**Standard 20: Analyze the domestic and international impact of the Cold War on the United States**

**Marshall Plan**

The European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan for Secretary of State George Marshall, was America’s main program for rebuilding Western Europe and opposing communism after World War II. The plan was put into action in July 1947 and operated for four years. During that time, the United States spent $13 billion on economic and technical assistance for the war-torn democratic European countries that had been nearly destroyed during World War II. The Marshall Plan offered the same aid to the Soviet Union and its allies if they would make political reforms and accept certain outside controls; however, the Soviets rejected this proposal.

**Commitment to Europe**

To halt the spread of communism to Western Europe from the Soviet-controlled nations of Eastern Europe, the United States formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with many of the noncommunist nations in Europe, including former wartime allies Britain and France. In response, the Soviet Union created the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of the communist nations it controlled in Eastern Europe. Convinced the Soviets were attempting to establish a sphere of influence throughout the world, the United States viewed these actions as a direct threat to American security. This determination to stop the spread of communism is known as the policy of **containment** and was the basis for many U.S. foreign policy decisions during the Cold War.

**Truman Doctrine**

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed the **Truman Doctrine**. It stated the United States would supply any nation with economic and military aid to prevent its falling under the Soviet sphere of influence. Truman called upon the United States to “support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.” Although Truman never referred directly to the USSR, anyone who heard the declaration, including the Soviet leaders, knew the Soviets were the “outside pressures” Truman talked about.

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| **STRATEGY BOX—Building Walls**  The Cold War involved the building of physical and figurative walls. The Soviets built physical walls to keep citizens of communist nations in and democratic influences out. The Berlin Wall is a good example of the walls the Soviets built. The United States built figurative “walls” surrounding communist nations to keep their influence from spreading. An example of a figurative wall built by the United States is the 38th parallel, which divides North Korea from South Korea. The conflicts that arose between communist and democratic nations were usually the result of attempts to break through these walls. |

**Korean War**

In 1950, the United States and the democratic government of South Korea went to war against the communist government of North Korea. North Korea was being aided by the new Chinese communist government that had recently won the Chinese Civil War. Combat began when communist troops invaded South Korea. Concerned over the spread of communism beyond the Soviet Union and China, the United States sent its troops to force the communists back to North Korea. The U.S. decision to enter the conflict was part of its larger strategy of geographically containing communism in order to isolate and eventually defeat it. Driving North Korean forces across the border, U.S. troops then followed the enemy into North Korea in an effort to entirely eliminate communism from the Korean peninsula. However, when the Americans reached the border between North Korea and China, the Chinese attacked, forcing the Americans back to South Korea.

**McCarthyism**

Americans had an increased fear of communism after a communist regime took control of China in 1950, and the United States and South Korea went to war against North Korean communists who were being aided by China’s new communist government. This spread of communism in Asia encouraged a desire among some Americans to stop communism from spreading to the United States. A series of “Red Scares,” highlighted by Senator Joseph McCarthy’s statements about alleged communist infiltration of the

U.S. government and U.S. Army, led to civil rights violations of those who were communists, were suspected of being communists, or were suspected of knowing someone who might be a communist.

**Cuba**

In 1956, Fidel Castro led the **Cuban Revolution**. Castro became prime minister of Cuba early in 1957 and, at first, had American support. However, when he allied himself with the Soviet Union, suspended all elections, and named himself president for life, the United States turned against Castro. The existence of a communist nation allied with the Soviet Union 90 miles off the coast of the United States jeopardized the U.S. containment strategy. In 1961, 1,500 Cuban exiles, armed and trained by the CIA, tried to stage an invasion at Cuba’s **Bay of Pigs**. The small force was crushed by Castro after President Kennedy refused to involve the U.S. armed forces. Twelve hundred of the invaders were captured, and the United States was forced to give $53 million worth of food and supplies to Cuba for release of the captives.

The Soviets believed that, because Kennedy refused to involve the American military in Cuban affairs, he would not interfere if the Soviets built military missile launch sites in Cuba, so they installed missiles. The Soviet plan was for Cuba to use these missiles to prevent another U.S.-planned invasion. When an American spy plane took photos of a Soviet nuclear missile site being built in Cuba, Kennedy immediately began planning a response. Enemy missiles positioned so close to America’s coastline posed a serious threat to U.S. national security. Kennedy completely blockaded Cuba and threatened to invade unless the Soviets promised to withdraw from Cuba. Finally, the Soviets agreed to remove their missiles if the United States would remove its nuclear missiles installed near the Soviet Union in Turkey. The two nations removed their missiles in what is now known as the **Cuban missile crisis**.

**Vietnam War**

The Vietnam War was a struggle for control of Vietnam. While the conflict originally began during the French colonial rule in the region, the United States became involved in the 1950s by providing economic and limited military aid. Following French withdrawal in 1954, Vietnam was divided, with communist forces in the North and a pro-Western regime in control of the South. Then, in the early 1960s, U.S. involvement began to increase; it lasted until the early 1970s. The democratic government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States, battled communist North Vietnam and a military organization called the Vietcong. U.S. policymakers believed that if Vietnam came to be ruled by a communist government, communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia and perhaps beyond. The Vietcong continually frustrated U.S. forces with its ability to use the region’s thick jungles to conduct guerrilla warfare. In 1968, the Vietcong and North Vietnamese army started the eight-month-long **Tet Offensive**. It was the Vietcong’s largest and most damaging campaign of the entire war.

Ultimately, the Tet Offensive failed to achieve its goal of driving the Americans out of Vietnam, but it did lead many people in the United States to question why Johnson had told them America was winning the war. This led some Americans who had been quiet up until then to raise their voices in protest against the war. Many college campuses were home to groups formed to protest American involvement in Vietnam. The goals of these groups differed, but most favored ending the draft and removing all American troops from Vietnam.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions about the period from the 1930s to the 1960s, you should use your textbook to review

• Marshall Plan

• Containment

• Truman Doctrine

• Korean War

• McCarthyism

• Cuban Revolution

• Bay of Pigs

• Cuban Missile Crisis

• Vietnam War

• Tet Offensive

**Standard 21: Explain the impact of technological development and economic growth on the United States, 1945–1975**

**Economic Growth**

After World War II, soldiers returned home to America and settled back into the lives they had left behind. One effect of this was a huge growth in population, called the **baby boom**. From the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s, the birthrate quickly increased, reaching its high point in 1957, a year when over 4 million babies were born. The generation referred to as “baby boomers” is the largest generation in American history.

Another effect of the soldiers’ return was a housing shortage. The veterans’ new and growing families needed homes to live in. In response, housing developers such as William Levitt created methods of building houses faster, cheaper, and more efficiently. These methods led to the creation of the first suburbs—communities outside of a city and made up of mostly single-family houses for people whose family members worked in the city. The first master-planned community in America was William Levitt’s **Levittown**, located on New York’s Long Island.

Because the new suburbs were outside the limits of large cities, there was little public transportation available for the suburban residents. They needed cars, and increased car ownership meant more roads were needed, so Congress passed the **Interstate Highway Act**, authorizing the construction of a national network of highways to connect every major city in America. In all, 41,000 miles of new expressways, or freeways, were built. It was a record-size public works project.

**Television Changes**

The first regular television broadcasts began in 1949, providing just two hours a week of news and entertainment to a very small area on the East Coast. By 1956, over 500 stations were broadcasting all over America, bringing news and entertainment into the living rooms of most Americans.

In the 1960 national election campaign, the **Kennedy/Nixon presidential debates** were the first ones ever shown on TV. Seventy million people tuned in. Although Nixon was more knowledgeable about foreign policy and other topics, Kennedy looked and spoke more forcefully because he had been coached by television producers. Kennedy’s performance in the debate helped him win the presidency. The Kennedy/Nixon debates changed the shape of American politics.

TV newscasts also changed the shape of American culture. Americans who might never have attended a civil rights demonstration saw and heard them on their TVs in the 1960s. In 1963, TV reports showed helmeted police officers from Birmingham, Alabama, using high-pressure fire hoses to spray African American children who had been walking in a protest march. The reports also showed the officers setting police dogs to attack them, and then clubbing them. **TV news coverage of the civil rights movement** helped many Americans turn their sympathies toward ending racial segregation and persuaded Kennedy that new laws were the only ways to end the racial violence and to give African Americans the civil rights they were demanding.

**Technological Wonders**

In addition to the television, other postwar advances in technology surged. The expanded use of **air-conditioning** permitted more tolerable working conditions in skyscrapers and other buildings used for conducting business, thereby encouraging urban development and stimulating economic growth in hot and humid climates. Telephone lines covered the country, allowing people to stay in contact regardless of distance. By the 1970s, early versions of today’s **personal computers**, the Internet, and cellular phones gave a few Americans a glimpse of the technologies that someday would connect everyone to each other regardless of where they were, and these technologies would become as common as typewriters and public phone booths were in the 1970s.

**Sputnik I and the Cold War**

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite—Sputnik I—a feat that caused many Americans to believe the United States had “fallen behind” the Soviet Union in terms of understanding science and the uses of technology. The success of the Soviet satellite launch led to increased U.S. government spending on education, especially in mathematics and science, and on national military defense programs. Additionally, Sputnik I increased Cold War tensions by heightening U.S. fears that the

Soviet Union might use rockets to launch nuclear weapons against the United States and its allied nations.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions about the period from 1945 to 1975, you should use your textbook to review

• Baby Boom

• Levittown

• Interstate Highway Act

• Kennedy/Nixon Presidential Debates

• TV News Coverage of Civil Rights Movement

• Air-Conditioning

• Personal Computer

• Sputnik I

**Standard 22: Identify dimensions of the civil rights movement, 1945–1970**

**Racial Integration**

African Americans fought in World War II and also worked in war industries in the United States during the war. After the war, they once again faced the racial discrimination that had been traditional before the war, but many people took bold actions to end discrimination and promote integration. Review the following details of six major events in the recent history of the civil rights movement.

• 1947––**Jackie Robinson** was the first African American to play for a major league baseball team in the United States, the Brooklyn Dodgers. This led to the complete integration of baseball and other professional sports. Robinson was the National League’s most valuable player in 1949 and the first African American in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Until this time, African Americans played professional baseball in the Negro League.

• 1948––President **Harry Truman** issued an executive order to integrate the U.S. armed forces and to end discrimination in the hiring of U.S. government employees. In turn, this led to the civil rights laws enacted in the 1960s.

• 1954––In the ***Brown v. Board of Education*** case, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that state laws establishing “separate but equal” public schools denied African American students the equal education promised in the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court’s decision reversed prior rulings dating back to the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case in 1896. Many people were unhappy with this decision, and some even refused to follow it. The governor of Arkansas ordered the National Guard to keep nine African American students from attending Little Rock’s Central High School; President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock to force the high school to integrate.

• 1963––**Martin Luther King Jr.** was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, while demonstrating against racial segregation. In jail he wrote his “**Letter from Birmingham Jail**” to address fears white religious leaders had that he was moving too fast toward desegregation. In his letter, King explained why victims of segregation, violent attacks, and murder found it difficult to wait for those injustices to end. Later the same year, King delivered his most famous speech, “**I Have a Dream**,” to over 250,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. In this speech, King asked for peace and racial harmony.

• 1964––The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. This law prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and gender. It allowed all citizens the right to enter any park, restroom, library, theater, and public building in the United States. One factor that prompted this law was the long struggle for civil rights undertaken by America’s African American population. Another factor was King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech; its moving words helped create widespread support for this law. Other factors included previous presidential actions that combated civil rights violations, such as Truman’s in 1948 and Eisenhower’s in 1954, and Kennedy’s sending federal troops to Mississippi (1962) and Alabama (1963) to force the integration of public universities there.

• 1965––The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** outlawed the requirement for would-be voters in the United States to take literacy tests to register to vote, because this requirement was judged as unfair to minorities. The act provided money to pay for programs to register voters in areas with large numbers of unregistered minorities, and it gave the Department of Justice the right to oversee the voting laws in certain districts that had used tactics such as literacy tests or poll taxes to limit voting.

Review Suggestions

To prepare for questions about period from 1945 to 1970, you should use your textbook to review

• Jackie Robinson

• Harry Truman

• *Brown v. Board of Education*

• Martin Luther King Jr.

• “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

• “I Have a Dream” speech

• Civil Rights Act of 1964

• Voting Rights Act of 1965

**Standard 23: Describe and assess the impact of political developments between 1945 and 1970**

**Individual Rights**

During most of the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. Supreme Court was headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. The **Warren Court**, as it was known, became famous for issuing landmark decisions, such as declaring that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*, that the Constitution includes the right to privacy, that the right of free speech protects students who wear armbands as an antiwar protest on school grounds, and that all states must obey all decisions of the Supreme Court. In 1963, the Warren Court issued another of its landmark decisions, *Miranda v. Arizona*: Police must inform suspects of their constitutional rights at the time of arrest. The case involved a man named Ernesto Miranda, who was convicted and imprisoned after signing a confession although, at the time of his arrest, the police questioned him without telling him he had the right to speak with an attorney and the right to stay silent. The *Miranda* decision strengthened Americans’ individual rights.

**Murder in Dallas**

The **assassination of President Kennedy** in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963, was a tragic event with a twofold political impact.

1. The assassination showed Americans just how strong their government was because, although the president could be killed, the U.S. government would live on.

2. The assassination gave the new president, Lyndon Johnson, the political capital to force his domestic legislative package through Congress. This included the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which launched Johnson’s “War on Poverty,” and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in American schools and other public places.

**Great Society**

During a 1964 speech, President Johnson summed up his vision for America in the phrase “the **Great Society**.” His programs to make the United States a great society would give all Americans a better standard of living and greater opportunities regardless of their background. The **Medicare** program is an important legacy of the Great Society, as are policies and programs that sought to improve elementary and secondary education, to protect the environment, and to reform immigration policies.

**1968**

The year 1968 was one of social and political turmoil in the United States. Review this list of key events that shocked America and made 1968 a defining moment of the modern era:

• January––Vietcong fighters launched the **Tet Offensive** during the Vietnam War, attacking over 100 South Vietnamese towns, 12 American air bases, and the U.S. embassy in South Vietnam. Many Americans turned against the war and against the Johnson administration, which had claimed the enemy was near defeat.

• April––The **assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.** caused riots in over 100 cities across America, despite pleas for calm from such prominent leaders as Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was then running for president. One week after King’s death, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prevented discrimination in housing.

• June––The **assassination of Robert F. Kennedy**, following soon after King’s assassination, disheartened many people who shared Kennedy’s desires for social reform and opposition to the Vietnam

War. He was running for president and was killed on the same night he won the California and South Dakota presidential primaries.

• August––The **Democratic National Convention** in Chicago is remembered as a scene where police armed with clubs and tear gas violently beat antiwar protesters on live TV. Many Americans started wondering if the American form of government could tolerate dissent.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions about the period from 1945 to 1970, you should use your textbook to review

• Warren Court

• *Miranda v. Arizona*

• Assassination of President Kennedy

• Great Society

• Medicare

• Tet Offensive

• Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

• Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy

• 1968 Democratic National Convention

**Standard 24: Analyze the impact of social change movements and organizations of the 1960s**

**Civil Rights Movement**

Two civil rights groups prominent in the struggle for African American rights in the sixties were the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** and the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)**. Review the breakdown on the next page to see how the SCLC and the SNCC started as similar organizations but grew to differ over time, especially in the SNCC’s changing composition.

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|  | **SCLC** | **SNCC** |
| **Founding** | Founded by Martin Luther King Jr. and other ministers and civil rights leaders | Founded by African American college students with $800 received from the SCLC |
| **Goal** | To carry on nonviolent crusades against the evils of second-class citizenship | To speed up changes mandated by *Brown v. Board of Education* |
| **Original Tactics** | Marches, protests, and demonstrations throughout the South, using churches as bases | **Sit-ins** at segregated lunch counters all across the South; registering African Americans to vote, in hopes they could influence Congress to pass a voting rights act |
| **Later Tactics** | Registering African Americans to vote, in hopes they could influence Congress to pass a voting rights act | **Freedom rides** on interstate buses to determine if southern states would enforce laws against segregation in public transportation |
| **Original Membership** | African American and white adults | African American and white college students |
| **Later Membership** | Same as original membership | African Americans only; no whites |
| **Original Philosophy** | Nonviolence | Nonviolence |
| **Later Philosophy** | Same as original philosophy | Militancy and violence; “black power” and African American pride |

**Anti–Vietnam War Movement**

Americans against the war in Vietnam became more vocal in their opposition. Many antiwar groups started on college campuses to urge the government to end selective service (the draft) and to bring home all American troops from Vietnam. They used many of the same tactics as groups fighting for civil rights, including sit-ins, marches, and demonstrations. Later, some protesters became more radical, burning their draft cards, going to prison rather than going to Vietnam, and even fleeing to Canada.

**Women’s Movement**

The **National Organization for Women** was founded in 1966 to promote equal rights and opportunities for America’s women. NOW had its origins in the civil rights and antiwar movements of the early 1960s. In both of these, women felt sidelined by the men who led organizations like the SNCC and anti–Vietnam War groups. NOW’s goals included equality in employment, political and social equality, and the passage of the equal rights amendment.

**United Farm Workers’ Movement**

Latinos also protested to gain civil rights in the 1960s. Their leader was **César Chávez**, an American of Mexican descent who grew up picking crops in California with his family. As founder of the United Farm Workers’ movement, Chávez believed in nonviolent methods to achieve his goals. In 1965, he started a nationwide boycott of California grapes, forcing grape growers to negotiate a contract with the United Farm Workers in 1970. This contract gave farm workers higher wages and other benefits for which they had been protesting through the sixties.

**Environmental Movement**

Protecting the environment became important to many Americans. *Silent Spring*, a 1962 book about pesticides by **Rachel Carson**, exposed dangers to the environment. This book led to the Water Quality Act of 1965. The first **Earth Day** was celebrated in 1970, when almost every community across America and over 10,000 schools and 2,000 colleges organized events to raise awareness of environmental issues; Earth Day is still celebrated each year. Also in 1970, President Nixon created the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to set limits on pollution, to conduct environmental research, and to assist state and local governments in the cleanup of polluted sites.

**Conservative Movement**

In 1964, the Republicans nominated Senator **Barry Goldwater** for president, which was a sign of the rising power of America’s conservative movement. Goldwater believed the federal government should not try to fix social and economic problems such as poverty, discrimination, or lack of opportunity. His conservative proposals included selling the Tennessee Valley Authority, making Social Security voluntary, and getting more involved in Vietnam. Goldwater lost the election to President Johnson, who said more American involvement in Vietnam would not solve the problems there.

The conservative movement continued with the 1968 candidacy and election of Republican **Richard M. Nixon**. He wanted to replace President Johnson’s Great Society programs with what he called the New Federalism. This conservative initiative would take away some federal government powers, such as social welfare, and give them to state and local governments.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions about the period from 1945 to 1970, you should use your textbook to review

• Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

• Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

• Sit-Ins

• Freedom Rides

• Anti–Vietnam War Movement

• Women’s Movement

• National Organization for Women (NOW)

• United Farm Workers’ Movement

• César Chávez

• Environmental Movement

• *Silent Spring*

• Rachel Carson

• Earth Day

• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

• Conservative Movement

• Barry Goldwater

• Richard M. Nixon

**Standard 25: Describe changes in national politics since 1968**

**Supreme Court Decisions**

The Supreme Court ruled on many cases that would change the perception of civil liberties and civil rights in America. Two controversial cases with the greatest impact were *Roe v. Wade* and *Regents of University of California v. Bakke* (also known as the Bakke decision).

• *Roe v. Wade*––1973––Addressed the right of women to choose whether to have an abortion under certain circumstances. By expanding the constitutional right of privacy to include abortion, the Court extended civil liberties protections.

• *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*––1978––Ruled race can be used when considering applicants to colleges, but racial quotas cannot be used. The Court barred the use of quota systems in college admissions but expanded Americans’ civil rights by giving constitutional protection to affirmative action programs that give equal access to minorities.

**Nixon and Ford Administrations**

**Richard Nixon’s** presidency was one of great successes and criminal scandals. **Nixon’s visit to China** in 1971 was one of the successes. He visited to seek scientific, cultural, and trade agreements and to take advantage of a 10-year standoff between China and the Soviet Union. Nixon hoped to have the Chinese on his side in case he had future negotiations with the Soviets. Later, Nixon was part of the **Watergate scandal**, which centered on his administration’s attempt to cover up a burglary of the offices of the Democratic Party in the Watergate apartment and office complex in Washington, D.C. The crime was committed by Nixon’s reelection campaign team, who sought political information. Nixon won reelection in 1972, but his efforts to cover up the crime soon unraveled and, facing impeachment, he resigned in 1974. The scandal left Americans dismayed by Nixon’s actions and cynical about politics in general. It also led to changes in campaign financing and to laws requiring high-level government officials to disclose their finances. Because Nixon and many of the people involved in Watergate were lawyers, the reputation of the legal profession suffered too.

Nixon was succeeded by his vice president, **Gerald Ford**, whose two-year presidency was damaged by his connection to Nixon. It was further damaged when he pardoned Nixon for any crimes he may have committed. One bright spot is that the Vietnam War ended during the Ford administration because it followed a path established by Nixon, but Ford’s domestic policies failed to stop growing inflation and unemployment, and America experienced its worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

**Carter Administration**

**Jimmy Carter**’s presidency was strongly influenced by international issues. He tried to bring peace to the Middle East and, in the **Camp David Accords**, negotiated a peace agreement between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister at Camp David (a presidential retreat in Maryland) in 1978. This was the first time there had been a signed peace agreement between Middle Eastern nations. Although the agreement left many differences unresolved, it did solve urgent problems facing the two nations. In 1978, the **Iranian Revolution** replaced a shah (king) friendly to America with a Muslim religious leader unfriendly to America. When Carter let the shah enter the United States for medical treatment, angry Iranian revolutionaries invaded the U.S. embassy in Iran and took 52 Americans captive. The **Iranian hostage crisis** lasted 444 days, until the captives were released after the election of Ronald Reagan as president, and it nurtured anti-Americanism among Muslims around the world.

**Reagan Administration**

**Ronald Reagan** was president for much of the 1980s. During that time, many important events helped shape American politics to this day. As a conservative, Reagan wanted to decrease the size and role of the federal government.

• **Reaganomics** was the nickname for Reagan’s economic policy. It included budget cuts, tax cuts, and increased defense spending. By cutting social welfare budgets, his policy hurt lower-income Americans and, overall, Reaganomics led to a severe recession.

• The **Iran-Contra scandal** was Reagan’s biggest failure in international policy. Administration officials sold weapons to Iran––an enemy of the United States––and then violated more laws by using the profits from those arms sales to fund a rebellion in Nicaragua fought by rebels called the Contras (a Spanish nickname for “counter-revolutionaries”). Details of this scandal are still largely unknown to the public.

• The **collapse of the Soviet Union** was Reagan’s biggest success in international policy. The Soviet Union’s last leader set up policies allowing freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and other reforms, putting the U.S.S.R. on a path to democratic government. But these reforms got out of the leader’s control and eventually led to the breakup of the 15 states that were the Soviet Union. Five of those states now comprise Russia, and the other ten are independent countries.

**Clinton Administration**

**Bill Clinton’s** presidency included ratification of the **North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA** brought Mexico into a free-trade (tariff-free) zone already existing between the United States and Canada. Opponents believed NAFTA would send U.S. jobs to Mexico and harm the environment, while supporters believed it would open up the growing Mexican market to U.S. companies; these pros and cons are still argued today.

Clinton also became the second president in U.S. history to suffer **impeachment**. The House of Representatives charged him with perjury and obstruction of justice. The charges were based on accusations of improper use of money from a real estate deal and allegations he had lied under oath about an improper relationship with a White House intern. Clinton denied the charges and the Senate acquitted him, allowing Clinton to remain in office and finish his second term.

**2000 Presidential Election**

The presidential election of 2000 saw Clinton’s vice president, Al Gore, facing the Republican governor of Texas, George W. Bush, as well as consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who ran as a third-party candidate. Polls showed the race would be close, and it turned out to be one of the closest elections in American history. Gore won the national popular vote by over 500,000 of the 105 million votes cast, but when American voters cast ballots for president, the national popular vote has no legal significance. Rather, Americans are voting for members of the **Electoral College** representing each candidate. Each state is assigned “electors” in equal number to its total number of U.S. representatives and senators. (For example, Georgia had thirteen electors in 2000: eleven representatives and two senators.) In the 2000 election, Bush won by receiving 271 votes in the Electoral College to Gore’s 266.

**Bush Administration**

**George W. Bush’s** presidency will always be remembered for al-Qaeda’s attacks on September 11, 2001 (9/11). In response, and with overwhelming support of both Congress and the American people, Bush signed a law the next month to allow the U.S. government to hold foreign citizens suspected of being terrorists for up to seven days without charging them with a crime. This law also increased the ability of American law-enforcement agencies to search private communications and personal records. Then he created the Department of Homeland Security and charged it with protecting the United States from terrorist attacks and with responding to natural disasters.

In October 2001, another of Bush’s responses to the 9/11 terrorist attacks was his authorizing **Operation**

**Enduring Freedom**, the invasion of Afghanistan by the U.S. military and allied forces. That country’s

Taliban government was harboring the al-Qaeda leadership. The allied forces quickly defeated the Taliban government and destroyed the al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan; however, al-Qaeda leader

Osama bin Laden escaped.

The invasion of Afghanistan was part of Bush’s larger **war on terrorism**, for which he built an international coalition to fight the al-Qaeda network and other terrorist groups. In March 2003, American and British troops invaded Iraq in **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. Iraq’s president, Saddam Hussein, went into hiding while U.S. forces searched for the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that Bush feared Hussein had and could supply to terrorists for use against the United States. No WMD were found before Hussein was captured. He was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed in 2006.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions about the period since 1968, you should use your textbook to review

*• Roe v. Wade*

*• Regents of University of California v. Bakke*

• Richard Nixon

• Nixon’s Visit to China

• Watergate Scandal

• Gerald Ford

• Jimmy Carter

• Camp David Accords

• Iranian Revolution

• Iranian Hostage Crisis

• Ronald Reagan

• Reaganomics

• Iran-Contra Scandal

• Collapse of Soviet Union

• Bill Clinton

• North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

• Impeachment of Bill Clinton

• Electoral College

• George W. Bush

• Operation Enduring Freedom

• War on Terrorism

• Operation Iraqi Freedom