



AP[®] United States History 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B

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The 50s following WWII in many ways were similar to the 20s following WWI. Both were decades following significant reform movements and wars. The public was eager for a "return to normalcy" which eventually turned into a conformist attitude characteristic of the time period. Caught up in this (as with the 20s) was the Cold War, encouraging anti-communist sentiment ~~within~~ within America. The Cold War continued for a couple decades in which the country underwent a period of drastic social change during the 60s. The "silent majority" of the time objected to these changes. ~~During these~~ During these periods, ~~the~~ politicians appealed to both the "anti-red public" and the "silent majority" to gain political influence.

WWII was often considered "the good war" as it was a victory for freedom and democracy and a defeat of fascism. As the war came to a close, however, the powerful Soviet Union desired worldwide influence (as Kennan predicted). Mutual suspicions between the US and Soviets resulted in the Cold War. Truman's "containment" Doctrine illustrated the efforts to prevent communism from spreading in places such as Greece and Turkey. The Marshall Plan was also devised to aid ~~the~~ suffering European nations and prevent them from resorting to communism. However, the 50s saw the continued threat of communism (leading to the Korean and Vietnam Wars). People asked ~~that~~ ^{why} they had made sacrifices during the war ~~if~~ that the post-war world was to be dominated by totalitarian governments. The public, instead of investigating the complex reasons for the situation, fell prey to Senator McCarthy's simplistic scapegoat. He earned political power by claiming that the government was riddled with communists. Although a pathological liar, the conformist public of the time willingly believed this explanation. This modern "witch-hunt" condemned people

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such as Alger Hiss and increased the popularity of anti-red politicians. These included figures such as McCarthy and future president Nixon. Increasing fear of communism led to such domestic legislation as the McCarran Internal Securities Act similar to the Espionage and Alien Acts of the 20s. Furthermore, the McCarran-Walter Act established immigrant quotas attempting to limit the arrival of communists. In these ways, anti communism influenced the American political system.

The 60s ushered in a large rebellion of the nation's youth. It was the decade of the individual, characterized by opposition to the Vietnam War, feminism, and black civil rights. Johnson's Great Society also greatly revolutionized the concept of welfare in the country. FDR had arranged a democratic ~~pp~~ coalition during the Great Depression consisting of both the solid south and blacks. With the south's objections to the desegregation of the 60s, this coalition could no longer survive. Such tensions within the party was evident in the Democratic Convention of 1968 at ~~at~~ which violent riots broke out. Furthermore, the election of 1968 included southern George Wallace who wanted the end of the radical social change of the south. During the same election, candidate Nixon attempted to appeal to the "silent majority", who resisted the changes (especially in race relations) in American society. He ran on "Law and Order", in many ways, actually running against the 60s ~~themselves~~ themselves. Seeing the unravelling of the former democratic coalition, he attempted to form an ^{Republican} ~~Republican~~ coalition of the south and west. Appealing to their conservative attitudes, the ^{unbeatable} Republican Party was able to obtain widespread support from these two sections. This marked a major change in American politics with the formation of a ^{new} ~~new~~ Republican coalition of voters.

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During the 50s and 70s, American politicians appealed to the anti communist public and the "silent majority" to gain support. Many tailored their platforms to the desires of the people (or a group of the people) in their campaigns. These ties between the public and poirtics led to the political changes of the period.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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The time period after World War II, when compared to previous decades and events in history are considerably different. Many issues played American politics in the decades following the Second World War. Events such as the women's liberation movement and anticommunism played a major role in shaping the way of American politics. After the war was fought, various issues in American policy had to be examined and needed. The women's liberation movement in the 1960's and the Anticommunism ideas in the 1940's and 1950's greatly shaped American politics after the Second World War.

Since before women were granted the right to vote, women organized themselves to protest issues such as temperance and equal voting rights. After World War I, women were granted the right to vote. Women got what they wanted. During World War II, women took up the jobs that their husbands and other men were doing prior to going to war. Women started changing their status. However, just to be able to vote and work the same jobs as men was not enough for the women of America and in the 1960's they began to demand changes. During the 1960's women campaigned for abortion. ^{Some} ~~Many~~ women were pro-abortion and the women's right to choose. Also, something else a more significant matter - women wanted to be totally equal to men. Although women worked various new jobs, there was nothing to ensure that they were paid equal or treated as equals to men. Thus the Equal Rights and Equal Pay Act was awarded to women, granting them the freedoms they had campaigned for and deserved. Thus, politics in the 1960's had a major effect and concern for the women's liberation and women's rights movement.

What came to dominate American policy and foreign policy especially

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Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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in the 1940's and 1950's was Anticommunism. Winston Churchill said that an iron curtain had come to fall across Eastern Europe. Meaning that the Soviet Union had encapsulated Eastern Europe with its communist ideals. Much of American politics in the 1940's and 1950's were devoted to defeating and containing communism. The Marshall Plan, for example, when Truman gave over 12 billion dollars to help rebuild democratic countries, this kept the Soviet communism out. The Truman Doctrine and the policy of containment came to say that the United States would not fight communism where it ~~was~~ ^{currently} existed, rather keep it from spreading to other areas. This to contain the communism. The reason the United States got involved in the Korean War was to prevent the communist North Koreans from attacking and obliterating South Korea, pro-American democracy. The United States sought to contain the communism where it was and not allow it to spread. On the homefront, domestic ^{issues} policy was also involved in anticommunism. Senator Joseph McCarthy's rise to fame and power was due to his accusations that communists had infiltrated the US State Department. At one time, McCarthy was considered one of the most powerful men in America. One of the reasons Richard Nixon was chosen as vice presidential candidate with Eisenhower was due to his reputation as a communist seeker and destroyer. All this politics at home and abroad were devoted in many ways to the anticommunism ideals of the 1940's and the 1950's.

After World War II, women began campaigning for more rights. The women's liberation movement wanted rights for women such as abortion options at times and more importantly, the Equal Rights and Pay Act. This in the 1960's, after years of protests and campaigning, women were declared equal to men and supported by a federal law. In the

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1940's and 1950's, American domestic policy and foreign policy came to concentrate in many ways on the anticommunist movement. Many Americans were ~~were~~ ^{cautious} and afraid that communism, particularly Soviet communism, was a major threat. Communism replaced Nazism as the new evil. This, the women's liberation movement ^{in the 1960's} and the anticommunist movement in the 1940's and 1950's greatly shaped American politics after the Second World War.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

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American politics after World War II were shaped greatly by the anti communist movement of the 1940s ^{and} ~~and~~ 1950s and also by ~~the~~ Richard Nixon's "silent majority" in the 1970s. The former caused the Red Scare and McCarthyism, while the ~~non~~protestors of the Vietnam War ~~was~~ caused use to stay in just a little longer.

Anticommunism directly following ~~the war~~ WWII changed American politics deeply. The Red Scare, where everyone was made to believe ~~that~~ that Communists were everywhere. It gave rise to Senators such as McCarthy and Nixon who "milked" the Red Scare to bring them ~~of~~ great success. McCarthy was by far the most popular and powerful anticommunist of the time, ~~and he~~ ~~he~~ ~~accused~~ ~~people~~ He said that Communists infested Congress and the White House and ~~that~~ he accused people of being communists without and substantial proof. This latter ~~of~~ "tactic" of ~~his~~ ~~was~~ his, is now called McCarthyism, and ~~he~~ ~~did~~ his doing of it ruined ~~many~~ many people's careers, while assiting his own. This Red Scare, however, also affected foreign policy. The Truman ~~Doctrine~~ Doctrine, created by President ~~from~~ Truman said that the USA would provide aid to ~~the~~ ~~Greece~~ Greece and Turkey in their resistance against Communism. This was soon followed by the Marshall Plan, named after the Secretary of State at the time, which ~~provided~~ ~~aid~~ ~~to~~ offered financial aid to all nations affect and/or ruined by World War II. ~~As~~ ~~for~~ The real intent of the plan was to rebuild Europe as ~~quickly~~ quickly as possible so that Europe would not be conquered over by communism and the USSR. With this Anticommunism feeling, therefore, American policy was shaped following WWII.

The "silent majority" of the 1970's refers to ~~is~~ Nixon's televised public address in which he asked his supporters, "the silent majority", who approved of his doings, to speak up against the minority that held daily ~~at~~ rallies and demonstrations against the Vietnam War, in front of the White House. He wanted "peace with honor" in the Vietnamese conflict and he knew it would take time. Vietnamisation was the term used to

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~~say that the~~ mean the giving back control to the South Vietnamese in their struggle against ~~the~~ communist North Vietnam. Nixon went off this "majorities approval of him in making his American foreign policies. He did not listen to the boisterous minority. In doing so, Richard Milhouse Nixon achieved his goal of "peace with honor" in Vietnam and kept the United States "looking good."

American politics after the Second World War were greatly influenced ~~to~~ by anticommunism in the 1940s and 1950s and by the "silent majority" in the 1970s. ~~with~~ ~~the~~ The USA continued on democratically, with the public still influencing the President and Law makers. This was America in ~~the~~ ~~the~~ post World War II ~~years~~.