The Simple AP® US History Unit 9 Cheat Sheet

9.2 Rise of the New Right

Roots

Backlash against 1960s big government, taxes and social change (busing, Roe, crime).
Coalition: business conservatives, evangelical Christians, anti-communists, Sun Belt suburbs.
Moral Majority (Jerry Falwell, 1979): religious conservatives organize vs. abortion.
Tax revolt: California's Prop 13 (1978) caps property taxes → national anti-tax model.
Phyllis Schlafly leads the fight against the ERA.

1980 Election

Reagan beats Carter amid high inflation and the Iran hostage crisis ("Are you better off?").
Reagan Democrats: working-class voters switch sides to back Reagan on taxes and defense.

1960s liberals	1980s conservatives
More programs	Cut spending
More rules	Fewer rules
Détente	Confront USSR

The South shifts to the Republican Party.
Think tanks (Heritage Foundation) and talk radio (Limbaugh) spread conservative ideas.
Goldwater (1964) lost, but built the movement.
Nixon's "silent majority" set the stage.
Issues: crime, busing, school prayer, abortion.
Southern Democrats switch to the Republican Party (Southern strategy pays off).

⚠ The New Right grew from 1960s–70s backlash.
✓ Inflation + social change + religion → Reagan.

9.2 Reagan & Conservatism in Office

Reaganomics

Supply-side economics: cut taxes so businesses invest and the economy grows.
Deregulation: fewer rules for airlines, banks, industry → Savings and Loan crisis.
Military spending rises; deficits and debt grow.
Air traffic controllers (PATCO) fired in illegal 1981 strike → unions weaken across the economy.
Results: inflation falls; growth returns after the 1982 recession; income inequality rises sharply.
War on Drugs: tougher sentences → more people in prison (esp. Black and Latino men).

Limits

Social Security and Medicare stay in place.
Iran-Contra (1986): secret arms deals scandal.
Sandra Day **O'Connor**: first woman on the Supreme Court (Reagan appointee, 1981).

After Reagan

President	Key point
Bush (1989)	Disabilities Act
Clinton (1993)	NAFTA, welfare reform

Clinton: centrist "New Democrat"; budget surpluses in the late 1990s (1998–2001).
1994: Republicans win Congress.
"Government is the problem": Reagan's famous line from his 1981 inaugural address.
Welfare reform (1996) adds work requirements.

⚠ Reagan didn't end Social Security or Medicare.
✓ New Deal → Reagan → Clinton's middle path.

9.3 End of the Cold War

Reagan's Approach

Tough talk: called the USSR an "evil empire"; big defense budgets; SDI ("Star Wars").
Aid to anti-communist rebels around the world.
Later: worked with Gorbachev; signed the INF Treaty (1987) to cut nuclear missiles.
"Tear down this wall!" (1987 Berlin speech).

Why the USSR Fell

Gorbachev's reforms: glasnost (openness), perestroika (economic change).
Weak economy, costly Afghan war, arms race, nationalist unrest in Soviet republics.
Eastern Europe overthrows communist governments (1989) (Poland first).

Event	Year
Berlin Wall falls	1989
Germany reunites	1990
USSR ends	1991

After

Gulf War (1991): U.S.-led coalition frees Kuwait.
1990s: U.S. is the only superpower.
U.S. troops sent to Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo.
NATO adds former Soviet-bloc countries.
China stays communist (Tiananmen Square, 1989).
Afghanistan: Soviet war there drained the USSR.

⚠ Many factors ended the Cold War, not just Reagan (Gorbachev, Soviet economy).
✓ Rank the causes and defend your choice.

9.4 A Changing Economy

Technology

Computers and the internet transform work and life (PCs, then the web in the 1990s).
Tech companies (Apple, Microsoft, Google) drive growth; dot-com bubble bursts (2000).
Service jobs replace factory jobs.

Globalization

NAFTA (1994): free trade with Canada and Mexico.
Factories move overseas (outsourcing) → job losses in the Rust Belt (e.g., Detroit, Flint).
Fewer union members (~20% → ~10%).
Cheaper goods for shoppers from global trade.

Inequality & Crisis

Trend	Effect
Wages flat	Middle class squeezed
Top incomes up	Wealth gap grows
More debt	Credit, mortgages

Great Recession (2008): housing crash → bank bailouts (TARP), unemployment near 10%.
Affordable Care Act (2010): more people get health insurance via exchanges and Medicaid.
New rules for banks after 2008 (Dodd-Frank).
Rust Belt cities shrink; Sun Belt cities grow.
Women join the workforce in larger numbers.
Pensions shrink; more temp and service work.

⚠ Globalization had winners and losers.
✓ Compare with the Gilded Age (Period 6).

9.5 Migration & Immigration

New Immigrants

After 1965: most immigrants come from Latin America and Asia instead of Europe.
Why: jobs, family reunification, escaping war and poverty (Central America, Vietnam).
Refugees from Southeast Asia (Vietnam), Cuba (1980 Mariel boatlift), Central America.

Policy

Law	Year
IRCA (amnesty)	1986
More legal visas	1990
Tougher enforcement	1996
DACA	2012

Debates: border security, jobs, culture.
Reform bills (2007, 2013) die in Congress; ~11M undocumented immigrants stay in limbo.
Immigrants work in farming, building, health care and tech; many start their own businesses.

Population Change

Sun Belt grows in people and political power.
Latinos become the largest minority group.
Baby boomers retire → strain on Social Security.
Some Black Americans move back to the South.
Diversity grows in schools and cities.
Many languages spoken in U.S. communities.

⚠ Today's debates echo earlier nativism.
✓ Compare 1880–1920 immigration with today's.

9.6 Challenges of the 21st Century

9/11 & War on Terror

Sept. 11, 2001: terrorist attacks kill about 3,000.
Afghanistan War (2001) and **Iraq War** (2003).
PATRIOT Act (2001): more government surveillance of phones, email and money.
Debate: security vs civil liberties.
Homeland Security department created.

At Home

Issue	Example
Environment	Climate change
Energy	Oil, renewables
Disasters	Hurricane Katrina
Rights	Same-sex marriage

Obama (2008): first African American president.
2000 election decided by the Supreme Court.
Polarization: political divides grow.
Social media changes politics and daily life.
AIDS crisis (1980s) sparks activism.
Bin Laden killed in U.S. raid, Pakistan (2011).
Iraq: no weapons of mass destruction found.
Afghanistan: U.S. leaves in 2021.
Health care law (2010) debated heavily.
Guantánamo detention sparks debate.

⚠ Period 9 is a small part of the exam.
✓ Compare the PATRIOT Act with earlier wartime limits (Sedition Act, internment).

Period 9 Themes & Connections

Big Themes

Government: shrink it (Reagan) vs keep popular programs (Social Security, Medicare).
World role: Cold War win → sole superpower → terrorism → wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.
Economy: tech, trade, inequality, 2008 crash.
Identity: immigration and diversity.

Compare Across Time

Then	Now
Gilded Age	Tech giants
1929 crash	2008 crash
New Deal	Reagan rollback
1880s immigrants	Post-1965 immigrants
Red Scares	War on Terror limits

Two Views

Conservatives: lower taxes, less regulation.
Liberals: social programs, more regulation.
Both parties backed free trade in the 1990s.
Rights expand: Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), same-sex marriage (2015).
Women gain more seats in Congress and jobs.
Media: cable news and internet deepen divides.
Environment: climate change debated.
Civil rights debates continue (affirmative action).

⚠ Explain each side fairly, without bias.
✓ Use Period 9 as a later example in essays.

9.7 Key Dates & Exam Strategy

Key Dates

Year	Event
1980	Reagan elected
1989	Berlin Wall falls
1991	USSR ends
1994	NAFTA
2001	9/11 attacks
2008	Financial crisis
2010	Affordable Care Act

Exam Tips

Weight: only 4–6% of the exam.
Context: 1970s troubles explain Reagan's rise.
Complexity: what changed and what stayed.
Sourcing: recent sources are often political; note purpose, audience and point of view.
Links: Period 8 backlash and stagflation → Reagan; 1965 Immigration Act → diversity.
Short answer: one cause and one effect of Reaganomics (e.g., deficits grow).
Compare: Reagan vs FDR on government's role.
Use as evidence: Period 9 is a good "later" example in CCOT and comparison essays.
Cartoons: expect ones on the Cold War's end, Reaganomics, 9/11 and 1990s globalization.
Turning points: 1980, 1991, 2001, 2008.

⚠ Avoid personal opinions about current politics.
✓ Check the prompt's dates first.