

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Modern History Smash: 6th Grade US Eras Battle

Analyze the impact of the 1970s Iran Hostage Crisis, the 1980s Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, and the 21st-century rise of the Gig Economy.

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**1. In 1979, the Iran Hostage Crisis began, significantly damaging the presidency of Jimmy Carter. Why did this event shift the U.S. toward a more 'Hawkish' or aggressive foreign policy in the 1980s?**

**Answer:** B) It created a public perception that the U.S. had become weak on the global stage.

The 444-day crisis led many Americans to feel the nation was losing influence, paving the way for Ronald Reagan's 'Peace Through Strength' platform.

**2. The 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster led to a multi-year pause in the U.S. space program and forced a total redesign of NASA's safety protocols.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. The disaster was a turning point that shifted NASA's focus from frequent commercial flights back to rigorous engineering safety and oversight.

**3. The 1992 Los Angeles Riots broke out after a jury acquitted police officers involved in the beating of \_\_\_\_\_, highlighting deep-seated racial tensions in urban America.**

**Answer:** B) Rodney King

Rodney King's case was one of the first high-profile instances of police brutality captured on video, sparking a national conversation on civil rights.

**4. How did the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) change the U.S. economy for many manufacturing workers in the Midwest?**

**Answer:** B) It led to some factories moving to Mexico where labor was cheaper.

While NAFTA increased overall trade, it also contributed to 'outsourcing,' where manufacturing jobs left the U.S. for countries with lower production costs.

**5. The 'Contract with America' was a list of conservative legislative goals released by Republicans during the 1994 midterm elections.**

**Answer:** A) True

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True. Led by Newt Gingrich, this document helped Republicans win control of Congress for the first time in 40 years during Bill Clinton's presidency.

**6. The Patriot Act, passed shortly after the 9/11 attacks, remains a controversial piece of legislation. What is the primary ethical debate surrounding it?**

**Answer:** C) It balanced national security needs against the right to individual privacy.

The Patriot Act expanded the government's surveillance powers, leading to ongoing debates about whether safety is worth the loss of personal privacy.

**7. In the 2010s, the rise of the \_\_\_\_ transformed the U.S. workforce by allowing people to find short-term tasks or 'gigs' through apps like Uber or TaskRabbit.**

**Answer:** C) Gig Economy

The 'Gig Economy' relies on digital platforms to connect freelancers with consumers, changing traditional ideas about 9-to-5 employment.

**8. The 2010 Supreme Court case 'Citizens United v. FEC' significantly impacted U.S. elections. What was the core result of this ruling?**

**Answer:** B) It allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited money on political ads.

The ruling argued that political spending is a form of protected free speech, leading to the rise of 'Super PACs' in modern campaigns.

**9. The 2000 Presidential Election between George W. Bush and Al Gore was the first in modern history to be decided by a Supreme Court ruling regarding a vote recount.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. The case 'Bush v. Gore' stopped the recount in Florida, effectively awarding the presidency to George W. Bush.

**10. The 2011 \_\_\_\_ movement began in New York's Zuccotti Park to protest economic inequality and the influence of big banks on the U.S. government.**

**Answer:** B) Occupy Wall Street

Occupy Wall Street focused on the '99%' versus the '1%' of earners, sparking national debate about the wealth gap in the United States.