Unit #8: Period 8: 1945-1980
Making Modern America (1945 - Present)

DURATION: 4 weeks

READINGS:

OBJECTIVES: By the end of this unit, each student will be able to:
- Understand that after World War II, the United States grappled with prosperity and unfamiliar international responsibilities while struggling to live up to its ideals.

ASSESSMENTS:
1. QUIZ – March 13 & 16 (Chapter 35) (Chapter 35 Key Terms and Questions due)
2. QUIZ – March 19 & 20 (Chapter 36) (Chapter 36 Key Terms and Questions due)
3. QUIZ – March 25 & 26 (Chapter 37) (Chapter 37 Key Terms and Questions due)
4. EXAM – April 08 & 09 (Chapters 35-38) (Chapter 38 Key Terms and Questions due)

Chapter 35 Key Terms: Briefly identify, define, and/or explain. (24 points)
23. Levittown 24. baby boom

Chapter 35 Questions: (15 points)
  “Having failed to budge the Russians in face-to-face negotiations, even when backed by atomic bombs, the State Department next tried to buckle Stalin’s iron fence with economic pressures. . . . More important, it made American officials ponder the awful possibility that Stalin’s ambitions included not only strategic positions in Eastern Europe, but the imposition of Communist regimes upon Asia and the Middle East. Stating the Soviet dictator’s alternatives in this way no doubt badly distorts his true policies. . . . Stalin’s thrusts after 1944 were rooted more in the Soviets’ desire to secure certain specific strategic bases, raw materials, and above all, to break up what Stalin considered to be the growing Western encirclement of Russia. . . . However, American officials saw little reason to worry about such distinctions.”
  “If one must assign responsibility for the Cold War, the most meaningful way to proceed is to ask which side had the greater opportunity to accommodate itself, at least in part, to the other’s position, given the range of alternatives as they appeared at the time. Revisionists have argued that American policy-makers possessed greater freedom of action, but their view ignores the constraints imposed by domestic policies. . . . The Russian dictator was immune from pressures of Congress, public opinion, or the press. . . . This is not to say that Stalin wanted a Cold War. . . . But his absolute powers did give him more chances to surmount the internal restraints on his policy than were available to his democratic counterparts in the West.”
Using the excerpts, answer parts a, b, and c.

a) Briefly explain ONE major difference between LaFeber and Gaddis’s historical interpretation of the Cold War.

b) Briefly explain how ONE development in the 1940s not directly mentioned in the excerpts challenges LaFeber’s argument.

c) Briefly explain how ONE development in the 1940s not directly mentioned in the excerpts challenges Gaddis’s argument.

Chapter 36 Key Terms: Briefly identify, define, and/or explain. (30 points)
14. Sputnik 15. kitchen debate
16. military-industrial complex 17. abstract expressionism

Chapter 36 Questions: (15 points)
Spend 13 minutes answering each of the following prompts (39 min. total). Answer parts a, b, and c.

a) The Cold War in the 1950s fluctuated between periods of direct and indirect military confrontation and periods of mutual coexistence. Briefly explain ONE reason for this change over time.

b) Briefly explain ONE specific example of either direct or indirect military confrontation between the U.S. and Soviet Union or mutual coexistence in the 1950s.

c) Briefly explain ONE specific domestic or international consequence of the example you chose.

Chapter 37 Key Terms: Briefly identify, define, and/or explain. (24 points)
22. Earth Day 23. southern strategy 24. War Powers Act

Chapter 37 Questions: (15 points)
  “Say what we will about the Sixties’ failures, limits, disasters, America’s political and cultural space would probably not have opened up as much as it did without the movement’s divine delirium. . . . This side of an ever-receding millennium, the changes wrought by the Sixties, however beleaguered, averted some of the worst abuses of power, and made life more decent for millions. The movement in its best moments and broadest definition made philosophical breakthroughs which are still working themselves out.”

  “Though much in the counter-culture was attractive and valuable, it was dangerous in three ways. First, self-indulgence frequently led to self-destruction. Second, the counter-culture increased social hostility. The generation gap was one example, but the class gap another. Working-class youngsters resented the counter-culture. The counter-culture flourished in cities and on campuses. Elsewhere, in
Middle America, it was hated and feared. The result was a national division between the counter-culture and those adults who admired or tolerated it, and the silent majority of workers and Middle Americans who didn’t. The tensions between these groups made solving social and political problems all the more difficult and were, indeed, part of the problem. Finally, the counter-culture was hell on standards.”

Spend 13 minutes answering each of the following prompts (39 min. total). Answer parts d, e, and f.

- **d)** Briefly explain ONE major difference between Gitlin and O’Neill’s historical interpretation of the origins of American society in the 1960s.
- **e)** Briefly explain how ONE development from the period 1865 to 1898 not directly mentioned in the excerpts challenges Gitlin’s argument.
- **f)** Briefly explain how ONE development from the period 1865 to 1898 not directly mentioned in the excerpts challenges O’Neill’s argument.

**Chapter 38 Key Terms:** Briefly identify, define, and/or explain. (9 points)

1. stagflation  
2. Watergate  
3. “smoking gun” tape  
4. Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)  
5. Roe v. Wade  
6. New Right  
7. malaise speech  
8. SALT II  
9. Iranian hostage crisis

**Chapter 38 Questions:** (15 points)

Spend 13 minutes answering each of the following prompts (39 min. total). Answer parts g, h, and i.

- **g)** Briefly explain how conservatives in the 1970s viewed the power of the presidency and the federal government.
- **h)** Briefly explain how liberals in the 1970s viewed the power of the presidency and the federal government.
- **i)** Briefly identify ONE event in the 1970s relating to the power of the presidency and the federal government that caused a clash between conservatives and liberals.