

## 2011-2012 Midterm Study Guide

***To support your preparation for your AP US History midterm exam, an outline of chapter themes are provided below. These themes coupled with text notes and outlines, lecture notes, vocabulary notes and the course website will be adequate resources to guide your studies.***

### **Chapter One Main Themes**

1. The colonization of the Americas represented a collision of European and Native American cultures that had been developing along completely different lines for thousands of years.
2. A variety of ambitions and impulses moved individuals and nations to colonize the New World, including long-standing demographic and economic changes, religious tensions wrought by the Protestant Reformation, and international rivalries among the European powers.
3. The collision of cultures in North America yielded many biological and cultural exchanges that remade both the Old and New Worlds.
4. The varied motives of the colonizers and their experiences prior to immigrating worked to shape their attitudes toward Native American cultures and helped determine the sociopolitical arrangements in the new colonies.
5. Other than in New Mexico and what would become the American Southwest, North American native peoples were relatively unaffected by European colonization until the arrival of the English, French, and Dutch in the seventeenth century.

### **Chapter Two Main Themes**

1. The origins, objectives, and shaping influences of England's first settlements in the New World.
2. How and why English colonies in the Chesapeake, New England, and Mid-Atlantic differed from one another in purpose and administration.
3. The problems that arose as colonies matured and expanded, and how colonists attempted to solve them.
4. The impact that events in England had on the development of colonies in British America.

### **Chapter Three Main Themes**

1. The growth and diversification of the colonial population
2. The expansion and diversification of the colonial economy to meet the needs of this rapidly growing population.
3. The rise of slavery as the labor system of choice in British North America.
4. The social and political life of English colonists in the various colonies.
5. The emergence of a particularly American "mind and spirit" in literature, philosophy, science, education, and law.

**Chapter Four Main Themes**

1. The growing enmity between the British and French in North America, culminating in the Seven Years' War.
2. The consequences of the Seven Years' War in driving further wedges between England and the people of the colonies.
3. The policies taken by Parliament in the 1760's and 1770's that served to incite resistance and rebellion in British North America.
4. The varied responses to English policies made by colonial leaders, and the growing cooperation among the thirteen colonies.
5. The outbreak of military hostilities between England and the colonies in Lexington and Concord, and the start of America's War of Independence.

**Chapter Five Main Themes**

1. The political strategies employed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in declaring their independence from England and uniting the colonies in military endeavor.
2. The battle strategies and military contingencies that characterized the three distinct phases of the American War of Independence.
3. The attempt by Americans to apply revolutionary republican ideology to the building of the nation and to the remaking of society, and how this application affected such minority groups as African-Americans, Native-Americans, and women in the newly independent colonies.
4. The problems that remained after, or were created by, the American Revolution and that were faced by the weak national government under the Articles of Confederation.

**Chapter Six Main Themes**

1. The origins of and debates surrounding the US Constitution, and how they were resolved.
2. The differing views of what the nation should become, and how these differences led to the rise of the Federalists, the Republicans, and America's "first party system."
3. The ways in which the new United States tried to establish itself as a nation in the eyes of both foreign powers and its own people.
4. The rise and fall of the Federalist Party and the background of the "Revolution of 1800."

**Chapter Seven Main Themes**

1. How Americans expressed their burgeoning cultural independence through republican education, literature and religious revivalism.
2. The impact of industrialism on the United States and its people, particularly with regard to agricultural technology and transportation.
3. The domestic questions and foreign entanglements of Thomas Jefferson's presidency, including *Marbury v. Madison*, the Louisiana Purchase, the settling of the west, and the impressment and embargo controversies
4. The response of the American people and their political system to the nation's physical expansion, and the reaction of Native American groups to this expansion.

5. The growing conflict between British naval policies and American self-identity that led to the War of 1812, and its ultimate consequences for the young American nation.

### **Chapter Eight Main Themes**

1. The effects of postwar expansion and continued economic growth in shaping the nation during the "era of good feelings."
2. The rise of sectional controversy arising from slavery, and the early attempts by Henry Clay and others to prevent strife through the Missouri Compromise.
3. The many prominent decisions of the Marshall Court during the Era of Good Feelings, and their role in promoting American nationalism, federal supremacy and Native American tribal sovereignty.
4. The development of the "Monroe Doctrine" and its application in further fostering American nationalism.
5. The end of the "era of good feelings" and the rise of America's "second party system."

### **Chapter Nine Main Themes**

1. The expansion of the electorate during the Age of Jackson, and the limits of that expansion.
2. The growing tension between nationalism and states' rights, as particularly reflected in the nullification crisis and the Webster-Hayne debate.
3. The brutal treatment of Native Americans by the Jackson administration, culminating in Indian Removal and the Trail of Tears.
4. The competing views of American economic development held by both sides in the Bank War, and their regional implications.
5. The rise of the Whig Party as an alternative to Andrew Jackson and the Democrats, and the Jacksonian political strategies used by both Whigs and Democrats in the Second Party System.

### **Chapter Ten Main Themes**

1. The nature of the rapid immigration and urban growth between 1820 and 1840, and its effect on the nation's economic, social, and political systems.
2. The pronounced effect of the transportation and communications revolutions of the 1820s and 1830s on the American economy.
3. The transformation in women's social and economic roles as a consequence of the factory system.
4. The social changes wrought by America's economic revolution in the fields of public leisure and Northern agriculture.

### **Chapter Eleven Main Themes**

1. The effect of short-staple cotton's rise on the economic development of the South, and the impact this enthroning of "King Cotton" had on subsequent Southern social and political development.
2. The class and gender dynamics of Southern white society, in both myth and reality.

3. The character of the different varieties of the South's "peculiar institution," and African-American's various forms of resistance to it.
4. The separate culture of African-American slavery, and how it manifested itself in religion, music, language, and family life.

### **Chapter Twelve Main Themes**

1. The development by American intellectuals of a national culture committed to the liberation of the human spirit, as expressed in art, literature, utopian communities, and transcendental philosophy.
2. The effect of this commitment to the liberation of the human spirit in reinforcing the evangelical reform impulse of the period, in movements as diverse as temperance, education, rehabilitation, and women's rights.
3. The emergence of the crusade against slavery as the most powerful element in this reform movement, and the various strategies of such prominent abolitionists as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass in combating the "peculiar institution."

### **Chapter Thirteen Main Themes**

1. The influence of Manifest Destiny on Americans during the period, and how it shaped American policy in Texas, Oregon, California, and the Southwest.
2. The many events concerning the expansion of slavery into the western territories that deepened divisions between the North and the South and led to the Civil War.
3. The effect of the dispute over slavery in reshaping the American political-party system, bringing an end to the Whigs and birthing the Republicans.

### **Chapter Fourteen Main Themes**

1. The establishment of the Confederacy, the failure of the final attempts at compromise, and the road to Fort Sumter.
2. The social and economic mobilization of both the Union and Confederacy for war, and what that mobilization revealed about the nature and character of each side.
3. The military strategy and campaigns of the Civil War, leading to the Union victory in April of 1865.

### **Chapter Fifteen Main Themes**

1. Radical Reconstruction changed the South in many significant ways, but ultimately fell short of the full transformation needed to secure equality for the freedmen.
2. White society and the federal government lacked the will to enforce effectively most of the constitutional and legal guarantees acquired by blacks during Reconstruction.
3. The policies of the Grant administration moved beyond Reconstruction matters to foreshadow issues of the late nineteenth century, such as political corruption and currency reform.
4. White leaders reestablished economic and political control of the South and sought to modernize the region through industrialization while redrawing the color line of racial discrimination in public life.
5. The race question continued to dominate Southern life well past Reconstruction into modern times.

**Chapter Sixteen Main Themes**

1. The varied and vibrant ethnic and racial cultures that characterized the American West and how Anglo-European whites enforced their dominant role by the latter part of the nineteenth century.
2. The transformation of the Far West from a sparsely populated region of Indians and various early settlers of European and Asian background into a part of the nation's capitalistic economy.
3. The closing of the frontier as Indian resistance was eliminated, miners and cowboys spearheaded settlements, and government-subsidized railroads opened the area for intensive development.
4. The development of mining, ranching, and commercial farming as the three major industries of the West.
5. The problems faced by farmers as the agricultural sector entered a relative decline.