Unit 09: Contemporary America: Domestic Policies 1970 - Present

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **US History 2**
Time Period: **Semester 2**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Standards

6.1.12.CivicsDP.13.a	Analyze the effectiveness of national legislation, policies, and Supreme Court decisions in promoting civil liberties and equal opportunities (i.e., the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Rights Amendment, Title VII, Title IX, Affirmative Action, Brown v. Board of Education, and Roe v. Wade). Political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics. Complex interacting factors influence people's perspective.
6.1.12.HistorySE.13.a	Use a variety of sources to explain the relationship between the changing role of women in the labor force and changes in family structure.

Enduring Understandings

1. The roles dissent and political activism play in the struggle for freedom and equality at home and abroad.

2. Views from the Left and Right, either radical or moderate, and how they influence or respond to the progression of equality and freedom in America and the world.

3. The impact has technology and Industry had on political, social and military history in America.

4. Roles race, ethnicity, class and gender, sexual orientation, disabilities played in responding to or shaping the path of American history.

5. How the government influenced and responded to the economy and private sector.

- Students will determine, through media literacy skills and lateral, close reading strategies when evaluating primary and secondary resources the following: 1. context of the text; 2. reason for the text; 3. type of source the text is; 4. the point of view of the author of the text 5. the intended audience for the text 6. evaluate the stance of the text
- Students will use Historical Thinking Skills to evaluate sources and ideas. Comparison, Contextualization, Continuity and Change over Time, Periodization, Synthesis, Claims, Point of View, Intended Audience, and Purpose.
- Students will observe, note, and draw conclusions with the understanding that there are multiple perspectives. Multiple perspectives is the foundation to understanding the why and how of history. Documents, primary sources, historical readings will be evaluated.

Essential Questions

1. What was the impact of Nixon's domestic policies and why did his administration collapsed?

2. How has the treatment of women and minorities in the U.S. from the 1970's to the present evolved? (government legislation and public opinion toward women, Spanish speaking communities, homosexuals, and African Americans, Americans with disabilities.)

3. What led to the increasing popularity of the "neo conservative" movement and what has been its impact on American society and politics?

4. What were the major reasons for the short life of the Ford and Carter presidencies?

5. What was the public atmosphere in 1980 and why it was so attracted to Ronald Reagan?

6. How successful were the presidencies of Bush and Clinton in the 1990's?

7. What are the current national issues impacting contemporary America?

Knowledge and Skills

Obj: What was Nixon's domestic policy.

- *New Conservatism, New Federalism*
- *Revenue Sharing*
- *Family Assistance Plan*
- *Nixon's Southern Strategy*
- *Stagflation*
- *OPEC and a failing economy*
- *EPA*

Obj: What were the issues surrounding the Watergate scandal.

- *Key Players (H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, John Mitchell)*
- *Committee to Reelect the President*
- *Deep Throat and Woodward and Bernstein*
- *Saturday Night Massacre*
- *Nixon's Resigns*
- *Frost/Nixon*

- *Legacy of Watergate (public cynicism toward politicians, impact of media coverage)*

Obj: What were Gerald Ford's efforts to confront economic problems and handle domestic policy as well as analyze his decision to pardon President Nixon.

- *Dealing with inflation, energy crisis, unemployment*
- *Pardoning of Nixon ("Move the country past Watergate")*
- *Impact of pardoning (Loss of public support, President above the law?, right decision?)*

Obj: What were Carter's achievements and failures on Domestic policy matters.

- *1976 election (Washington outsider)*
- *Continued economic problems*
- *National Energy Act*
- *Changing economy (foreign competition, service sector jobs, etc)*
- *Approach to Civil Rights and African Americans (California vs. Bakke)*

Obj: What was the role of women and minorities in contemporary America.

- *Cesar Chavez*
- *American Indian Movement (AIM)*
- *Feminism*
- *Women in the workplace, politics*
- *National Organization for Women (NOW)*
- *Roe vs. Wade*
- *Equal Rights Amendment*
- *Americans with Disabilities Act*
- *Women in politics (Nancy Pelosi, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Warren)*
- *Phyllis Schlafly*

Obj: What led to the rise in neo-conservatism in American society?

- *Entitlement Programs*
- *The New Right*
- *The Conservative Coalition*
- *The Moral Majority*
- *Jerry Falwell*
- *Shrink size off federal government, promote family values and patriotic ideals, stimulate business by reducing government, lower taxes, remove regulation, increase defense spending, Affirmative action, reverse discrimination*
- *Base of support…Business, southerners, westerners, Reagan Democrats.*

Obj: What were major people and events surrounding the Reagan & Bush administration.

- *1980 election*
- *Assassination attempt*
- *Reaganomics (Budget cuts, tax cuts, increase defense spending, deregulation supply-side economics)*
- *Rise in national debt*
- *Recession and recovery…Real recovery?*
- *Supreme Court conservatives*
- *EPA*
- *1988 election…Continued conservatism*
- *Economic decline*

Obj: What were national concerns that have lingered since the 1970/80's.

- *Environmentalism (first Earth Day, Nuclear energy & Three Mile Island)*
- *Health issues (AIDS)*
- *Pro choice vs. pro life*
- *Drug abuse…the crack epidemic*
- *Education reform*
- *Urban crisis…Poverty, LA Riots*
- *Gay Rights…Harvey Milk, Supreme Court decisions*

Obj: What was the success of the Clinton administration.

- *Election of 1992…The "New" Democrats*
- *Ross Perot*
- *Health care reform…Hillary Clinton*
- *Balanced budget*
- *Reforming welfare*
- *Don't ask, Don't tell*
- *North American Free Trade Agreement*
- *Republicans control Congress…Newt Gingrich*
- *The Impeachment (Whitewater, Monica Lewinsky)*
- *Economy…continued deregulation*

Obj: What are discussions about different events that have had an economic, cultural, political, and moral impact on contemporary American society

- *2000 Election (Al Gore, George W. Bush, Dispute over Florida, end of the recall)*
- *No Child Left Behind*
- *Changing global economy (service sector, high-tech industries, etc.)*
- *Communication revolution (information superhighway, internet)*
- *Biotechnology, genetic engineering, GMO's, government legislation toward technology*
- *Gentrification*
- *Baby boomers…Social Security*

- *Immigration population (Prop 187, Arizona and identification)*
- *Financial crisis 07-08*
- *2008 presidential election*
- *Rise in conservative politics…Tea Party Patriots*
- *Affordable Healthcare Act*
- *Lingering race issues*

Transfer Goals

- Students will be able to independently gather data and develop hypotheses necessary for quantitative and qualitative analysis especially in regards to modern political issues.
- Students will independently use their learning to tie scientific inquiry to contemporary historical patterns regarding presidential decisions domestically and internationally.

Resources

Textbook: The Americans by Gerard A Danzer 2012

American Yawp - Stanford University: Edited by Joseph Locke and Ben Wright; updated yearly starting in 2019

Who Built America by Christopher Clark et. al 2007

Openstax - Rice University 2003

Taking Sides by William Miller 21st edition 2002

AP Textbook: By the People by James Fraser 2014

Liberty, Equality and Power- Murrin 1999

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Including clips from the Nixon Tapes 1973

Carter Malaise Speech 1979

Watergate testimony 1973

Including Iran Hostage Crisis readings 1979

Including reading Impeachment Bill Clinton 1998

Including readings Ronald Reagan's presidency 2008-present

Additional Resources from WH databases, and articles connected to the content, including primary readings, historiography, and secondary sources.

Modifications for Text levels/Different reading levels

Learning Ally subscription, Newsela (free version), Google Translate, Upfront Magazine digital version

DocsTeach (Library of Congress)

Voices of Freedom, Foner

Amsco Review Book

Portrait of America (secondary source anthology)

Give Me Liberty, Foner

American History, Brinkley

March of Liberty, Urofsky & Finkleman

Myth America, Keven Kruse

For the Record (primary source anthology)

The Atlantic Monthly

Movie: 1971

Dissent in America, Ralph Young (primary source)

Zinn: Voices of a People's History

American Spirit: Bailey/Kennedy (primary)

Taking Sides: Clashing Views in US History

Prom Night in Mississippi

New Visions for Learning

Stanford Thinking Like a Historian

Immigration Political Cartoons

PBS American Experience Video Clips

Facing History

60 Minutes

News publications, including but not limited to NYTimes, Washington Post.

Newsela

Vox Videos

Upfront Magazine

Zinn Education Project

Internet and AI (Gemini, Magicschoolai, etc.)

Diffit

Pear Deck

Albert i.o.

Web-based resources including but not limited to digital media (SIFT method), primary sources, peer reviews, historical documents and writings of historians

Assessments

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKgdwpriGuRcVHIVCJUdBEk7lih12Q0ckKSTC4TMUXs/edit

Modifications

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODqaPP69YkcFiyG72fIT8XsUIe3K1VSG7nxuc4CpCec/edit