

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

## Answer Key: Stranger Times: 8th Grade Quest Through Modern US History

Step into the shoes of a policy advisor to analyze shifting global alliances, domestic crises, and the digital revolution through complex scenarios.

---

**1. Which 1970s event significantly undermined public trust in the federal government's transparency regarding the Vietnam War, leading to a landmark Supreme Court case?**

**Answer:** B) The publication of the Pentagon Papers

The Pentagon Papers revealed that the government had systematically lied to the public and Congress about the scope of the Vietnam War, leading to the *New York Times Co. v. United States* ruling.

**2. Completed in 1977, the \_\_\_\_\_ was a major engineering project designed to reduce American dependence on foreign oil following the 1973 OPEC embargo.**

**Answer:** C) Trans-Alaska Pipeline System

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline was built to transport oil from the North Slope to the port of Valdez, providing a domestic source of energy during a period of intense global volatility.

**3. The 1994 passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was designed to eliminate most tariffs between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.**

**Answer:** A) True

NAFTA created one of the world's largest free trade zones, fundamentally altering the economic landscape of North American labor and manufacturing.

**4. In the late 1980s, the 'Iran-Contra Affair' involved a secret and illegal operation by members of the Reagan administration to:**

**Answer:** A) Fund anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua using proceeds from arms sales to Iran

The scandal involved selling weapons to Iran despite an embargo and using the profits to support Contras in Nicaragua, violating the Boland Amendment.

**5. The 1992 Los Angeles Riots were largely sparked by the acquittal of police officers involved in the beating of \_\_\_\_\_, highlighting deep-seated racial tensions in urban America.**

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

**Answer:** B) Rodney King

The Rodney King trial outcome led to six days of civil unrest, resulting in over \$1 billion in property damage and a national conversation on police brutality.

**6. The 'Contract with America' was a 1994 legislative agenda proposed by the Democratic Party to expand social welfare programs during the Clinton presidency.**

**Answer:** B) False

The Contract with America was actually a Republican document led by Newt Gingrich, advocating for tax cuts and a reduction in government size.

**7. How did the 1978 Supreme Court case Regents of the University of California v. Bakke impact American social policy?**

**Answer:** B) It ruled that racial quotas in college admissions were unconstitutional but allowed race as a factor

The Bakke decision sought to balance the goal of diversity with the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause, complexifying the legal status of affirmative action.

**8. Following the 9/11 attacks, the \_\_\_\_\_ was passed in 2001, significantly expanding the government's surveillance powers to detect and prevent terrorism.**

**Answer:** B) USA PATRIOT Act

The PATRIOT Act allowed for increased wiretapping, search warrants, and information sharing between intelligence agencies, sparking ongoing debates over privacy rights.

**9. The 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and the 'Velvet Revolution' in Czechoslovakia were symbolic of what major global shift?**

**Answer:** C) The collapse of Soviet-backed communist regimes in Eastern Europe

These events signaled the end of the Cold War and the transition toward democracy and market economies in many former Soviet satellites.

**10. In the 2000 Presidential election, the Supreme Court case Bush v. Gore ultimately halted a manual recount in Florida, effectively deciding the presidency.**

**Answer:** A) True

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

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that different standards for counting ballots violated the Equal Protection Clause, making George W. Bush the winner of Florida's electoral votes.