Period 9: 1980 to the Present

BAGPIPE Themes

**Belief Systems: Culture and Society**

* Ideas
* Religion and Literature
* Art and Literature
* Cultural Values
* Science
* Morality and Moral Values

**America in the World: Global Context**

* Competition for Resources
* Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
* Reagan asserted U.S. opposition to communism through speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons.
* Increased U.S. military spending, Reagan’s diplomatic initiatives, and political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe  and the Soviet Union were all important in ending the Cold War.
* The end of the Cold War led to new diplomatic relationships but also new U.S. military and peacekeeping interventions, as well as continued debates over the appropriate use of American power in the world.
* Despite economic and foreign policy challenges, the United States continued as the world’s leading superpower  in the 21st century.
* Expansionism and imperialism
* Global Conflicts (World Wars)
* Military and Economic
* In the wake of attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the United States launched military efforts against terrorism and lengthy, controversial conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Geography & Environment: Physical and Human**

* Climate, Environment, and Geography
* Natural Resources
* Exchanges: plants, disease, animals

**Peopling: Migration and Settlement**

* Movement to, from, within the U.S.
* After 1980, the political, economic, and cultural influence of the American South and West continued to increase as population shifted to those areas.
* International migration from Latin America and Asia increased dramatically. The new immigrants affected U.S. culture in many ways and supplied the economy with an important labor force.
* Nativism
* Immigrant groups impact on Society

**Identity: Gender, Class, Racial, Ethnic Identities**

* Gender
* Class
* Racial and Ethnic Identities
* National and Regional Identities
* Nationalism and Patriotism
* Assimilation

**Politics and Power**

* Role of State in Society
* Conservatives argued that liberal programs were counterproductive in fighting poverty and stimulating economic growth. Some  of their efforts to reduce the size and scope of government met with inertia and liberal opposition, as many programs remained popular with voters.
* Policy debates continued over free-trade agreements, the scope of the government social safety net, and calls to reform the U.S. financial system.
* Political Process
* Intense political and cultural debates continued over issues such as immigration policy, diversity, gender roles, and family structures.
* Conflicts in the Middle East and concerns about climate change led to debates over U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and the impact of economic consumption  on the environment.
* Role of Political Parties
* Ronald Reagan’s victory in the presidential election of 1980 represented an important milestone, allowing conservatives to enact significant tax cuts and continue the deregulation  of many industries.

* Struggles over / for Freedom
* Federalism
* Liberty and Rights
* The war on terrorism sought to improve security within the United States but also raised questions about the protection of civil liberties and human rights.
* Citizenship
* Authority and Power

**Economy: Work, Exchange, Trade, Technology**

* Agriculture and Manufacturing
* Commerce and Trade
* Real wages stagnated for the working and middle class amid growing economic inequality.
* Technology and Innovations
* Economic productivity increased as improvements in digital communications enabled increased American participation in worldwide economic opportunities.
* Technological innovations in computing, digital mobile technology, and the Internet transformed daily life, increased access to information, and led to new social behaviors and networks.
* Labor Systems
* Employment increased in service sectors and decreased in manufacturing, and union membership declined.
* Transportation
* Land Distribution