

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Uncovering the Tectonic Shifts: 12th Grade Modern US History Quiz

Analyze the geopolitical and social forces that transformed the American identity from the Iranian Hostage Crisis to the digital disruption of the 21st century.

1. Which 1970s diplomatic event signified a departure from traditional containment policy, utilizing 'triangular diplomacy' to leverage tensions between the USSR and the PRC?

Answer: B) Nixon's formal visit to China and the Shanghai Communique

Nixon and Kissinger used 'triangular diplomacy' to normalize relations with China, forcing the Soviet Union to seek better terms with the U.S. out of fear of isolation.

2. The 1978 _____ represented a landmark in Middle Eastern diplomacy by facilitating a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel under U.S. mediation.

Answer: B) Camp David Accords

The Camp David Accords, brokered by Jimmy Carter, led to the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab neighbor, fundamentally shifting regional dynamics.

3. The 'Iran-Contra Affair' involved the illegal sale of arms to Iran to fund anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua, bypassing Congressional authority.

Answer: A) True

The scandal broke during the Reagan administration when it was revealed that officials diverted funds from secret Iranian arms sales to the Contras, violating the Boland Amendment.

4. Which economic phenomenon characterized by the unusual combination of stagnant economic growth and high inflation plagued the American economy during the 1970s?

Answer: C) Stagflation

Stagflation challenged traditional economic theories, as unemployment and inflation rose simultaneously, largely driven by energy shocks and deindustrialization.

5. Passed in 1994, the _____ significantly reduced trade barriers between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, reflecting the era's push toward globalization.

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Answer: B) NAFTA Agreement

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was a cornerstone of 1990s economic policy, though it remains a subject of intense debate regarding its impact on domestic manufacturing.

6. In the landmark 1992 Los Angeles Riots, which event served as the immediate catalyst for the widespread civil unrest?

Answer: C) The acquittal of police officers in the Rodney King beating trial

The 'not guilty' verdicts for the four LAPD officers involved in the beating of Rodney King sparked six days of rioting, highlighting deep-seated racial tensions and systemic policing issues.

7. The 'Bush Doctrine,' established after 9/11, emphasized the policy of 'preemptive strikes' against perceived threats to national security.

Answer: A) True

The Bush Doctrine represented a shift towards unilateralism and the proactive use of military force to prevent potential attacks before they could be launched.

8. The 2010 Supreme Court case _____ radically altered campaign finance by ruling that corporate funding of independent political broadcasts cannot be limited under the First Amendment.

Answer: B) Citizens United v. FEC

Citizens United v. FEC led to the rise of 'Super PACs' and significantly increased the role of corporate and union spending in American elections.

9. Which legislative act, passed in response to the 2008 Financial Crisis, aimed to reform the financial industry and protect consumers from predatory lending?

Answer: C) The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

Dodd-Frank was the most significant overhaul of U.S. financial regulation since the Great Depression, focusing on 'too big to fail' institutions and consumer transparency.

10. The 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing was an act of international terrorism carried out by a foreign state actor.

Answer: B) False

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The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was an act of domestic terrorism carried out by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, motivated by anti-government sentiment.