

Part 1: The Anchor Facts of American History

Write a brief description of the key event occurring at the date indicated, and explain how it has shaped the America and/or world we live in *today*.

1. 1914-19

The United States saves Europe in World War I, abandoning the policy of political separation from Europe and embarking on a long and continuing career as a world police power. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

2. 1939-45

The United States saves the world from Nazi Germany and imperial Japan in World War II, giving up its attempted return to normalcy and accepting a continuous role as a world police power. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

3. 1215 AD

English lords force King John to sign the Magna Carta, which forced the king to accept a constitutional limit to his power. This was an important precursor to American liberty. The Founders experienced the tug-of-war of constitutional monarchy first hand as colonists, and decided to break from this tradition and make a government without a king altogether. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

4. 1861-65

The American civil war between the North and South leads to the abolition of slavery, which is why modern-day America is free of slavery. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

5. 476 AD

European barbarians cause the fall of the Roman Empire leading to the rise of the distinctive European civilization which gave birth to the United States, and which now the United States has been protecting from itself for over 100 years. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

Total Points for this page: 15 points

Part 2: America Becomes and International Police Power

6. What is a “doctrine”? How was the Monroe Doctrine tied to the founding fathers’ philosophy of government (as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, for instance)?

In this context, a doctrine is a set of *recommended actions* for a government, by a president. The Monroe Doctrine said that America and Europe were essentially different, and that America, which wanted to protect the rights of its citizens therefore wanted a separation between European and American affairs. This was rooted in the founding fathers’ philosophy of the purpose of government: the protection of the rights of citizens. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for political separation, 1 pt for connection to the purpose of government, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

7. In what ways (name at least two) does the Spanish-American War of 1898 represent a break with the Monroe Doctrine?

Americans were generally interested in keeping the Americas separate from Europe and helping other American countries, like Cuba, to be independent. However, this meant interfering in the affairs of an established European colonial power, while the Monroe doctrine specifically defied *new* efforts at (re-)colonization. More obviously, however, America’s war effort involved the liberation of Philippines, in Asia, which by itself might be consistent with the war effort, but then America decided to permanently care for this new country rather than return to normalcy afterwards. (1 pt for explaining belief that Monroe Doctrine meant intervention, 1 pt for Philippines involvement, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

8. Explain the the context and ultimate meaning of the “Roosevelt Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine.

The first president to advise that America should be an international police power was Theodore Roosevelt. He announced this policy in a speech in which he referred to this new conduct as a “corollary” of the Monroe Doctrine, which means a proposition that follows logically. This means that America would undermine another country, Colombia, because Panama would not strike a deal with the US in order to facilitate the construction of the Panama Canal. This cannot be held to be consistent with the founding fathers’ policy of defending rights. Thus, strangely, the corollary was in principle a *repudiation* of the Monroe Doctrine. (1 pt for Roosevelt’s explanation, 1 pt for the context of Colombia / the Panama canal, 1 pt for a discussion of the ultimate meaning *in reference to the Monroe Doctrine*, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 11 points

Part 3: The World Wars

9. Would the Founding Fathers have agreed with the idea that America should make the world “safe for democracy”? Why or why not?

There are a number of allied reasons why this would have been an impossible view for the founders. First, they explicitly made America a *republic*, with a constitution and a bill of rights to protect individual rights from the majority. They did not refer to America as a democracy, so they would not have promoted such a value abroad. Secondly, they would not have accepted the idea that the American government should be responsible for the fate of the world, which they knew to be permeated with societies that had never identified, or worse, explicitly repudiated, individual rights, the protection of which they identified as the purpose of government. (2 pts for a discussion involving the term *democracy* and the issue of the uniqueness of America, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

10. Why didn't Woodrow Wilson's policing of making the world safe for democracy become a doctrine? (Think of what happened *after* WWI.)

A presidential doctrine, which is a set of recommended actions, cannot be considered to have historical weight if the government rejects the recommendation. In essence, the return to normalcy was a rejection of the Wilsonian mission to “make the world safe for democracy.” In a wider sense, America has re-adopted this role, but there was a long break, and only when the threat of communism arose did America apply these basic ideas via the *Truman* doctrine. (2 pts for a discussion involving the term *doctrine* and the return to normalcy, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 4: The Cold War

11. What would likely have happened if the United States returned to “normalcy” after World War II? (Try to explain the more straightforward reasoning involved.) How did this affect America's actions to follow?

A return to normalcy after World War II would have meant the domination of Europe by the communist Soviet Union and probably the spread of communism to many other parts of the world for an extended period. America decided not to permit this to happen, therefore America assumed a permanent policing role in the “Cold War” to contain communism, including its decision to police the Middle East. (2 pts for a discussion involving the term *doctrine* and the return to normalcy, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 9 points

12. Who did America chose as a temporary ally in World War II, and by what reasoning? Why did this country become America's greatest enemy after the war?

The United States chose became the temporary ally of the Soviet Union (a.k.a communist Russia) in WWII. The reasoning was simply the application of the most basic tenet of the "balance of power:" the enemy of my enemy (Nazi Germany) is my temporary This created problems after the war, because the Soviet Union was not a friendly country. Its people accepted a form of government opposed to American freedom called communism, and it became America's worst enemy. (1 pt for the Soviet Union/Communist Russia, 1 pt for balance of power, 1 pt for explaining freedom vs. communism, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

13. What did the Truman Doctrine say? Why did this doctrine lead to a "cold war"?

Harry Truman advised America that it should not return to normalcy after WWII, and instead should continue to work to stop the spread of communism. This Truman Doctrine led to the Cold War because both the United States and communist Russia had nuclear weapons and had to make constant preparations for war. This situation was not peace, but it was not a "hot war" either. Historians call it a "cold war." (1 pt for containment doctrine, 1 pt for explaining concept of a cold war, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 5: America and the War on Terror

14. Why did America support the formation of Israel in 1948? What did America's presence as a police power lead to in 1979 despite the great resentment of Israel's neighbors of Israel's presence?

America supported the formation of Israel in 1948 in order to help the Jewish people, who had suffered religious persecution for centuries, and, worst of all, had suffered the Holocaust, where six million were killed in WWII. Because of America's support, Israel's neighbors could not prevent the rise of Israel, and could not destroy it in later wars. In 1979, because of America's involvement, Egypt decided to make peace with Israel. (1 pt for support of Jews, 1 pt for peace with Egypt, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 10 points

15. What is terrorism? What is the most important event of 1979 that made terrorism a tactic of choice against the United States?

Terrorism is a tactic of war, whereby terrorists attack non-military persons, including women and children in order to “terrorize” them. This is designed to make them pressure their government to act differently. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 involved a terrorist attack on the American embassy. It was *successful*. America did not punish Iran. This made it seem that terrorism could succeed against the greatest military power the world has ever known, which otherwise would be irresistible. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for precedent, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

16. What are the two main forms of Islamic culture today? What has America done in Afghanistan and Iraq in the “War on Terror” to encourage one and discourage the other?

Islamic culture is deeply divided between a peaceful form, such as most Muslims in America and Israel, and a violent kind called Islamism. In Afghanistan and Iraq, America has tried to destroy dangerous governments and replace them with democracies, where the Muslim people there can be in charge of their governments. It is hoped that this will encourage peaceful Muslims and stop violent ones. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for precedent, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 6 points

Part 6: Bonus Questions

17. What American ship was sunk before America’s entry into World War I?

It was British! The Lusitania. (0.5 bonus pts)

18. What American ship was sunk before America’s entry into the Spanish-American War?

USS Maine (0.5 bonus pts)

19. What American base was attacked in 1941, bringing America into World War II?

Pearl Harbor (0.5 bonus pts)

20. What Japanese cities did America destroy with atomic bombs in World War II?

Hiroshima / Nagasaki (0.5 bonus pts)

Total points on test: 51 pts

Total bonus points available: 2 pts

Note: This grading key includes a suggested scoring schema that includes spelling and grammar. It may not be suitable for scoring the work of all students.