

AP United States History Cheat Sheet

[Practice AP United States History](#) 

Unit 1 (1491-1607)

- **Key Themes:** Exploration, Native American societies, Colonization
- Important Concepts:
- **Age of Exploration:** Motivated by God, glory, and gold.
- Native American Societies: Diverse and shaped by geography.
- **Colonization Begins:** Columbus, Conquistadors, and the Columbian Exchange.
- **European Interactions:** Exchange of crops, diseases, and people.
- Colonial Systems: Encomienda and the Spanish Caste System.
- **Economic Systems:** Joint-stock companies and European migration due to primogeniture laws.

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Unit 2 (1607-1754)

- **Key Themes:** Regional differences, trade, slavery
- Important Concepts:
- **Jamestown:** First permanent British colony.
- Colonial Economies: New England (subsistence farming), Middle (breadbasket), Southern (cash crops).
- **European Competition:** British, French, Dutch, and Spanish colonies.
- Transatlantic Trade: Slaves, raw materials, and finished goods.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Enlightenment, First Great Awakening, Praying Towns.
- **Colonial Governance:** Mayflower Compact, Virginia House of Burgesses, Salutary Neglect.
- Conflicts: Pequot War, Metacom's War, Pueblo Revolt.

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Unit 3 (1754-1800)

- **Key Themes:** Revolution, federalism, early American identity
- Important Concepts:
- **American Revolution:** Ideals of democracy and independence.
- Federalism and Constitution: Separation of powers, Bill of Rights.
- Conflicts with Britain: 7 Years War, Proclamation of 1763, Boston Tea Party.
- **Political and Economic Divisions:** Federalists vs. Anti-federalists, Hamilton's Financial Plan.
- **Social Changes:** Republican Motherhood, early abolitionist movements, loyalists vs. patriots.

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Unit 4 (1800-1848)

- **Key Themes:** Market Revolution, territorial expansion, reform movements
- Important Concepts:
- **Manifest Destiny:** Belief in American exceptionalism and westward expansion.
- **Industrialization:** Steam engine, cotton gin, interchangeable parts.
- **Political Developments:** Louisiana Purchase, Monroe Doctrine, Trail of Tears.
- **Reform Movements:** Abolition, suffrage, Second Great Awakening, Dorothea Dix (prison reform), Horace Mann (education).
- **Economic and Social Change:** Panic of 1819, Lowell Mills, anti-slavery resistance.

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Unit 5 (1844-1877)

- **Key Themes:** Sectionalism, Civil War, Reconstruction
- **Important Concepts:**
- **Sectional Tension:** States' rights vs. Union.
- **Civil War:** Emancipation, Union preserved.
- **Reconstruction:** 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments; resistance through Jim Crow laws.
- **Post-war Economy:** Industrial growth, sharecropping in the South.
- **Migration and Settlement:** Manifest Destiny and westward migration.

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Unit 6 (1865-1898)

- **Key Themes:** Industrialization, immigration, westward expansion
- Important Concepts:
- **Industrial Titans:** Rockefeller, Carnegie, Morgan, and their control of industry.
- **Labor Movements:** Workers' unions vs. large corporations.
- **Immigration:** Southern and Eastern Europeans, ethnic enclaves.
- **Federal Policies:** Homestead Act, Dawes Act, Pendleton Act.
- **Imperialism:** Beginnings of US imperialism, expansion in the Pacific and Latin America.
- **Social Changes:** Social Darwinism, assimilation policies like the Carlisle Indian School.

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Unit 7 (1890-1945)

- **Key Themes:** Progressivism, World Wars, the Great Depression
- Important Concepts:
- **Imperialism:** Spanish-American War, annexation of Hawaii, Panama Canal.
- **Progressive Reforms:** Women's suffrage, muckrakers, conservationism (Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir).
- **Great Depression and New Deal:** Stock market crash, FDR's relief, recovery, reform policies.
- **World Wars:** WWI isolationism, WWII as a turning point in global power, Pearl Harbor, atomic warfare.

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Unit 8 (1945-1980)

- **Key Themes:** Cold War, Civil Rights, counterculture
- Important Concepts:
- **Cold War Tensions:** Containment, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War.
- Civil Rights Movement: Key figures (MLK, Malcolm X), key legislation (Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act).
- **Post-War Prosperity:** Baby boom, suburbanization (Levittowns), GI Bill.
- **Social Changes:** Feminism, birth control, Roe v. Wade, environmental movements.
- **Counterculture:** Anti-war protests, rock music, Woodstock, Watergate scandal.

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Unit 9 (1980–Present)

- **Key Themes:** Cold War, Civil Rights, counterculture
- Important Concepts:
- **Cold War Tensions:** Containment, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War.
- Civil Rights Movement: Key figures (MLK, Malcolm X), key legislation (Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act).
- **Post-War Prosperity:** Baby boom, suburbanization (Levittowns), GI Bill.
- **Social Changes:** Feminism, birth control, Roe v. Wade, environmental movements.
- **Counterculture:** Anti-war protests, rock music, Woodstock, Watergate scandal.

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