The Ultimate AP® US History Unit 8 Cheat Sheet

8.2 & 8.7 Cold War Foreign Policy

Origins & Containment

Cold War: U.S. (capitalism, democracy) vs USSR (communism); arms race, proxy wars, no direct war.
Containment (George Kennan's Long Telegram 1946, X Article 1947): stop communism's spread, not roll it back.

Policy	Year	Purpose
Truman Doctrine	1947	Aid Greece, Turkey
Marshall Plan	1948	$13B rebuild Europe
Berlin Airlift	1948–49	Beat Soviet blockade
NATO	1949	Collective defense
NSC-68	1950	Huge military buildup

1949 shocks: USSR tests atomic bomb; China becomes communist (Mao) → fear ↑ → NSC-68, Red Scare.

Hot Spots

Korean War (1950–53): UN/U.S. defend South Korea; MacArthur fired by Truman; stalemate at 38th parallel.
Eisenhower: "massive retaliation" (nukes), brinkmanship, CIA coups (Iran 1953, Guatemala 1954), domino theory; in 1961 farewell warns of **military-industrial complex**.
Space race: Sputnik (1957) → NASA, National Defense Education Act; Apollo 11 moon landing (1969).
Kennedy: flexible response; Bay of Pigs fails (1961); Berlin Wall (1961); **Cuban Missile Crisis** (1962) → closest to nuclear war → hotline, Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963).

Détente (1970s)

Nixon visits China (1972); **SALT I** (1972) arms limits w/ USSR.
Carter: human rights; Camp David Accords (1978); Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) ends détente.
Decolonization: superpowers compete for new nations in Asia & Africa; some stay non-aligned (India).

⚠ Containment aimed to STOP spread, not destroy communism (Kennan's goal, not rollback).

✓ CCOT: containment → Korea → Vietnam → détente.

8.3 The Red Scare

Fear at Home

Second Red Scare (late 1940s–1950s): fear of communist spies & subversion in gov't, schools, Hollywood.
Loyalty Review Program (Truman's EO 9835, 1947): federal workers investigated for disloyalty or radical ties.
HUAC: House committee probes Hollywood (1947) → **Hollywood Ten** jailed; **blacklists** end careers.

Spy Cases

Case	Year	Outcome
Alger Hiss	1950	Perjury; Nixon rises
Rosenbergs	1953	Executed (atomic spying)
Klaus Fuchs	1950	UK scientist confesses

McCarthyism

Joseph McCarthy (1950): claims list of communists in State Dept. → reckless accusations w/o evidence.
Army-McCarthy hearings (1954, televised) → public sees bullying (Welch rebuke) → Senate censures him.
McCarran Act (Internal Security Act, 1950): communist groups must register; Truman's veto overridden.

Effects

Conformity & fear chill free speech; unions purge leftists (CIO expels 11 unions); teachers sign loyalty oaths.
"Under God" added to Pledge (1954); "In God We Trust" motto (1956); religion linked to anti-communism.
Critics: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* (1953) compares hunts to Salem witch trials; Edward R. Murrow's TV exposé (1954).
Lavender Scare: gay federal employees fired as "security risks." (EO 10450, 1953); thousands purged

⚠ Some Soviet spying was real (Rosenbergs, Fuchs), but McCarthy's accusations were mostly baseless.

✓ CCOT: compare to First Red Scare (1919–20, Period 7) and Alien & Sedition Acts (1798, Period 3).

8.4–8.5 Postwar Economy & Culture

Affluent Society

Boom: GDP & wages ↑; consumer goods (cars, TVs, appliances); U.S. = world's richest economy.
GI Bill (1944): college, home loans for veterans → middle class grows (mostly white vets benefit).
Baby boom (1946–64): ~76M births (peak 1957) → schools, suburbs, consumer demand, youth market.
Suburbs: Levittown (mass-produced homes, whites only); **redlining** & covenants exclude Black families.
Interstate Highway Act (1956): 41,000 miles → car culture, suburbs, malls, motels; justified by defense.
Sun Belt: people & defense jobs shift to South & West (AC, military bases, aerospace); CA, TX, FL, AZ boom.
Military-industrial economy: Cold War defense spending (~10% of GDP, 1950s) drives computers, aerospace & jobs.

Culture

Conformity: TV sitcoms show ideal white suburban family; religion ↑; corporate "organization man."
Women: pushed back to domestic roles after WWII, yet more women working by late 1950s (~⅓ of workers, 1960).

Critics	Message
Beat Generation	Reject conformity
Rock 'n' roll	Youth rebellion, race mix
The Affluent Society	Private wealth, public need
The Other America	Hidden poverty (1962)

Urban decline: white flight → inner cities lose tax base; urban renewal displaces poor & minority residents.
Labor: unions strong (AFL-CIO merge 1955); Taft-Hartley (1947) limits strikes, allows state right-to-work laws.

⚠ Postwar prosperity was uneven: redlining and poverty left out many Black, Latino & rural Americans.

✓ Link suburbs + highways + GI Bill → white middle class growth vs urban inequality (DBQ complexity).

8.6 & 8.10 African American Civil Rights

Early Steps (1940s–50s)

Truman: desegregates military (1948); civil rights committee.
Jackie Robinson (1947) integrates MLB.
Brown v. Board (1954): overturns *Plessy*; school segregation unconstitutional → "massive resistance" in South.
Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56): Rosa Parks; MLK rises; Court bans bus segregation (Browder v. Gayle, 1956).
Little Rock Nine (1957): Gov. Faubus blocks school; Eisenhower sends 101st Airborne to enforce integration.

1960s Movement

Event/Law	Year	Key fact
Greensboro sit-ins	1960	SNCC forms
Freedom Rides	1961	Test bus integration
Birmingham	1963	MLK jailed; TV images
March on Wash.	1963	"I Have a Dream"
Civil Rights Act	1964	Bans segregation
Selma	1965	Voting rights march
Voting Rights Act	1965	Ends literacy tests

Nonviolence (MLK, SCLC, SNCC) uses moral pressure + media coverage (Birmingham, Selma on TV).
24th Amend. (1964): bans poll taxes in federal elections.

Divisions

Malcolm X & **Black Power** (Stokely Carmichael, Black Panthers): self-defense, pride, separatism.
Urban riots (Watts 1965, Detroit 1967); **Kerner Commission**: "two societies, separate and unequal." MLK killed (1968).
Emmett Till (1955): murder of Black teen in MS → open-casket funeral, Jet photos → national outrage.

⚠ The movement wasn't unified: nonviolent integration vs Black Power. Use both for complexity.

✓ Causation: grassroots protest + media + federal action → Civil Rights & Voting Rights Acts (1964, 1965).

8.8 The Vietnam War

Escalation

Background: French colony → Ho Chi Minh's communist Viet Minh; French lose at Dien Bien Phu (1954).
Geneva Accords (1954): Vietnam split at 17th parallel; U.S. backs South (Diem) under **domino theory**.
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964): Congress gives LBJ broad power → ~500,000 troops by 1968 (Senate 88–2).
Tactics: bombing (Rolling Thunder), napalm, Agent Orange, search-and-destroy; Viet Cong guerrilla war.
Tet Offensive (1968): military loss for N. Vietnam, but shocks U.S. public → "credibility gap"; LBJ won't run.

Opposition

Antiwar movement: teach-ins, draft card burning, marches; SDS; MLK speaks out (1967); Ali refuses draft.
1968: MLK & RFK killed; chaos at Democratic convention (Chicago); Nixon wins ("silent majority").
Kent State (1970): Guard kills 4 students protesting Cambodia invasion; Jackson State (2 killed).
Pentagon Papers (1971): gov't lied about war → trust ↓.

Ending

Step	Year
Vietnamization begins	1969
Paris Peace Accords	1973
War Powers Act	1973
Saigon falls	1975

Costs: ~58,000 U.S. & millions of Vietnamese dead; "Vietnam syndrome" → caution about future wars.

⚠ Tet was a military failure for North Vietnam but a political turning point in the U.S (Cronkite: "stalemate").

✓ Use War Powers Act as evidence of Congress reclaiming power after Vietnam (60-day limit w/o approval).

8.9 The Great Society & Liberalism

Kennedy's New Frontier

JFK (1961–63): space program, Peace Corps, civil rights bill proposed; much stalled in Congress. Assassinated 1963.

LBJ's Great Society

Goal: end poverty & racial injustice through federal action (expands New Deal liberalism; 1964 landslide).

Program	Year	Purpose
War on Poverty	1964	Job Corps, Head Start
Civil Rights Act	1964	End segregation
Medicare/Medicaid	1965	Health for old/poor
Elem. & Sec. Ed. Act	1965	School funding
Immigration Act	1965	Ends national quotas
HUD, NEA/NEH	1965	Housing, arts

Immigration Act of 1965: ends 1920s quotas → more immigrants from Asia & Latin America.
Results: poverty rate falls (~19% in 1964 → ~11% in 1973); but Vietnam costs drain funding (guns vs butter).

Warren Court (1953–69)

Brown (1954): school desegregation. **Gideon** (1963): right to free lawyer. **Miranda** (1966): rights read at arrest.
Engel v. Vitale (1962): no school prayer. **Griswold** (1965): right to privacy. **Baker v. Carr** (1962) + Reynolds (1964): "one person, one vote." Mapp (1961): no illegal evidence.

Backlash

Conservatives (Goldwater 1964): big gov't, taxes, crime, court rulings → seeds of New Right; Reagan's rise.
Critics on left: programs too small (War on Poverty underfunded); on right: too costly, created dependency.

⚠ Great Society = high point of liberalism (1964–66); Vietnam costs, riots & conservative backlash limited it.

✓ CCOT: New Deal (P7) → Great Society (P8) → Reagan's rollback (P9) (changing role of federal gov't).

8.11–8.12 Rights Expand & Youth Culture

Other Movements

Group	Leaders/orgs	Goals
Women	Friedan, NOW	Equal pay, ERA
Latino	Chávez, UFW	Farmworker rights
Native Amer.	AIM	Sovereignty, land
Gay rights	Stonewall 1969	End discrimination
Asian Amer.	Students	Ethnic studies

Second-wave feminism: *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) → NOW (1966); Title IX (1972); **Roe v. Wade** (1973).
ERA passes Congress (1972) but falls 3 states short of ratification; **Phyllis Schlafly** leads STOP ERA opposition.
Chicano movement: Chávez & Huerta's Delano grape strike (1965) & boycott; school walkouts; La Raza Unida.
Red Power: Alcatraz seized (1969); **AIM** at Wounded Knee (1973) → Indian Self-Determination Act (1975).

Youth & Counterculture

New Left: SDS's **Port Huron Statement** (1962): participatory democracy; Berkeley Free Speech Movement (1964).
Counterculture: hippies, rock music, drugs, communes; Woodstock (1969); sexual revolution (the pill).
26th Amend. (1971): voting age lowered to 18.
Backlash: "silent majority" (Nixon's 1969 speech) & religious conservatives reject counterculture → New Right.
Mexican Americans: Bracero Program (1942–64) brings guest workers; Operation Wetback (1954) deports many.
Disability rights: Rehabilitation Act (1973) bans discrimination in federal programs → paves way for ADA (1990).

⚠ These movements borrowed tactics from Black civil rights (boycotts, sit-ins, marches, lawsuits).

✓ Compare two movements' goals & results for a comparison essay (e.g., NOW vs UFW gains).

8.13–8.15 Environment, 1970s & Strategy

Environmental Movement

Silent Spring (Rachel Carson, 1962): pesticides (DDT) harm nature → movement grows → DDT banned (1972).
Earth Day (1970); **EPA** (1970, Nixon); Clean Air (1970), Clean Water (1972), Endangered Species (1973) Acts.
Energy: Three Mile Island (1979) nuclear accident → anti-nuclear protests; nuclear power growth stalls.

Society in Transition

Watergate (1972–74): break-in, cover-up → Nixon resigns → distrust; FOIA expanded, campaign finance law.
Oil embargo (OPEC, 1973) & 1979 crisis → gas lines; **stagflation** (inflation + unemployment).
Deindustrialization: factories close in Rust Belt (steel, autos) amid foreign competition; growth shifts to Sun Belt.
Carter: "malaise" speech (1979); **Iran hostage crisis** (1979–81), failed rescue → loses to Reagan (1980).
New Right: evangelicals (Moral Majority), tax revolt (CA Prop 13), anti-ERA → conservative rise; Reagan wins 1980.

Key Dates

Year	Event
1947	Truman Doctrine
1954	Brown v. Board
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis
1964–65	CRA, VRA, Great Society
1968	Tet; MLK & RFK killed
1974	Nixon resigns

Essay moves: contextualize w/ WWII; complexity via liberal gains (Great Society) vs conservative backlash.
Nixon: "New Federalism"; Southern strategy; also creates EPA, OSHA; affirmative action (Philadelphia Plan).

⚠ Period 8 ends 1980: Reagan's presidency is Period 9.

✓ DBQ: pair gov't sources (LBJ, Nixon) w/ protest sources (SNCC, SDS, NOW) for POV & complexity.