

Period 7: 1890-1945

AP US History ■ Period 7

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Period 7: 1890-1945

What we will cover

- 1 Imperialism and the Spanish-American War
- 2 The Progressive Era
- 3 World War I and Its Aftermath
- 4 The 1920s: Mass Culture and Backlash
- 5 Depression and the New Deal
- 6 The Second World War

1

Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Period 7: 1890-1945

↳ Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Period 7 runs from 1890 to 1945 – the longest and densest period. Three storylines run through it: the growth of federal power in the economy, the rise of mass culture and the arguments it provoked, and the country's move to global power.

Victory in the **Spanish-American War** 美西战争 gave the United States overseas possessions and forced a genuine argument.

Period 7: 1890-1945

↳ Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Why the United States looked outward

Territorial ambitions

New territorial ambitions grew from a search for markets, naval strategy, and beliefs about a national mission.

A war that settled it

Victory in the **Spanish-American War** 美西战争 left the United States with overseas possessions – and with an argument it could no longer avoid.

The argument

Was a republic founded against empire now running one? The debate split both parties.

Motive, opportunity, consequence: markets and navy explain the *want*; 1898 explains the *moment*.

The debate over empire

FOR EXPANSION

markets and coaling stations for a trading power
a naval strategy that needs bases
a claimed civilising mission

AGAINST IT

ruling people without their consent
contradicts the republic's own founding
the cost of holding territory
racial objections to incorporating new populations

Both sides argue from **American principles** – which is why this is a debate about what the country is, and why it did not end in 1898

2 The Progressive Era

Period 7: 1890-1945
↳ The Progressive Era

The Progressive Era

The United States continued its transition from a rural, agricultural economy to an **urban, industrial** 城市工业化 one, and **Progressives** 进步主义者 responded to the problems that came with it.

- Use **expertise and evidence** 专业知识与证据 to diagnose social problems – the work of muckraking journalists and social surveys.
- Use **government** to fix them: regulation of food, drugs, working conditions, and monopolies.
- Reform **politics itself** 政治改革 through the direct primary, the initiative and referendum, and direct election of senators.

Period 7: 1890-1945
↳ The Progressive Era

The Progressive Era, continued

Its limits are examinable too.

Progressive reform largely excluded African Americans, and some Progressives supported segregation and immigration restriction.

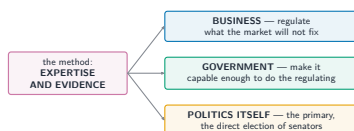
Progressivism was a method, not a programme

not a single programme	a broad reform impulse whose adherents disagreed on almost every goal
but consistent methods	expose the problem, gather evidence, and legislate
journalism	muckrakers documented conditions in tenements, factories and meatpacking plants
expertise	trained professionals and commissions replacing patronage
government at every level	city, state and finally federal – the laboratory-of-the-states pattern
who was left out	most progressives accepted or extended segregation, and many supported immigration restriction

Ask “by what **method**?” rather than “for what **goal**?” That is what makes a set of contradictory reformers one movement.

Period 7: 1890-1945
↳ The Progressive Era

A shared method, not a shared list of laws



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3 World War I and Its Aftermath

World War I and Its Aftermath

Entry into the **First World**

War 第一次世界大战 mobilised the economy and expanded federal power, but it also intensified debates about the nation's role in the world and about civil liberties at home, where dissent was prosecuted.

The war triggered the **Great Migration** 大迁徙, as African Americans moved north for wartime industrial jobs, reshaping northern cities and politics.

After the war: unilateral, not isolated

Rejecting the League

The Senate refused the League of Nations – the United States would not bind itself to collective security.

Still engaged

It stayed economically engaged abroad: loans, trade and reparations arrangements ran right through the 1920s.

The word to use

Unilateral foreign policy 单边外交政策: acting alone and on its own terms – which is not the same as withdrawing.

"Isolationism" is the loose word; **unilateral** is the accurate one, and the distinction is worth a sentence in an essay.

4

The 1920s: Mass Culture and Backlash

The 1920s: Mass Culture and Backlash

Innovations in communication and technology – radio, film, mass-circulation magazines, and the automobile – contributed to the growth of **mass culture** 大众文化, which increasingly set national tastes.

- **Immigration restriction** 移民限制 through national-origins quotas.
- Conflict over **religion** and **science**, and over **prohibition** 禁酒令.
- A revived **Ku Klux Klan** 三 K 党 and organised nativism.
- The **Harlem Renaissance** 哈莱姆文艺复兴 and the "New Woman" as assertions of new cultural identities.

The 1920s: mass culture and backlash, continued

A NATIONAL MASS CULTURE

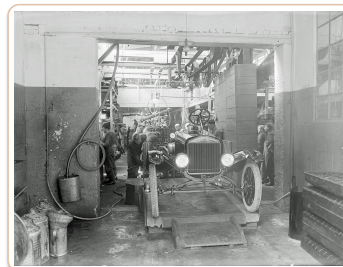
radio, film and the car
new roles and freedoms for women
the **Harlem Renaissance**

AND THE REACTION TO IT

immigration restriction
religion against science; **prohibition**
the revived **Ku Klux Klan**

One decade, not two halves. The **sharp divisions** are the answer to a 1920s prompt – naming only the jazz or only the Klan answers half of it

The Ford assembly line, 1923



The Ford assembly line, 1923 - mass production is what made a mass culture affordable

5 Depression and the New Deal

Period 7: 1890-1945
└ Depression and the New Deal

Relief, recovery, reform – three different purposes

The **Great Depression** 大萧条 brought mass unemployment and social dislocation, and policymakers responded by expanding the federal role in the economy.

The verdict the CED states plainly: the New Deal **did not end the Depression**, but it left a lasting legacy of reform – Social Security, federal deposit insurance, labour rights, and the expectation that government is responsible...

Period 7: 1890-1945
└ Depression and the New Deal

Who pushed Roosevelt further

The New Deal	Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal attacked the Depression through relief 救济, recovery 复苏 and reform 改革.
Pressure from outside	Radical, union, and populist movements – Huey Long's share-the-wealth plan, the Townsend pension movement, a newly militant labour movement – pushed him toward more extensive measures.
The result	That pressure is why the second New Deal (1935) went further: Social Security, the Wagner Act, the WPA.

The New Deal was not one plan handed down; it was revised under pressure – which is exactly the kind of causation an essay can argue.

Relief, recovery, reform – three different purposes, in detail

RELIEF <i>help people now</i>	RECOVERY <i>restart the economy</i>	REFORM <i>stop it happening again</i>
- Civilian Conservation Corps - jobs for young men - Works Progress Administration - public works jobs - Federal Emergency Relief - direct aid to states	- Agricultural Adjustment Act - raise farm prices - National Industrial Recovery Act - codes for industry - Tennessee Valley Authority - power and development	- Social Security Act - pensions and unemployment - Wagner Act - the right to organise a union - FDIC and SEC - bank deposits and stock markets

The New Deal did NOT end the Depression - but it left a permanent legacy of reform
radical, union and populist pressure is what pushed Roosevelt toward the wider measures

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6 The Second World War

Period 7: 1890-1945
└ The Second World War

Relief, recovery, reform – three different purposes, continued

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Relief, recovery, reform – three different purposes (2)

RELIEF help people now	RECOVERY restart the economy	REFORM stop it happening again
- Civilian Conservation Corps - jobs for young men - Works Progress Administration - public works jobs - Federal Emergency Relief - direct aid to states	- Agricultural Adjustment Act - raise farm prices - National Industrial Recovery Act - codes for industry - Tennessee Valley Authority - power and development	- Social Security Act - pensions and unemployment - Wagner Act - the right to organise a union - FDIC and SEC - bank deposits and stock markets

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Period 7: 1890-1945
└ The Second World War

The Second World War, continued

Victory came through **Allied cooperation** 盟国合作, industrial capacity, and technological advantage, ending with the use of atomic weapons against Japan.

Mass mobilization changed American society

how Americans saw it	a fight for the survival of freedom and democracy 自由与民主的存续 against fascist aggression
mass mobilization 全面动员	helped end the Great Depression – war production did what the New Deal had not
women and minorities 妇女与少数族裔	mobilisation and military service opened opportunities to improve their status, though wartime gains were often reversed after 1945
migration	from Mexico and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere increased to meet labour demand
Japanese Americans	forcibly interned 拘禁 – the period’s clearest case of wartime rights denied
after the war	a unilateral foreign policy 单边外交政策 after WWI had rejected the League; after WWII the United States led the institutions instead

The war’s domestic effects are as examinable as its diplomacy. Note both the opening of opportunity and its partial reversal.

7 Postwar Diplomacy

Period 7: 1890-1945
└ Postwar Diplomacy

Postwar Diplomacy

The war-ravaged condition of Asia and Europe, and the dominant U.S. role in the Allied victory and in the occupations that followed, left the United States as the strongest power in the world – and set up the confrontation with the Soviet Union that Period 8 begins with.

8 Comparison in Period 7

Period 7: 1890-1945 ↳ Comparison in Period 7 Comparison in Period 7 The period's reasoning skill is comparison. The most useful pairing is Progressive-era reform against the New Deal: both expanded federal power, but the New Deal did so on a far larger scale and in response to collapse rather than to growth.	Period 7: 1890-1945 ↳ Comparison in Period 7 Worked example – beliefs about threats, 1917–1945 2024 long essay: “Evaluate the extent to which beliefs about threats to the United States shaped society from 1917 to 1945.” ■ Thesis: “Beliefs about internal and external threats shaped American society to a great extent between 1917 and 1945, producing wartime restrictions on dissent, immigration quotas, and the internment of Japanese Americans.” ■ The prompt is about beliefs, so the evidence must be what beliefs <i>caused</i> – policies and social change, not a narrative of the wars. Read the noun in the prompt. <i>Beliefs</i> shaped society ⇒ your evidence is a list of effects, each tied back to a fear.
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Period 7: 1890-1945 ↳ Comparison in Period 7 Depression and the New Deal  The Dust Bowl in the Texas Panhandle, 1936 - the environmental half of the Depression	Period 7: 1890-1945 ↳ Comparison in Period 7 Exam tips ■ Give both sides of the imperialism debate; a one-sided answer misses the point of the question. ■ Progressivism is a method – expertise, then government action, then political reform. Its exclusion of African Americans is examinable. ■ Sort New Deal programmes by relief, recovery, reform. That structure converts a list into an argument. ■ State the CED's verdict directly: the New Deal did not end the Depression but left a permanent legacy. ■ Wartime opportunity for women and minorities was real <i>and</i> limited. Saying both is what earns complexity. ■ For 1917-1945 prompts about fear or threat, use civil liberties, immigration quotas, and internment as your evidence.
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9 Recap	Period 7: 1890-1945 ↳ Recap Period 7 – key takeaways 1 Empire give both sides of the imperialism debate 2 Progressivism method: expertise → government → political reform 3 New Deal sort relief, recovery, reform; it did <i>not</i> end the Depression 4 War opportunity for women and minorities was real <i>and</i> limited
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Check yourself

- 1 What is Progressivism as a method?
- 2 Did the New Deal end the Depression?
- 3 Name the three New Deal purposes.
- 4 Name wartime evidence of fear or threat.

Answers: expertise then government action ▪ no, but a permanent legacy ▪ relief, recovery, reform ▪ civil liberties / quotas / internment