

# Unit 14: US II - Foreign Policy 1975-1991

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

## Unit Introduction

---

## Standards

---

SOC.6.1.12.A.15.a	Analyze the factors that led to the fall of communism in Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union, and determine how the fall influenced the global power structure.
SOC.6.1.12.D.12.a	Analyze the impact of American governmental policies on independence movements in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.
SOC.6.1.12.D.15.c	Explain how and why religious tensions and historic differences in the Middle East have led to international conflicts, and analyze the effectiveness of United States policy and actions in bringing peaceful resolutions to the region.
SOC.6.1.12.D.16.a	Analyze the impact of American culture on other world cultures from multiple perspectives.
SOC.6.1.12.CS15	Contemporary United States: International Policies: The United States has used various methods to achieve foreign policy goals that affect the global balance of power, national security, other national interests, and the development of democratic societies.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.b	Analyze the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interest in matters such as territory, economic development, use of natural resources, and human rights.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.c	Analyze why terrorist movements have proliferated, and evaluate their impact on governments, individuals, and societies.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.a	Determine the impact of geography on decisions made by the Soviet Union and the United States to expand and protect their spheres of influence.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.b	Analyze the reasons for the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, and evaluate the impact of these events on changing national boundaries in Eastern Europe and Asia.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.c	Determine the impact of migration on the way of life (e.g., social, economic, and political structures) in countries of origin and in adopted countries.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.e	Assess the role of boundary disputes and limited natural resources as sources of conflict.
SOC.6.2.12.C.5.b	Compare and contrast free market capitalism, Western European democratic socialism, and Soviet communism.
SOC.6.2.12.C.5.c	Assess the impact of the international arms race, the space race, and nuclear proliferation on international politics from multiple perspectives.
SOC.6.2.12.C.5.g	Evaluate the role of the petroleum industry in world politics, the global economy, and the environment.
SOC.6.2.12.D.5.a	Relate the lingering effects of colonialism to the efforts of Latin American, African, and Asian nations to build stable economies and national identities.

The 20th Century Since 1945: Challenges for the Modern World: Decolonization, the emergence of new independent nations, and competing ideologies changed the political landscape and national identities of those involved, and sometimes included military confrontations and violations of human rights. International migration and scientific and technological improvements in the second half of the 20th century resulted in an increasingly global economy and society that are challenged by limited natural resources.

## **L.A. Standards For History, Soc. St., Science & Technical Subjects**

---

LA.RH.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to develop an understanding of the text as a whole.
LA.RH.11-12.2	Determine the theme, central ideas, information and/or perspective(s) presented in a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events, ideas and/or author's perspective(s) develop over the course of the text.
LA.RH.11-12.3	Evaluate various perspectives for actions or events; determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RH.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).
LA.RH.11-12.5	Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.
LA.RH.11-12.6	Evaluate authors' differing perspectives on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.
LA.RH.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RH.11-12.8	Evaluate an author's claims, reasoning, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other sources.
LA.RH.11-12.9	Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.
LA.RH.11-12.10	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.

## **Essential Questions**

---

What similarities and differences exist between United States diplomatic goals and methods of this period with those of the Cold War Era?

How may one appraise the emerging Middle East policy of this period?

What role did American diplomacy play in bringing on the decline and fall of the Soviet Empire?

What were the sub-Saharan African policies of the United States during this period?

## **Goals/Objectives**

---

- Analyze historical events relative to the modern world
- Analyze social, political, and cultural change
- Apply problem-solving to develop solutions
- Evaluate communication of information for soundness of evidence and potential bias
- Evaluate concepts and themes through historical periods
- Examine source data to test credibility and evaluate bias
- Formulate questions from multiple perspectives, using multiple sources
- Reconcile primary and secondary source information

## **Content**

---

United States History Accelerated Textbook: America Pathways to the Present

Describe U.S.-Iranian relations during this period

Discuss U.S. policies in the Middle East regarding Israel, Egypt, and other regional powers

Trace events leading to the end of the Soviet Union and Eastern European communism

Describe the foreign policy initiatives of the Reagan administration

Explain U.S.-South African policies with special focus upon apartheid

Demonstrate geographic knowledge associated with American diplomacy during this period

## Skills

---

- Analyze charts, tables, and political cartoons
- Compare and contrast
- Critical thinking
- Data Analysis
- Distinguish facts from opinions
- Identify main ideas and details
- Media literacy
- Reading for content mastery
- Supporting positions
- Understand political, economic, and physical maps