he did not. Explain how the combination of these factors ended the New Deal.
90. Select the three most important programs of the New Deal, explain what they did, and tell why you chose these three.
91. Had you lived at the time, do you think you would have been pro- or anti-Roosevelt? Why? Cite specific actions of President Roosevelt and the New Dealers to illustrate your position.
92. Cite at least three New Deal programs that were clearly pre-World War I progressive-movement reforms reborn. Also, explain how government action during World War I itself can be viewed as a precursor to the New Deal.
93. Who do you think was the most interesting government personality of the 1930s? Explain your choice.

94. The text authors conclude that Franklin Roosevelt “was in fact Hamiltonian in his espousal of big government, but Jeffersonian in his concern for the ‘forgotten man.’ ” With this as a thesis sentence, write an essay that uses specific parts of the New Deal program to support both halves of your thesis.
95. A popular slogan of the mid-1930s claimed that “Roosevelt wants you to join a union.” Explain why this assertion contained some truth.
96. Cite evidence to demonstrate that “the most damning indictment of the New Deal was that it failed to cure the Depression.” Then cite achievements of value that the New Deal did in fact accomplish.

### 35. Essay Questions

78. Explain in what way (a) the fall of France, (b) Hitler’s invasion of the Soviet Union, and (c) the attack on Pearl Harbor mark the most important turning points in American foreign policy between 1935 and 1942.
79. Explain in what way the Neutrality Acts of the 1930s “marked in effect an abandonment of the [United States’] traditional policy of freedom of the seas.”
80. Explain what the text authors mean by their remark that in the 1930s, “Congress was one war too late with its [neutrality] legislation.”
81. Explain how in the 1930s “the American people were overwhelmingly anti-Nazi and anti-Hitler, ...but they were desperately determined to stay out [of war].”
82. Compare and contrast the views of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies with those of the America First Committee. Had you been there at the time, which would you have supported? Why?
83. It is a common observation that American foreign policy often reflects domestic politics. In what way did domestic considerations influence the Roosevelt administration’s
  - a. recognition of the Soviet Union?
  - b. adoption of a Good Neighbor policy?
  - c. extension of independence to the Philippines?
84. Assess President Roosevelt’s conduct of American foreign policy after 1935. When and why did he move from isolationism to interventionism in the European war? Why wasn’t he more candid with the American people about what he was doing? Do you think that he purposely led the United States into war? Why or why not?
85. To what extent did American diplomacy and economic policy provoke war with Japan? What might the United States have done to delay or even prevent war with Japan? Why wasn’t that done?

86. At what point do you think American entry into the war in Europe became inevitable? Explain.
87. Do you think the argument that “one should not change horses in the middle of a stream” is sufficient to justify Franklin Roosevelt’s breaking the two-term tradition in 1940? Do you think anyone should be allowed to serve more than two terms in the presidency? Why or why not?

### **36 .Essay Questions**

71. How did World War II affect
- the role of the national government in American life?
  - the relationship between government and the economy?
  - minority groups in America?
72. Present arguments for and against using the A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Had it been your decision, what would you have done? Why?
73. What are the arguments for and against the Japanese-American relocation camps used in World War II? Do you agree with the text authors that these camps were “unnecessary and unfair”? Why or why not?
74. Summarize the grand strategy of the Big Three allies in World War II. What aspect of that strategy became controversial? Why?
75. Explain why America’s participation in World War II never really became an idealistic crusade in the mold of World War I.
76. List at least three major turning points of World War II. Justify your choices.
77. In terms of defending America’s national interests, which do you think was the most critical front in World War II, the European theater or the Pacific? Why?
78. Why, with major wars in Europe and the Pacific, did American troops see their first active combat in World War II in North Africa? What were the strategic objectives of that campaign?
79. In what ways did the United States emerge from World War II fundamentally changed? Consider national power, economic health, and the home front.
80. Do you believe the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan was the proper one?

### Unit 8

#### **37.Essay Questions**

111. Explain the rationale for the postwar policy of containment. Show how it was

applied in the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and NATO.

112. Trace the origins of the Cold War, considering the historical background of United States-Soviet Union relations, the wartime relationship, and early postwar developments.
113. To what degree do you think each of the following contributed to the Cold War?
  - a. President Truman's style
  - b. the Soviet Union's security interests
  - c. American expectations for the postwar world
114. Weigh the contributions made by both the United States and the Soviet Union to the developing Cold War. Do you think that the Cold War was inevitable? Why or why not? If so, at what point did it become inevitable?
115. Identify the factors that produced the anticommunist "witch hunt" after World War II. List some of its most important short- and long-term consequences.
116. Assess President Truman's response to the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in 1950. Do you think that he acted properly with regard to
  - a. the United Nations?
  - b. Congress?
  - c. his military commanders?Why or why not?
117. Why did President Truman relieve General MacArthur of his command in Korea? Do you think that it was a wise decision? Why or why not?
118. Though he was decidedly unpopular when he left the presidency, President Truman has since come to be viewed as one of America's ten "greatest" presidents. Explain
  - a. why his popularity was so low in 1952,
  - b. why he is so well rated in retrospect.
119. Evaluate the trade-offs at the Yalta conference in 1945. Was it a "sellout" to the Soviet Union? Why or why not?
120. Do you think that the Nazi and Japanese leaders should have been tried for war crimes even though their crimes were not clearly defined as such before the war began? Why or why not?
121. Explain the United States' tremendous "success story" in postwar Japan versus its failure in China. Who was responsible for the "fall of China"?
122. Evaluate President Truman's strategy and conduct as commander in chief during the Korean War. Assess the realism of his goals and the propriety of his means.

123. How important has the post-World War II baby boom been to recent American history? Indicate its impact on each decade since 1945. What importance is it likely to have in the next twenty-five years?
124. What was the impact of suburban living on men and women?

### 38. Essay Questions

89. Why was there such strong popular support for McCarthy's anticommunist crusade in the early 1950s? Would you have supported his goals? His tactics? Why or why not?
90. Compare and contrast Truman's and Eisenhower's foreign policies. What was new about the "new look"? What illustrates the basic continuity of the containment doctrine?
91. Assess the diplomatic and military policies of John Foster Dulles. Do you think that they were realistic? Why or why not?
92. Do you think that you would have liked "Ike" in the 1950s? Why or why not? Which of his (a) personal qualities, (b) domestic programs, and (c) foreign-policy decisions do you find most admirable? For what may he be criticized? Why?
93. Describe President Eisenhower's response to
- McCarthyism;
  - the civil rights movement;
  - social-welfare programs of the New Deal.
94. Do you agree with his views on any one or all of these? Which ones? Why?
95. In what ways did the Eisenhower administration contribute to the developing American involvement in Vietnam? Why were these decisions made?
96. Present evidence from the elections of the 1950s to show that "Eisenhower was more popular than his [political] party."
97. What do you think was the most important domestic issue or development of the 1950s? The most significant foreign-policy decision or event of the 1950s? Explain your choices.
98. Interpret the text authors' observation that "in Dwight Eisenhower, the man and the hour apparently met." In what way was President Eisenhower "good for," and a reflection of, his times?
99. Critically evaluate President Eisenhower's response to
- the fall of Dienbienphu;
  - the Hungarian revolt;
  - the Suez Crisis;

- d. Castro's revolution in Cuba.
- 100. How did the Cold War shape American *domestic* life in the 1950s?
- 101. What explains the widespread affluence of the 1950s? What was the specific impact of television on American values and lifestyles?
- 102. Do you agree with critics of the time that the 1950s was "an age of conformity"? Why or why not?
- 103. Describe the literary flowering of post-World War II America.
- 104. Based on *Varying Viewpoints*, who do you believe was responsible for the Cold War?

### 39. Essay Questions

- 91. Do you think that President Kennedy promised more as a candidate than he delivered as president? Focus on his domestic reform proposals and be specific. What did he promise, and what did he accomplish?
- 92. What accounts for the public's fascination with John F. Kennedy both while he was president and since his assassination? Do you think that the Kennedy presidency has become more myth than reality in our collective memory? Why or why not?
- 93. Explain how America's involvement in Vietnam "presented a grisly demonstration" of how "the doctrine of 'flexible response'...contained lethal logic."
- 94. Explain why the civil rights movement became more radical and violent as the 1960s progressed. What changes occurred in the motives, assumptions, and leadership of the movement?
- 95. Assess America's role in Vietnam in the 1960s. Consider, for example,
  - a. Diem's assassination;
  - b. the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution;
  - c. the policy of gradual escalation;
  - d. the bombing campaign.
- 96. Do you think that President Kennedy handled the Cuban missile crisis as well as he could have? Why or why not? Evaluate the consequences of the crisis. Was it worth the enormous risk of nuclear war?
- 97. Evaluate President Johnson's Great Society program. Do you think that its goals were realistic? admirable? Why did it receive such heavy support in Congress?
- 98. Compare and contrast John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson as presidential leaders. In what ways were they similar, and in what ways were

they different? Which do you consider the better president? Why? Should either of them be ranked among America's "ten best" presidents? Why or why not?

99. Do you agree with the text authors that President Kennedy was "acclaimed more for the ideals he had enunciated and the spirit he had kindled than for the concrete goals he had achieved"? Explain.
100. Explain why President Johnson was more successful than President Kennedy in getting domestic reform legislation through Congress.
101. For which candidate would you have voted in 1964, Johnson or Goldwater? Why?
  
102. Do you agree with the text authors that Martin Luther King, Jr., was "one of the most inspirational leaders in [American] history," who "left a shining legacy of racial progress"? Why or why not?
103. Why do you think President Johnson's Vietnam policy of "a fine-tuned, step-by-step increase in American force [that] would drive the enemy to defeat with a minimum loss of life on both sides" was unsuccessful?
104. Why was Richard M. Nixon, with his "loser's image," able to win the presidential election of 1968? What issues and events worked to his advantage?
105. What impact did the 1960s have on the 1990s? How much real progress was made in terms of civil rights and poverty?
106. Were the cultural protests of the 1960s connected to the political protests? Why or why not?
107. What was the impact of the 1960s cultural rebellions on education, religion, and the family?
108. Do you agree that the protests were partly fueled by the "baby boom" population bulge and the economic affluence of the times? Would there have been rebellions even if the Vietnam War had not occurred?
109. Which of the 1960s "liberation" movements were most significant and enduring? How did African-Americans, young whites, Hispanics, workers, women, and gays each experience "the sixties" differently?

#### **40. Essay Questions**

110. Assess President Nixon's strategy of "Vietnamization." Do you think that it was the best way to end the war? Why or why not?

111. Offer your considered judgment of Richard Nixon as president, taking into account his personal qualities, domestic program, and foreign policies. Do you think that he was a “great” president? Why or why not?
112. The text authors contend that Richard Nixon brought to the presidency “one hugely valuable asset—his broad knowledge and thoughtful expertise in foreign affairs.” Do you agree? Cite several aspects of American foreign policy between 1969 and 1974 that demonstrate President Nixon’s expertise.
113. Evaluate the impact of the Warren Court on American life. Cite specific cases that “reflected [the Supreme Court’s] deep concern for the individual, no matter how lowly.”
114. What was President Nixon’s “southern strategy”? Why did he adopt it? Describe what he did to implement it. Was it responsible for his reelection? Why or why not?
115. What do you think lay at the root of the Watergate scandal? Who was responsible? Explain why it ballooned into a national crisis.
116. The Constitution says that the president “shall be removed from office for, and on conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” Do you think that the accusations against President Nixon were impeachable crimes? Why or why not?
117. Do you think that the War Powers Act is a good idea? Why or why not?
118. How did the Vietnam War end? Why did it end this way? In what way had the United States “in the technical sense...not lost the war” but “lost more than a war”?
119. Was Gerald Ford’s pardon of Nixon justified? Why or why not?
120. Why was the feminist movement the most enduring and successful social movement of the 1970s?
121. Was defeat of the ERA a major setback for feminism? Why or why not?
122. Why was affirmative action such a racial hot button in the 1970s?
123. Explain why Jimmy Carter began his presidency with such great popularity and why, by the end of his term, he was widely unpopular. To what degree was the loss of popularity his fault, and to what degree was it the result of forces beyond his control?
124. Do you think that President Carter overreacted to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? Why or why not? In what way did that event mark a critical turning point in American foreign policy?
125. What were the causes and consequences of the Iranian hostage crisis?



## Unit 9

### 41. Essay Questions

123. Why, after the crushing defeat of its candidate in 1964, was the conservative right in America able to achieve a landslide victory for Ronald Reagan in 1980? Was this victory the result of a difference between Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, or of changes that had occurred in America and the world in the intervening sixteen years? Explain.
124. What were Ronald Reagan's goals as he entered the presidency in 1981? How successful was he in implementing them? In what ways did he fail to achieve his goals? Why?
125. Describe President Reagan's approach to foreign affairs. Was it effective? Why or why not?
126. What do you think have been the three most important world events since 1980? Assess America's public reaction and presidential leadership in relation to these events.
127. Why did conservatism gain such strength in the 1980s and 1990s? Where did modern American conservatism come from?
128. To what extent did the United States and the administrations of Reagan and Bush contribute to the collapse of the Soviet Union? How did the Soviet Union's demise alter America's place in the world?
129. Why was the U.S. more successful in dealing with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe than with China? How did the Bush and Clinton administrations try to balance human rights and economic interests in their China policy? Did they succeed?
130. Was the Persian Gulf War a complete American triumph or only a qualified success? What were its long-term consequences?
131. How was Clinton able to defeat George Bush despite the latter's considerable foreign policy successes?
132. What were Clinton's greatest successes and failures in his first term? Do you agree with the text that he reached too far without trying to accommodate the Republican Congress?
133. What were Clinton's greatest personal strengths and weaknesses as president? Was his impeachment largely a political effort to highlight his personal failings, or did the charges reflect genuine constitutional issues?
134. What are likely to be Clinton's legacies for the country and for the Democratic party?
135. Was the resolution of the tight 2000 election a victory for democracy? Why

or why not?

#### 42. Essay Questions

68. What were the costs and benefits of the new “information age” economy?
69. What explains the growing income disparity between wealthy and poor since the 1970s?
70. Evaluate the impact of the postindustrial economy on the American family. What is your reaction to these developments? Explain.
71. Account for the rise of “minority groups” in American society since World War II. Do you think that this rise has been a healthy development? Why or why not?
72. What do you see as the three most admirable accomplishments in American life since 1945? Name the three most troublesome failures. Explain your choices in both cases.
73. The authors conclude that after much of its history as a revolutionary force in a conservative world, America “is now a conservative force in a world of revolution.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
74. One historian has concluded that since 1960 the United States has entered a new “age of no confidence.” Carefully consider major developments in the last twenty-five years and explain why you think that this is *or* is not an appropriate label for the period.
75. What gains has the African-American community attained since the 1960s? What are the greatest challenges still facing African-Americans and U.S. society regarding race?
76. Compare the experiences of African-Americans and Latinos since the 1970s.
77. How has American literature and art fared in the era of television and “pop” culture?
78. Which groups attained the greatest literacy breakthroughs in the 1960s and after?
79. What lessons does American history provide for the present challenges facing American society?