

## US History and Gov Thematic Essay Review

1) **Amendment Essay:** Impact of Amendments (government action, events etc.) Need historical background and impact. of 2

15<sup>th</sup> Amendment: 1869

Historical Background—Reconstruction Era, post-civil war

- “Radical” Republican phase of reconstruction—Republican congress sought to secure ex-slaves rights w/variety of institutions: Freedman’s Bureau and using martial law.
- 15<sup>th</sup> amendment was a final guarantee of blacks right to vote (it also forced some northern states to allow African Americans the right to vote).
- Republicans motivated by keeping majorities in congress (i.e. blacks would vote for Republicans who freed them).

Impact:

- In the short term very little. When reconstruction ends in 1876 (Tilden (D) v Hayes (R) disputed election) African Americans are once again denied their rights via Jim Crow Laws (grandfather clause, poll tax, literacy test)
- Right to vote is finally achieved in 1965 (ironically 100 years after civil war ends) in Voting Rights Act of 1965

19<sup>th</sup> Amendment 1920

Historical Background

- Women were 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens from the founding of country
- 1848 Seneca Falls Conference: Cady Stanton publishes declaration of the rights of women based on the Declaration of Independence. Met with resistance and ridicule
- Stanton and Susan B. Anthony both champion women’s rights, including right to vote—Takes 72 years to achieve success
- Women achieve right to vote in some states (Wyoming first in 1869 and 11 others west of Mississippi)
- After WW1, with women taking places in the world of work and a long series of writings, speeches, protests, demonstrations, and action on the part of women’s groups—Amendment finally passes

Impact

- 52% of population gets right to vote
- Women now vote in higher % than men
- More and more congresspersons are women
- Carol Moseley-Braun: 1<sup>st</sup> African American Woman Elected to Senate in 1992-Personifies the spirit of achievement and equality in America

**Court Case Essay:** Historical Background pick 2

Plessy v. Ferguson

Historical Background:

- Long term racism in America (from 1<sup>st</sup> slaves/indentured servants in 1620)
- Jim Crow laws were put in place at the end of reconstruction to keep African Americans from gaining political power or equality

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| <a href="#">Plessy v Ferguson (1896)*</a> | The state of Louisiana enacted a law that required separate railway cars for blacks and whites. In 1892, Homer Adolph Plessy--who was seven-eighths Caucasian--took a seat in a "whites only" car of a Louisiana train. He refused to move to the car reserved for blacks and was arrested | The Supreme Court ruled that the "separate but equal" provision of the Louisiana law was constitutional. The case established this principle of segregation until it was overturned in 1954. | Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause vs. Louisiana's Tenth Amendment Reserved power right to legislate.<br><br>Equality/ Federalism/Jim Crow/ |
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Impact

- Maintained segregation in the south until the modern civil rights movement

Brown v. Board of Ed

Historical Background

- Jim Crow laws that were ok'd supreme court

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| <a href="#">Brown v Board of Education Topeka Kansas (1954)*</a> | Linda Brown denied enrollment in an all white school near her home challenges the separate but equal policy of the Topeka school district. | In one of the most celebrated cases, the court struck down separate but equal and ordered integration in the nation's schools with "all deliberate speed." | Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause vs. School's Tenth Amendment Reserve Power of education<br><br>Civil Rights/rights of ethnic minorities |
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Impact:

- Gave the NAACP legal room to help end segregation. Dr. Martin Luther King and the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Council) use as leverage for further action.
- Nine African-American students, the "Little Rock Nine," were admitted to Little Rock's Central High School for 1957-1958. Violent white reaction against integration forced President Dwight D. Eisenhower to order 1000 army paratroopers to Little Rock to restore order and protect the children
- 1962, James Meredith sought to enroll as the first black student in the history of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). His enrollment triggered resistance. As a result, President John F. Kennedy ordered federal marshals to ensure Meredith's right to enroll and to protect him as he moved to the campus.

**Reform Movements/Minority Groups/Social Change: Hist Background and Impact, pick 2**

## Women

See above (this is called double dipping)

## Civil Rights: 1955-1968

- Slavery: 1620-1865—sets up long term racism and disparities in America (2 separate communities)
- Reconstruction—South, brief gains w/ 13, 14, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment—then after 1876, Jim Crow laws and segregation in place
- Clip in Plessy v. Ferguson here
- NAACP-founded 1909-
- WEB Dubois-One founder of NAACP—fought for immediate gain of equal rights (considered radical in 1909)
- Booker T. Washington-urged a slower integration (founder of Tuskegee institute)
- Jackie Robinson: 1<sup>st</sup> Black Professional baseball player. Becomes a symbol of success for African Americans and an ambassador for civil rights to white America.
- SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference): promote nonviolent resistance sit-ins, boycotts. Most effective and positive of groups. Their influence ends after assassination of Medgar Evers (pres of NAACP) 1963 and King in 1968.
- Rosa Parks and Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955—refusal and arrest, for not sitting at the back of the bus. Worked w/NAACP and became a test case—led to a 381 day boycott of the busses until they were integrated.
- March on Washington 1963: Led by King, over 250,000 showed up to protest inequality
- Civil Rights Act of 1964: Makes illegal segregation of people based on color in any public facility. (challenged in Heart of Atlanta Hotel v. US)
- Voting Rights Act of 1965: Allowed federal oversight of elections.
- Extreme positions in movement: Marcus Garvey and the Back to Africa Movement & The Nation of Islam (Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X)

Long term impact: Gained right to vote, desegregated schools, and eventually the entire south. Still large differences in average financial standing and long standing problems of racism.

**Foreign Policy (also could work for Geographic factors etc.)—usually historic background, policy, and success**

**[Note—This was one from January, not likely to be the essay—may have DBQ on foreign policy]**

## Mexican-American War/Manifest Destiny

Goal: Expand the US's borders to Pacific

### Historic Background

- Manifest Destiny: Idea that US would inevitably (fate, destiny, god's will) spread from Atlantic to Pacific—policy to expand and take over rest of US.
- Texas secedes from Mexico: Mexico revolts from Spain in 1821. By 1835 some 30K whites and 5k black slaves are in Texas. Texas Revolution 1836: Texas becomes an independent nation, The Lone Star Republic In 1845 Texas is “re-annexed” by the US.

- After Polk (54-40 or fight Polk) takes office Mexico breaks off diplomatic relations. Polk wanted a war w/Mexico to secure California. US claimed Rio Grande as border (rather than Nueces River). Border dispute becomes excuse for war.
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo-US takes (pays for) 1/3 of Mexico (now CA, AZ, NM)

#### Success of Policy

- Mexican American War allows US control of all the land to the pacific, success.
- Clearly aggressive policy, US pays Mexico 15 M for a small strip of land in the Gadsden Purchase later
- Leads to the possibility of the Zimmerman note later (when German ambassador tries to convince Mexico to invade US during WW1)

#### Imperialism/Spanish American War

Goal: Expand American Markets overseas and provide for naval bases (i.e. take over foreign countries)

#### Historic Background

- Monroe Doctrine (1823)— US will stay out of European affairs, The Western Hemisphere is off limits to European colonization, US will be protector of Latin and South America
- Causes of War:
  - Humanitarian: General from Spain (nicknamed the Butcher) putting Cubans in concentration camps
  - Economic (\$100M in trade and \$50M in plantations)
  - Yellow Journalism: William Randolph Hearst's NY Journal & Joseph Pulitzer's NY World. Sensational coverage of the abuses by Spain in Cuba.
  - DeLome letter: stolen from Havana post office. Written by Spanish minister in DC. It belittled McKinley as weak and incompetent,
  - Sinking of the Maine 1898: Battleship The Maine blows up in Havana Harbor. Spain is blamed for the explosion, last event before war
- Results:
  - Cuba free: But Platt Amendment to their constitution allowed US to intervene in Cuba to preserve Cuban independence and granted land for US naval base (Guantanamo Bay) and prevented Cuba from signing treaties w/other countries.
  - Puerto Rico and Guam were ceded to US
  - Philippines sold to US for \$20M

Success: Large expansion of US military territory, leads to further expansion under Roosevelt and US entering world politics/conflicts

#### Containment/Cold War

#### Historic Background

- Yalta Conference: End of WW2 (1945). FDR, Stalin and Churchill meet and decided to divide the world into zones of control and set up an idea of democratic elections in all the freed countries.
- Iron Curtain: Winston Churchill's term to describe the fact that the USSR was controlling all of Eastern Europe. Democratic elections did not happen and the entirety of Eastern Europe became USSR satellite states.

- c) 1947: President Harry S. Truman asked for \$400 million in military and economic assistance for Greece and Turkey and established a doctrine. President Truman declared, "It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." The Cold War begins

#### Events During "Cold War"

- a) The war-ravaged countries of Europe suffered severe economic difficulties. In a speech at Harvard University early in June 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall suggested a sweeping program to restore the economies of Europe. The *Marshall Plan* offered American money, supplies, and machinery to any European nation that wished to participate.
- b) The Soviet Union blocked Western rail and road access to Berlin in 1948 (Free part of Berlin was surrounded by Soviet Controlled territory). US and allies flew in supplies to the free city until the Soviets gave up.
- c) NATO: Function of Collective Security (groups get together for common protection) against Warsaw Pact (Soviets and their satellites)

Containment: Official policy to stop the spread of communism at all costs. Later paired with Domino theory. If one nation falls the others around it will fall to.

- a) Korean War: following Truman Doctrine, attempts to stop the N. Korean invasion of S. Korea. US push into N. Korean territory (against Truman's order). China enters the war against US. MacArthur is relieved of duty (Civilian v. Military control of army) and the war ends in a stalemate at the 38<sup>th</sup> =.
- b) The Cuban Missile Crisis: was the closest the world ever came to nuclear war. USSR attempted to put nuclear missiles in Cuba. Kennedy put a naval blockade around Cuba. Threats followed. USSR backed down.
- c) Vietnam: US sent \$ support to French forces in S. Vietnam, and then eventually \$, and advisors and equipment and, when the French withdrew sent troops in 1963. Troops stayed until 1973 in an effort to "contain" communism and stop the dominoes from falling. US pulls out when protests at home become too severe.

#### Results:

- a) S. Korea remains a US ally. Vietnam is lost. Many lives are lost and the USSR eventually collapses economically.

Success?: US maintain domination as super power and "wins" the cold war with USSR. Many historians think that the effort was unnecessary, particularly in Vietnam.

#### **Imperialism: Probably as a DBQ essay**

US is a nation of immigrants. Great achievements of transcontinental railroad and Industrialization not possible without immigrant labor

#### Items to be familiar with.

- a) Old Immigrants: Pre civil war. Arrived before the close of the Frontier Primarily Protestant and white Adjusted easily to "American" way of life.
- b) Irish Immigrants: Largest immigrant group to come to US. Came in 1840 and faced a great deal of nativist (anti-immigrant) opposition. They were Catholic and were accused of working too cheaply. Opposed by the Know Nothing (or American) Party.
- c) From 1901-1910 8.8 M entered US Mostly from S and E Europe (Italy, Greece, Austria-Hungary, Poland, Russia, etc.) Religiously and ethnically very different from old immigrants.
- d) Working Man's Party (1877): Opposed Chinese Immigrants. Founded by Dennis Kearney an Irish Immigrant. "Chinese Must Go!" Gov passes Chinese exclusion act in 1882 prohibiting more Chinese from emigrating to US.

- e) Yellow Peril: Fear of Japanese after war with Russia. 1907 Gentleman's agreement between Roosevelt and Japan kept Japan from giving passports to US.
- f) Quota Acts of 1921-24: Limits those not from Western Hemisphere to 150K a year. Limit # of immigrants based on how many of their Origin country were here in 1920 census (if 40% were from England then 40% of all allowed in would be from England).

Impact:

- a. Chinese are essential to build transcontinental railroad
- b. Irish labor and later Italian and Eastern European labor fuel the industrial revolution
- c. Cultural Pluralism: US is better for other groups coming in. Foods, customs, learning (great inventions, businesses: Ex: Einstein,) 19% of all patents are granted to immigrants, twice the % of actual immigrants in the US. US is heterogeneous experiment in different cultures all living together.
- d. Tossed salad metaphor: Salads are good b/c of individual flavors of the different items. Same for US and different cultures.
- e. Current impact: Huge groups of Latino (Mexican) immigrants are fueling US economy.

Other things that you should be familiar with: Everything ☺