

# apush period 7 study guide

**apush period 7 study guide** offers a comprehensive overview of one of the most dynamic and transformative eras in United States history, spanning 1890 to 1945. This period encompasses critical themes such as American imperialism, progressive reforms, World War I and II, the Great Depression, and major social and political changes. For students preparing for the AP U.S. History exam, mastering this timeframe is essential due to its complexity and the breadth of content covered. This guide breaks down key events, movements, and policies that defined the era, providing an organized framework for review. By exploring political, economic, cultural, and international developments, this apush period 7 study guide helps clarify cause-and-effect relationships and significant historical trends. The following sections are structured to facilitate a thorough understanding and retention of the material, ensuring readiness for exam questions related to this period.

- American Imperialism and Overseas Expansion
- The Progressive Era and Domestic Reforms
- World War I and Its Aftermath
- The Roaring Twenties and Social Change
- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- World War II and the Transformation of America

## American Imperialism and Overseas Expansion

The era of American imperialism marked a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy, as the nation expanded its influence beyond continental borders. From the 1890s through the early 20th century, the United States pursued overseas territories and increased its global presence, driven by economic interests, military strategy, and a belief in cultural superiority. This period laid the groundwork for America's emergence as a world power.

## Causes of American Imperialism

Several factors motivated the United States to adopt an imperialist stance during this period. Economic ambitions to access new markets and raw materials were paramount, as industrial growth demanded expanded trade opportunities. Additionally, the ideology of Social Darwinism and the concept of the "White Man's Burden" justified intervention in foreign lands as a moral obligation to civilize and democratize. Strategic military interests, including the desire to build a powerful navy and acquire naval bases, also played a crucial role.

## Key Events and Territories

Significant events highlight the expansionist agenda of the United States during this era:

- **Spanish-American War (1898):** This conflict resulted in the U.S. acquiring Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, marking a decisive step toward imperial control.
- **Annexation of Hawaii (1898):** The U.S. formally annexed Hawaii, which had been an important economic and military outpost.
- **Open Door Policy (1899):** Aimed at protecting American commercial interests in China by promoting equal trading rights among foreign powers.
- **Panama Canal (1904-1914):** The construction of the canal enhanced U.S. naval mobility and economic influence by connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

## The Progressive Era and Domestic Reforms

The Progressive Era (approximately 1890-1920) was characterized by widespread social activism and political reform aimed at addressing the problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and corruption. Reformers sought to improve government transparency, regulate business practices, and expand democratic participation to create a more just society.

### Political and Economic Reforms

Progressives introduced several key reforms to combat economic inequality and political corruption. These included antitrust laws like the Sherman Antitrust Act and the Clayton Antitrust Act, designed to break up monopolies and promote competition. The establishment of regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) improved consumer protections. Additionally, the direct election of senators through the 17th Amendment increased democratic accountability.

### Social Reforms and Labor Movements

Progressives also focused on social justice issues. Reformers worked to improve working conditions through child labor laws and workplace safety regulations. The women's suffrage movement gained momentum, culminating in the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. Settlement houses and other social programs aimed to assist immigrants and the urban poor.

### Prominent Progressive Leaders

Notable figures shaped the reform agenda during this period:

- **Teddy Roosevelt:** Advocated for the "Square Deal," emphasizing trust-busting and conservation.
- **Woodrow Wilson:** Implemented "New Freedom" policies focusing on tariff reduction and banking reform.
- **Jane Addams:** Pioneered social work and advocated for immigrant and labor rights.

## World War I and Its Aftermath

World War I (1914–1918) was a defining moment in U.S. history, marking the nation's first major involvement in a European conflict. The war and its consequences had profound political, economic, and social impacts on America, reshaping its role on the global stage.

### U.S. Entry into the War

The United States initially maintained neutrality but entered the war in 1917 due to several provocations, including unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany and the Zimmermann Telegram, which revealed German efforts to ally with Mexico against the U.S. American involvement helped tip the balance in favor of the Allies.

### Domestic Impact of the War

The war effort spurred economic growth and technological innovation but also led to significant social tensions. The government implemented propaganda campaigns to boost support and passed laws like the Espionage Act to suppress dissent. The Great Migration saw African Americans move northward for industrial jobs, transforming demographics. However, wartime nationalism also fueled discrimination and the Red Scare.

### Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations

After the war, the Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh penalties on Germany and established the League of Nations to promote peace. President Wilson advocated for the League, but the U.S. Senate ultimately rejected joining, reflecting isolationist tendencies that shaped interwar foreign policy.

## The Roaring Twenties and Social Change

The 1920s were marked by economic prosperity, cultural shifts, and social tensions. This period saw the rise of consumerism, new technologies, and changing social norms, but also persistent conflicts over race, immigration, and morality.

## Economic Growth and Consumer Culture

The decade experienced rapid industrial growth, widespread use of automobiles, and the rise of mass advertising. Stock market speculation fueled economic optimism, though underlying weaknesses foreshadowed future crises. New products like radios and household appliances transformed daily life.

## Cultural Movements and Conflicts

The Harlem Renaissance celebrated African American culture and creativity, while the Jazz Age symbolized new freedoms and social experimentation. However, the period was also marked by nativism, Prohibition, and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. The Scopes Trial highlighted tensions between modern science and traditional values.

## Changes in Women's Roles

The 1920s witnessed significant changes for women, including increased participation in the workforce, greater social freedoms, and the flapper culture that challenged conventional norms. Women's suffrage had been secured, but debates over gender roles persisted.

## The Great Depression and the New Deal

The stock market crash of 1929 triggered the Great Depression, the most severe economic crisis in American history. Unemployment soared, banks failed, and widespread poverty demanded a comprehensive government response. The New Deal programs introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reform.

## Causes and Effects of the Great Depression

The Depression resulted from multiple factors, including overproduction, unequal wealth distribution, and speculative investments. Its impact was devastating: millions lost jobs, homes, and savings, deeply affecting American society and politics.

## New Deal Policies and Programs

The New Deal encompassed a wide range of initiatives to stabilize the economy and support citizens:

- **Social Security Act:** Established a safety net for the elderly and unemployed.
- **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC):** Created jobs in environmental conservation.
- **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC):** Protected bank deposits to restore confidence.

- **National Recovery Administration (NRA):** Promoted industrial recovery through regulation.

## **Criticism and Legacy**

The New Deal faced opposition from conservatives and some progressives alike but fundamentally reshaped the relationship between the federal government and American citizens. It expanded the role of the government in economic and social affairs, setting precedents for future policy.

## **World War II and the Transformation of America**

World War II (1939–1945) was a pivotal chapter in U.S. history, leading to global leadership and domestic transformation. America's involvement began after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and encompassed military, economic, and social mobilization on an unprecedented scale.

## **U.S. Entry and Military Strategy**

Following Pearl Harbor, the U.S. declared war on Japan and later on Germany and Italy. The country mobilized its military and industrial capacity to fight on multiple fronts. Key battles in Europe and the Pacific, along with alliances such as the United Nations' precursors, ensured Allied victory.

## **Homefront Changes**

The war effort stimulated economic recovery from the Depression, leading to full employment and increased industrial production. Women entered the workforce in large numbers, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter." However, Japanese American internment reflected racial prejudices and wartime fears. The war also accelerated civil rights movements.

## **Postwar Impact and Global Role**

After the war, the United States emerged as a superpower with significant political, military, and economic influence. The creation of the United Nations and the beginning of the Cold War marked the start of new international challenges and commitments. Domestically, the GI Bill and suburban growth reshaped American society in the postwar era.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the key themes covered in APUSH Period 7?**

APUSH Period 7 (1890–1945) covers themes such as American imperialism, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, the New Deal, and World War II.

## **Which major events define the Progressive Era in APUSH Period 7?**

The Progressive Era is defined by reforms aimed at curbing corporate power, improving social justice, and expanding democracy, including the enactment of antitrust laws, labor reforms, women's suffrage, and the establishment of regulatory agencies like the FDA.

## **How did American foreign policy change during Period 7?**

American foreign policy shifted towards imperialism and interventionism, marked by events such as the Spanish-American War, the acquisition of overseas territories, involvement in World War I, and the initial steps toward global leadership in World War II.

## **What were the causes and effects of the Great Depression covered in Period 7?**

Causes included stock market speculation, bank failures, and unequal wealth distribution. Effects were widespread unemployment, poverty, and significant changes in government policy with the New Deal programs aimed at economic recovery and social welfare.

## **What role did the New Deal play in APUSH Period 7?**

The New Deal, introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, implemented a series of programs and reforms to provide relief, recovery, and reform to combat the Great Depression, significantly expanding the federal government's role in the economy.

## **How did World War I impact American society during Period 7?**

World War I led to increased industrial production, social changes such as the Great Migration, heightened nationalism, and the suppression of dissent through laws like the Espionage Act, ultimately influencing U.S. isolationist policies in the 1920s.

## **What cultural developments characterized the 1920s in APUSH Period 7?**

The 1920s, known as the Roaring Twenties, featured cultural developments like the Harlem Renaissance, jazz music, changing gender roles with flappers, and a consumer culture fueled by mass production and advertising.

## **Additional Resources**

1. *The American Pageant: A History of the American People, Period 7 Edition*  
This widely used textbook covers American history extensively, with detailed chapters on Period 7 (1890–1945). It provides a comprehensive overview of the Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. The book includes primary source excerpts, timelines, and review questions to aid

APUSH students in mastering key concepts.

2. *Give Me Liberty! An American History, Volume 2: Since 1865* by Eric Foner  
Eric Foner's work is well-regarded for its clear narrative and emphasis on freedom and reform movements. Volume 2 focuses on the post-Civil War era through the 20th century, making it ideal for studying Period 7. It offers critical analysis of political, social, and economic changes during this transformative time in U.S. history.

3. *APUSH Period 7 Study Guide: 1890–1945* by APUSH Academy  
This focused study guide is designed specifically for students preparing for the AP U.S. History exam covering Period 7. It breaks down key events, concepts, and vocabulary into manageable sections, with practice questions and summaries. The guide helps reinforce knowledge of major themes like imperialism, the New Deal, and global conflicts.

4. *The Gilded Age & Progressive Era: A History of the United States, 1877–1917* by William E. Leuchtenburg  
Leuchtenburg's book offers an in-depth look at the social and political reforms during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, which are crucial parts of Period 7. It explores the roots of American imperialism, labor movements, and early 20th-century reforms. The text is insightful for understanding the foundations of modern American politics.

5. *Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression* by Studs Terkel  
This book provides a human perspective on the Great Depression, a central topic in Period 7. Through firsthand interviews, Terkel captures the struggles and resilience of Americans during the 1930s. It complements traditional historical narratives by highlighting personal experiences of economic hardship.

6. *America in the Twentieth Century* by Robert H. Zieger  
Zieger's text covers major events from the Progressive Era through World War II with a focus on political, social, and cultural developments. It provides detailed analysis of America's emergence as a world power and the impact of global conflicts on domestic policies. The book is useful for understanding the complexities of Period 7.

7. *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History* edited by Eric Foner  
This collection of primary source documents is valuable for APUSH students studying Period 7, offering direct insight into the era's key issues. It includes speeches, letters, and government documents related to progressivism, imperialism, and the New Deal. Analyzing these documents helps students develop critical thinking and historical interpretation skills.

8. *AP U.S. History Prep Plus 2024–2025* by Kaplan Test Prep  
Kaplan's prep book includes comprehensive review chapters, practice tests, and strategies tailored for the AP U.S. History exam. Its coverage of Period 7 is thorough, with summaries of major events like the Spanish-American War, World War I, and the New Deal era. The book is designed to boost confidence and exam readiness.

9. *The Great War and Modern Memory* by Paul Fussell  
Fussell's work delves into the cultural and literary impact of World War I, a key event in Period 7. It explores how the war changed American and global perceptions of warfare and modernity. This book provides context for understanding the profound psychological and societal shifts during the early 20th century.

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