The Ultimate AP® US History Unit 9 Cheat Sheet

9.2 Rise of the New Right

Roots of Conservatism

Backlash vs 1960s: big gov't, high taxes, crime, court rulings (busing, school prayer, *Roe*), counterculture.

Coalition: fiscal conservatives + evangelical Christians + anti-communists + Sun Belt suburbs + white Southern Democrats switching parties (Southern strategy).

Religious Right: Jerry Falwell's **Moral Majority** (1979): family values, oppose abortion & ERA → core of the GOP base.

Tax revolt: California **Prop 13** (1978, ~65% yes) caps property taxes → model for anti-tax politics nationwide.

Think tanks (Heritage Foundation) & talk radio (Rush Limbaugh, late 1980s) spread conservative ideas.

1980 Election

Reagan beats Carter: stagflation, Iran hostages, "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

Reagan Democrats: blue-collar workers cross party lines.

Liberal (1960s)	Conservative (1980s)
Gov't solves problems	"Gov't is the problem"
Social programs ↑	Cut domestic spending
Regulation ↑	Deregulation
Détente	Confront USSR

Long-term shift: white South becomes solidly Republican by the 1990s; politics grows more partisan.

Goldwater (1964) loss → grassroots movement builds; Nixon's "silent majority" & Southern strategy.

Phyllis Schlafly: STOP ERA campaign mobilizes conservative women → ERA dies unratified (1982 deadline).

⚠ The New Right grew from 1960s–70s backlash (Goldwater, Nixon, Period 8), not suddenly in 1980.

✓ Causation: stagflation + social change + religious revival → Reagan's 1980 coalition (incl. Reagan Democrats).

9.2 Reagan & Conservatism in Office

Reaganomics

Supply-side economics: cut taxes (esp. top rates) → investment → growth "trickles down."

Economic Recovery Tax Act (1981): ~25% income tax cut.

Deregulation: airlines, banking (→ Savings & Loan crisis), environment rollbacks (Interior Sec. James Watt).

Military buildup (600-ship Navy goal) + tax cuts → **federal deficits** & national debt triple (~$1T → ~$2.9T, 1981–89).

Labor: fires ~11,000 striking air traffic controllers (**PATCO**, 1981) → unions weaken; strikes become rare.

Results: inflation falls (~13% → ~4%, Volcker's Fed), growth after 1982 recession, 1984 landslide; inequality ↑.

Limits

Social Security & Medicare stay popular (1983 bipartisan SS fix); New Deal & Great Society core survives.

Iran-Contra (1986): secret arms sales to Iran fund Nicaraguan Contras → scandal (Oliver North).

Courts: conservative judges appointed; Sandra Day O'Connor first woman on Supreme Court (1981).

After Reagan

President	Key point
G.H.W. Bush	Raises taxes; ADA 1990
Clinton	"New Democrat"; NAFTA
Clinton	Welfare reform 1996
Clinton	Budget surpluses late 1990s

Contract with America (1994, Gingrich): GOP takes House for 1st time since 1954 → partisanship ↑, shutdowns.

War on Drugs: tougher sentencing (1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act) → incarceration ↑ (esp. Black & Latino men).

⚠ Reagan cut domestic spending but did NOT dismantle Social Security or Medicare (both too popular).

✓ CCOT: New Deal liberalism → Reagan → Clinton's centrist "Third Way." (welfare reform, balanced budget)

9.3 End of the Cold War

Reagan's Approach

Early hard line: USSR = "evil empire" (1983); huge defense budgets; **SDI** ("Star Wars" missile shield).

Reagan Doctrine: aid anti-communist rebels (Afghanistan mujahideen, Nicaraguan Contras, Angola's UNITA).

Later diplomacy: summits w/ **Gorbachev** (Reykjavík 1986); **INF Treaty** (1987) removes a class of nuclear missiles.

"Tear down this wall!" (Reagan in West Berlin, 1987).

Why the USSR Fell

Gorbachev's reforms: **glasnost** (openness), **perestroika** (restructuring) → unleash criticism, nationalism.

Weak Soviet economy, costly Afghan war, arms race strain, nationalism in republics; oil prices fall (1980s).

Event	Year
Berlin Wall falls	1989
Eastern Europe revolutions	1989
Germany reunified	1990
USSR dissolves	1991

New World Order

Persian Gulf War (1991, Desert Storm): G.H.W. Bush leads UN coalition to expel Saddam Hussein's Iraq from Kuwait.

1990s: U.S. as sole superpower; interventions in Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo; NATO expands east (1999+).

Debate: who ended the Cold War? Reagan's pressure vs Gorbachev's choices vs internal Soviet collapse.

Tiananmen Square (1989): China crushes protests; communist party rule survives while economy opens.

⚠ Don't credit Reagan alone. Historians weigh Soviet economic failure & Gorbachev heavily.

✓ Argument essay: rank causes of the Cold War's end and defend your ranking (e.g., Soviet economy first).

9.4 A Changing Economy

Technology

Digital revolution: personal computers (Apple, IBM, Microsoft), internet goes public (1990s), cell phones.

Silicon Valley (CA) & tech firms drive growth; **dot-com bubble** bursts (2000–02; NASDAQ falls ~75%).

Information economy: service & knowledge jobs replace manufacturing (finance, health, software).

Globalization

NAFTA (1994, Clinton): free trade w/ Canada & Mexico. **WTO** (1995): global trade rules; China joins in 2001.

Outsourcing: factories move overseas → Rust Belt job losses; cheaper goods for consumers.

Union membership falls (~20% in 1983 → ~10% today).

Inequality & Crisis

Trend	Effect
Wages stagnate	Middle class squeezed
Top incomes ↑	Wealth gap widens
Two-earner families	More women working
Household debt ↑	Credit, mortgages

Great Recession (2007–09), worst since the 1930s: housing bubble + risky subprime mortgages → bank failures (Lehman) → bailouts (TARP), stimulus; unemployment ~10%.

Dodd-Frank (2010): new financial regulations.

Health care: Affordable Care Act (2010, "Obamacare") expands insurance coverage; heavily debated, upheld 2012.

Sun Belt & suburbs grow; Rust Belt cities (Detroit) shrink.

Gig & service work: retail, health care, temp jobs grow; fewer pensions, more 401(k)s; app-based gig work (2010s).

⚠ Globalization brought both cheaper goods and lost factory jobs. Show winners and losers.

✓ Compare deindustrialization here w/ Gilded Age industrialization (Period 6) for CCOT essays.

9.5 Migration & Immigration

New Immigration

1965 Immigration Act (P8) → most immigrants now from **Latin America & Asia**, not Europe as before.

Push/pull: economic opportunity, family reunification, war & persecution (Vietnam, Central America).

Refugees: Southeast Asians after Vietnam; Cubans (Mariel 1980); others from conflicts worldwide.

Policy & Debate

Law/Policy	Year	What it did
IRCA	1986	Amnesty + employer fines
Immigration Act	1990	More legal visas
IIRIRA	1996	Tougher enforcement
DACA	2012	Deferred action, youth

Debates: border security, undocumented workers, economic effects, cultural change; reform bills repeatedly stall.

Plyler v. Doe (1982): states can't deny free public school to undocumented children (equal protection).

Contributions: labor in farming, construction, tech (H-1B visas); entrepreneurship, small businesses.

Demographic Change

Sun Belt growth: population & political power shift South & West (AZ, TX, FL gain House seats after each census).

Diversity ↑: Latinos become largest minority (2000s); multilingual communities (~19% of U.S. by 2020).

Aging population: baby boomers retire (from 2008) → long-term pressure on Social Security & Medicare.

Internal migration: Black Americans return South ("reverse Great Migration") (Atlanta, Houston, Dallas).

⚠ Immigration debates echo earlier nativism (Know-Nothings, Chinese Exclusion, 1920s quotas). Use for CCOT.

✓ CCOT: compare 1880–1920 European wave w/ post-1965 Latin American & Asian wave (push/pull, reactions).

9.6 Challenges of the 21st Century

9/11 & War on Terror

Sept. 11, 2001: al-Qaeda attacks kill ~3,000 (WTC, Pentagon, Flight 93) → shift in foreign & domestic policy.

Afghanistan (2001): w/ NATO allies, topple Taliban, hunt al-Qaeda; longest U.S. war (to 2021; Taliban returns).

Iraq War (2003): Bush cites WMDs (none found); long occupation; debate over preemption (Bush Doctrine).

Homeland security: Dept. of Homeland Security; **USA PATRIOT Act** (2001) expands surveillance.

Civil liberties debate: surveillance, Guantánamo detention, interrogation methods (Snowden leaks, 2013).

Domestic Issues

Issue	Example
Environment	Climate change debate
Energy	Oil, renewables, fracking
Disasters	Hurricane Katrina 2005
Rights	Same-sex marriage 2015

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015, 5–4): same-sex marriage legal nationwide under the 14th Amendment.

Obama (2008): first African American president; ACA, 2009 stimulus, auto bailout; reelected 2012.

Polarization: cable news, internet, partisan divides deepen.

Technology: social media (Facebook 2004, Twitter 2006, iPhone 2007) transforms politics, privacy & daily life.

AIDS crisis (1980s): stigma, slow federal response → activism (ACT UP, 1987); Ryan White Act (1990).

Bin Laden killed (2011); ISIS rises in Iraq & Syria.

2000 election: *Bush v. Gore* (5–4) halts disputed Florida recount → Bush wins, loses popular vote.

⚠ Period 9 is only 4–6% of the exam. Know big trends (conservatism, globalization), not every recent event.

✓ CCOT: compare PATRIOT Act w/ wartime limits on liberties (Alien & Sedition, WWI, Red Scare).

Period 9 Themes & Connections

Big Themes

Role of gov't: conservative push to shrink gov't vs continued demand for programs (Medicare Part D, ADA, ACA).

America in the world: Cold War victory → sole superpower → terrorism & long wars in Afghanistan & Iraq.

Economy: tech boom, globalization, inequality, 2008 financial crisis; shift from factories to services.

Identity: immigration, diversity, debates over culture & values ("culture wars": abortion, guns, religion).

Long-Run Comparisons

Then	Now (P9)
Gilded Age trusts	Tech giants, inequality
1920s boom & crash	2000s boom & 2008 crash
New Deal growth	Reagan rollback
1880s immigration	Post-1965 immigration
Red Scares	War on Terror limits

Conservative vs Liberal

Conservatives: lower taxes, less regulation, strong defense, traditional values, originalist judges (Reagan model).

Liberals: social programs, regulation, civil rights expansion, gun control, environmental protection (FDR/LBJ model).

Both parties backed free trade & tech growth in the 1990s.

Civil rights continue: ADA (1990); affirmative action debates (ended in college admissions, 2023); LGBTQ rights expand.

Women: more in Congress (Speaker Pelosi, 2007), workforce, colleges (women outnumber men in college).

Environment: climate change becomes major policy debate.

Media: 24-hour cable news (CNN 1980, Fox 1996) & internet, social media → info overload, polarization.

⚠ Present each side's views fairly; essays reward balanced analysis w/ evidence, not personal opinion.

✓ Use Period 9 as a strong "later era" example in CCOT essays (e.g., 2008 crash vs 1929; ADA vs 1964 CRA).

9.7 Key Dates & Exam Strategy

Key Dates

Year	Event
1980	Reagan elected
1986	IRCA; Iran-Contra
1989	Berlin Wall falls
1991	USSR ends; Gulf War
1994	NAFTA; Contract w/ America
2001	9/11; PATRIOT Act
2003	Iraq War
2008	Financial crisis; Obama
2010	Affordable Care Act

Exam Moves

Weight: only 4–6% → few MCQs; mostly a "later" example in essays (DBQ covers only 1754–1980).

Contextualization: 1970s stagflation & backlash explain Reagan's 1980 win; Cold War end explains 1990s.

Complexity: show continuity (Social Security, Medicare survived) + change (deregulation, tax cuts, unions ↓).

Sourcing: recent sources often political; explain purpose & audience (campaign speeches, cartoons, op-eds).

Links: P8 New Right → P9 Reagan; P8 Immigration Act → P9 diversity; containment → Soviet collapse.

Short-answer: be ready to cite 1 cause + 1 effect of Reaganomics or Cold War's end (e.g., deficits ↑).

Recognize political cartoons about Reaganomics, the end of the Cold War & globalization (common MCQ stimuli).

Comparison: Reagan vs FDR on gov't's role; Cold War end (1991) vs WWII end (1945): U.S. role after each.

⚠ Stick to historical trends; avoid personal opinions on current politics in essays; cite evidence instead.

✓ Check the prompt's dates before using Period 9 evidence (Period 9 runs from 1980 to the present day).