

# apush unit 7 study guide

**apush unit 7 study guide** offers a comprehensive overview of one of the most critical periods in United States history, spanning from the late 19th century through the early 20th century. This unit encompasses transformative themes such as American imperialism, the Progressive Era reforms, World War I, and the social and political changes that redefined the nation. An effective apush unit 7 study guide will break down complex events and concepts into digestible sections, enabling students to grasp the causes and effects that shaped modern America. From understanding the motivations behind expansionism to analyzing the domestic policies that addressed industrialization's challenges, this guide covers essential topics to prepare for the AP U.S. History exam. Additionally, it highlights key legislation, influential figures, and significant court cases that influenced the era. The following table of contents outlines the main themes and subtopics covered in this detailed apush unit 7 study guide.

- American Imperialism and Expansion
- The Progressive Era Reforms
- World War I and Its Impact
- Social and Cultural Changes in the Early 20th Century
- Economic Developments and Labor Movements

## American Imperialism and Expansion

American imperialism during Unit 7 represents a shift in U.S. foreign policy as the nation pursued overseas territories and expanded its global influence. This period saw the United States transition from continental expansion to acquiring territories beyond its borders, motivated by economic interests, strategic military considerations, and a belief in cultural superiority often framed as the "White Man's Burden."

## Causes of American Imperialism

The causes of American imperialism included the desire for new markets to support industrial growth, the need for naval bases around the world to protect American interests, and the influence of Social Darwinism and missionary zeal. The closing of the western frontier also prompted leaders to look abroad for opportunities to assert power and prestige.

## Key Events and Territories

Significant events during this era included the annexation of Hawaii, the Spanish-American War, and the subsequent acquisition of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The Open Door Policy aimed at

maintaining trade access in China, while the Panama Canal project underscored the strategic importance of controlling key maritime routes.

## **Consequences of Imperialism**

American imperialism resulted in debates over the constitutionality and morality of expansion, particularly regarding the status of new territories and their inhabitants. The period also intensified discussions about national identity, race relations, and the role of the United States on the global stage.

## **The Progressive Era Reforms**

The Progressive Era was characterized by widespread social activism and political reform aimed at addressing the problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and corruption. This section of the apush unit 7 study guide examines the goals, achievements, and limitations of the Progressive movement.

### **Goals of the Progressive Movement**

Progressives sought to improve democratic governance, regulate corporations, promote social welfare, and reduce corruption. They aimed to empower citizens through reforms such as direct election of senators and initiatives to increase government transparency.

### **Major Progressive Legislation**

Key legislative achievements included the Pure Food and Drug Act, the Meat Inspection Act, the Federal Reserve Act, and antitrust laws like the Clayton Antitrust Act. These laws sought to protect consumers, regulate business practices, and stabilize the economy.

### **Important Progressive Figures**

Leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Jane Addams played pivotal roles in advancing Progressive reforms. Roosevelt's "Square Deal" and Wilson's "New Freedom" programs exemplified government efforts to balance business interests with public welfare.

## **World War I and Its Impact**

World War I marked a turning point in American history, involving the United States in a global conflict and reshaping its domestic and foreign policies. This section outlines the causes of U.S. involvement, wartime measures, and the consequences of the war.

## **Causes of U.S. Entry into WWI**

The United States initially maintained neutrality but eventually entered the war due to factors such as unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany, the Zimmerman Telegram, and economic ties with the Allies. Public opinion shifted as the war progressed, leading to President Wilson's declaration of war in 1917.

## **Homefront and Wartime Policies**

The government implemented measures like the Selective Service Act, propaganda campaigns, and the Espionage and Sedition Acts to mobilize support and suppress dissent. The war effort also accelerated social changes, including increased labor participation by women and minorities.

## **Treaty of Versailles and Aftermath**

Although President Wilson advocated for the League of Nations, the U.S. Senate ultimately rejected the Treaty of Versailles. The war's aftermath brought about a period of isolationism, economic adjustments, and social tensions that influenced the 1920s.

## **Social and Cultural Changes in the Early 20th Century**

The early 20th century was a time of significant social and cultural transformation in the United States. This section of the apush unit 7 study guide explores the movements and changes that redefined American society.

### **The Great Migration**

The Great Migration involved the relocation of millions of African Americans from the rural South to urban centers in the North and West. This demographic shift had profound effects on urban culture, labor markets, and race relations.

### **Women's Suffrage Movement**

The fight for women's voting rights culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. This milestone was the result of decades of activism by suffragists who challenged traditional gender roles and sought greater political participation.

### **Cultural Developments**

The era witnessed the Harlem Renaissance, a flourishing of African American art, literature, and music, and the rise of new cultural norms influenced by technological advances like radio and cinema. These changes contributed to a dynamic and diverse cultural landscape.

# Economic Developments and Labor Movements

Economic growth during Unit 7 was accompanied by significant labor unrest and efforts to improve working conditions. This section addresses the industrial economy and the responses of workers and reformers.

## Industrial Expansion and Technology

The period saw rapid industrialization, with advances in manufacturing, transportation, and communication. Innovations such as the assembly line increased productivity, while corporations grew in size and influence.

## Labor Unions and Strikes

Workers organized unions to demand better wages, hours, and safety conditions. Notable strikes included the Pullman Strike and the Coal Strike of 1902, which highlighted tensions between labor and management and prompted government intervention.

## Government Regulation and Labor Laws

Progressive reforms introduced labor regulations such as child labor laws, workplace safety standards, and limitations on working hours. These changes reflected growing recognition of workers' rights and the need for government oversight of industry.

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- Key Events and Territories
- Consequences of Imperialism
- Goals of the Progressive Movement
- Major Progressive Legislation
- Important Progressive Figures
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- Homefront and Wartime Policies
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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the main topics covered in APUSH Unit 7?**

APUSH Unit 7 typically covers the period from 1890 to 1945, including American imperialism, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and World War II.

### **What were the causes of American imperialism discussed in Unit 7?**

Causes of American imperialism include economic interests, military strategy, belief in cultural superiority (Social Darwinism), and the desire for new markets and resources.

### **How did World War I impact the United States domestically?**

World War I led to increased government power, propaganda campaigns, restrictions on civil liberties, economic changes, and the Great Migration of African Americans to northern cities.

### **What were the key features of the 1920s economy and society in Unit 7?**

The 1920s featured economic prosperity, consumerism, the rise of mass culture, Prohibition, women's suffrage, and significant social tensions such as the Red Scare and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

### **How did the Great Depression begin and what were its effects?**

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash of 1929 and resulted in massive unemployment, bank failures, poverty, and significant changes in government policy under the New Deal.

### **What were the major goals of FDR's New Deal programs?**

The New Deal aimed to provide relief for the unemployed, recovery of the economy, and reform of the financial system to prevent future depressions.

## **How did the United States respond to the outbreak of World War II prior to officially entering the war?**

The U.S. initially adopted a policy of neutrality but gradually supported the Allies through programs like Lend-Lease and increased military preparedness before entering the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## **What were the social and economic impacts of World War II on the American home front?**

World War II boosted industrial production, ended the Great Depression, led to increased employment including for women and minorities, and prompted social changes such as the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. America's History, Volume 2: Since 1865*

This comprehensive textbook by James A. Henretta covers American history from the Civil War to the present, with a strong focus on the Progressive Era, World Wars, the Great Depression, and the Cold War—key topics in APUSH Unit 7. It provides detailed narratives, primary source excerpts, and engaging visuals that help students understand the complexities of modern American history. The book is widely used in APUSH courses for its depth and clarity.

### *2. The American Pageant: A History of the Republic, Volume 2*

Known for its engaging storytelling and vibrant illustrations, this book by David M. Kennedy and Lizabeth Cohen covers U.S. history from the end of the Civil War through the 21st century. It emphasizes themes such as industrialization, imperialism, and the world wars, which are central to Unit 7. The text is student-friendly and includes helpful timelines and review questions.

### *3. Give Me Liberty! An American History, Volume 2*

Eric Foner's textbook offers a fresh perspective on American history with a focus on freedom and reform movements. The second volume addresses the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, and America's role in global conflicts, aligning well with APUSH Unit 7 topics. The narrative is clear and insightful, making complex historical debates accessible to high school students.

### *4. The Gilded Age and Progressive Era: A History in Documents*

Edited by John D. Buenker, this book provides primary source documents that illuminate the social and political changes during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. It is an excellent resource for students to engage directly with historical texts related to Unit 7 themes such as immigration, labor reform, and political corruption. The collection encourages critical thinking and analysis.

### *5. AP U.S. History Prep Plus 2024 & 2025*

This test prep guide by Kaplan includes comprehensive content reviews, practice questions, and strategies specifically for the APUSH exam. Unit 7 topics like World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and World War II are thoroughly covered. It's a practical resource for students preparing for the exam with focused summaries and exam-style questions.

### *6. The Great Depression and the New Deal: A Documentary History*

This book compiles essential documents and firsthand accounts from the era of the Great Depression and the New Deal. It helps students understand the economic challenges and governmental responses during the 1930s, a critical part of Unit 7. The primary sources foster deeper comprehension of the period's social and political impact.

#### *7. World War II: A Short History*

Authored by Michael J. Lyons, this concise history covers the causes, key events, and consequences of World War II. It highlights America's involvement and the global effects of the war, making it relevant for the APUSH Unit 7 curriculum. The clear narrative and focused scope make it a useful supplement for students.

#### *8. From Colonies to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1776*

This book by George C. Herring explores the evolution of American foreign policy, with significant coverage of the imperialist period, World War I, and World War II. It provides context for understanding America's growing international role during the Unit 7 timeframe. The analysis helps students grasp the motivations behind key diplomatic decisions.

#### *9. Progressive Era: A Primary Source Reader*

Edited by Lewis L. Gould, this reader presents speeches, letters, and essays from prominent Progressive Era figures. It offers insight into reform movements, political activism, and societal changes that define Unit 7's focus on domestic progressivism. The primary sources encourage students to engage directly with the voices of the past.

## **Apush Unit 7 Study Guide**

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