

Outline of Major Essay Topics from APUSH Exams, 2000-2008

US History: 1801-1877

I. War of 1812

A. Causes

1. Napoleonic Wars and Commercial Rivalry (1799-1815)

- i. European wars between Napoleon and rest of Europe (Britain, Spain, etc.); belligerents committed to hurting enemy's commercial interests, including those of neutral nations trading with them (e.g. U.S.)
- ii. Chesapeake-Leonard Incident (1807) – off coast of Virginia, British ship attacked and killed U.S. sailors, then impressed many into service
- iii. Jefferson's Embargo (1807) – Ban on U.S. trade at all foreign ports and was disastrous for U.S. economy
- iv. Non-Intercourse Act (1809) – Ban on U.S. trade with Britain and France
- v. Macon's Bill, No. 2 (1810) – Reopened trade with Britain and France but permitted president to prohibit trade with one of the two if the other officially recognized U.S. neutrality; Napoleon agreed to do so and Madison instituted new embargo against Britain, but then France continued to violate U.S. neutrality; led to British repeal of its embargo on U.S. but too late

2. Continued Animosity Toward British

- i. French sympathies since French Revolution (1789); French, like U.S., had thrown off shackles of a king and created a republic
- ii. American Revolution vs. Britain still recent, only 30 years ago
- iii. British violation of U.S. neutrality more pronounced because of its dominance of Atlantic

3. British Support of Indians and Hampered Westward Expansion

- i. Prophet and Tecumseh – brothers who led a united Indian resistance against whites in Mississippi Valley; uprising supported and funded by British agents in Canada
- ii. Battle of Tippecanoe – William Henry Harrison v. Tecumseh; Indians lost but remnants of Tecumseh's confederacy continued to fight U.S. in War of 1812

iii. Westward expansion hampered by British in Canada, their support of Indians, and Britain's ally in Florida (Spain)

4. Warhawks

i. New, young Democratic-Republicans elected in 1810, many from frontier states

ii. Included Henry Clay of Kentucky and John C. Calhoun of South Carolina

iii. Pushed for war with Britain because only way to defend American honor, gain Canada, and destroy Indian resistance on frontier

5. Madison's Declaration of War (1812)

i. Britain delayed in meeting U.S. neutrality demands

ii. Warhawk Congress pushed for war

iii. Madison declared war, ironically, after Britain agreed to drop its blockade of U.S. trade

B. Major Battles/Campaigns

1. Beginning of War of 1812: Invasion of Canada (FAIL)

2. Turning Point: Napoleon's Surrender in Europe (1814)

3. Battle of Thames (1813) – defeat and death of Tecumseh by William Henry Harrison; effectively ended Indian claims to Old Northwest

4. Battle of Horseshoe Bend (1814) – defeat of Creeks (part of Tecumseh's alliance in the South) at hands of Andrew Jackson; Creeks ceded their territory and moved west

5. End of War of 1812: Battle of New Orleans (1815) – after peace treaty had been signed; defeat of British led by Andrew Jackson

6. Treaty of Ghent (1814) – return to prewar status quo

C. Results

1. International Respect (survived two wars with Britain)

2. Acceptance of Canada as neighbor and as part of British Empire

i. Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817) – demilitarized Great Lakes

3. End of Federalist Party as national force

4. Precedent set by Hartford Convention for nullification and secession (to be later used by South Carolina in Nullification Crisis and South in Civil War)
5. Native Americans lost vast tracts of land because of British lack of support
6. War heroes: Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison
7. Stimulated domestic manufacturing and push toward industrial self-sufficiency
 - i. Wartime British naval blockade force U.S. industry into business
 - ii. Tariff of 1816 and Tariff of 1819 passed by Democratic-Republicans designed to protect U.S. manufactures from foreign (British) competition despite postwar flood of British manufactured goods; two of the first protective tariffs
 - iii. Contributed to decline of New England's maritime industry which freed up capital for manufacturing
8. Surge in nationalism
9. Exposed need for 2nd Bank of United States
 - i. 1st B.U.S. expired in 1811
 - ii. New bank chartered in 1816
10. Exposed need for national transportation system

II. Industrial/Transportation/Market Revolution

A. Industrial Revolution

1. Definition
 - i. Rise of the factory (decline of household and workshop production)
 - ii. Mechanization of labor (technology, inventions, products)
 - iii. Transition from agriculture to manufacturing
2. First U.S. factory (1791)
 - i. Samuel Slater
 - ii. Spinning cotton thread
3. Cotton Gin (1793)

- i. Eli Whitney
 - ii. Separated seeds from cotton mechanically
 - iii. Transformed Southern economy into King Cotton
 - iv. Prolonged the lifespan and geographic reach of slavery
 - v. Spread slavery and cotton into Old Southwest states like Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas
 - vi. Northern factories became dependent upon Southern cotton for textile mills
4. Interchangeable parts (1798)
 - i. Eli Whitney
 - ii. Basis for mass production and assembly line methods in new northern factories
6. Telegraph (1844)
 - i. Samuel Morse
 - ii. Instant communication
 - iii. Reinforced sectional tension by further linking North with Northwest, to the exclusion of the South
5. Antebellum Industrial Labor Systems (mostly in North)
 - i. Family System (1820s-1830s)
 - a. Mid-Atlantic states
 - b. Brought whole families from farm to mill
 - c. Parents worked alongside their children
 - d. Conditions were far better than in England
 - ii. Lowell (Waltham) System (1830s)
 - a. New England
 - b. Relied on young unmarried women from farming families instead of whole families
 - c. Many Lowell girls worked, saved, and returned to farm to marry and raise children

- d. Others married and stayed near factory but ceased working in mill once married, taking up domestic role instead
- e. Great emphasis placed on morality and supervision of Lowell girls (paternalism)
- f. Though far from liberating, Lowell System was best alternative to a farm life that was increasingly unable to support young girls
- g. Conditions were far better than in England
- h. Declined in mid-1830 to 1840s due to fierce market competition, women moving into other occupations (e.g. teaching, domestic work, marriage), and influx of cheap immigrant labor
- i. By mid-1840s, was squalid and slum-like conditions, leading to new labor organizing by Sarah Bagley (see Section IV-C-5-d)

iii. Immigrant System (1840s-1850s)

- a. Less leverage than women in achieving labor goals, thus leading to worsening industrial conditions (far less pressure on factory owners to provide “moral” environment for Irish than for women)
- b. Wages declined significantly

B. Transportation Revolution

1. Definition

- i. New methods and means of transporting individuals and products more efficiently and quickly

2. Roads

- i. Era of the turnpike: 1790s-1820s
- ii. Lancaster Turnpike, 1794
 - a. East-west road in Pennsylvania designed to get western products to eastern markets
- iii. Wilderness Road, 1795
 - a. East-west road for easterners to travel west for settlement

- iv. National/Cumberland Road, started 1811 and finished 1852
 - a. Lengthy construction time due to debate over funding: states, federal government, or private enterprise?

3. Steamboats

- i. Era of steamboat: 1810s-1820s
- ii. Created two-way traffic on navigable rivers, including Mississippi River
- iii. Robert Fulton's Clermont, 1807

4. Canals

- i. Era of canal: 1825-1835
- ii. Erie Canal, 1825
 - a. Tied Northeast (NYC) and Old Northwest (Chicago, Great Lakes, and later Ohio and Indiana) together economically, thus isolating Deep South
 - b. DeWitt Clinton, NY governor, championed Erie Canal; state-sponsored venture; neither private capital nor federal funding used
 - c. Increased white settlement in Old Northwest, further displaced Indians
- iii. Panic of 1837 slowed canal growth

5. Railroads

- i. 1820s, first railroads
- ii. 1830s, competing with canals but still secondary
- iii. 1840s, railroads overtook canals and all other modes of transport
- iii. 1850s-1860s, burst of railroad construction
 - a. 3,000 miles of track in 1840
 - b. 9,000 miles of track in 1850
- iv. Further tied together North with Old Northwest economically, thus isolating Deep South (West need Mississippi River less and less for transportation)

- v. Most financing came from local governments and federal government
- vi. Primary method of transport for over 100 years, until interstate highway system of mid-20th century

6. Clipper ships

- i. Era of clipper ship: 1840s-1850s
- ii. Built for speed
- iii. Used for Chinese tea and goods for California gold seekers
- iv. Replaced by steamship after Civil War

C. Market Revolution

1. Definition

- i. Rise of Wall Street and NYC as center of finance
- ii. Entrepreneurial spirit
- iii. “Progress” of early Republic
- iv. Triumph of and transition to capitalism (i.e. free exchange of goods and services, wage labor, urbanization, and factory production)
- v. Not necessarily “progress” for all, including Indians, slaves, and lower class (caused great economic stratification)

2. Incorporation Laws

- i. Foundation of Market Revolution
- ii. 1810s-1840s (especially 1830s) – NY laws changed to allow businesses to incorporate without individual charter from state or act of state legislature, simply had to pay fee; other states followed
- iii. Easier to incorporate and raise capital by selling stock
- iv. Contributed to raising of great amounts of capital for factories, canals, and railroads, thus rise of even larger manufacturing and business enterprises
- v. Stocks ensured limited liability (investor risks no more than own shares of stock)
- vi. Boston Associates – earliest example of investment capital company (“managed a capital pool”)

vii. New York Stock Exchange (1817)

viii. Most businesses still sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, but many merchant capitalists (i.e. sole proprietorships) giving way to corporate organization of business

3. Patents

i. Basis of entrepreneurship and new business

ii. 1800 – 300 patents; 1860 – 28,000 patents

iii. Patent rights vigorously defended in federal courts

4. Retail distribution of goods

i. Distribution of good becoming increasingly efficient and systematic

ii. Stores for specialized goods (as opposed to general store) in cities

iii. Rural areas (not well connected with Transportation Revolution) still relied heavily on general stores

5. Credit

i. Limited liability investment (selling stocks) still not enough for many larger corporations

ii. Official government currency not expansionary (backed strictly by gold and silver), thus banks issued unofficial currency (bank notes) that was much more unstable

iii. Because of widespread issuance of bank notes, bank failures were frequent and bank deposits insecure

iv. Lack of reliable and stable source of credit was roadblock to economic growth

6. Role of Indians

i. Land of Old Southwest ceded to U.S. by Native Americans (Seminole Wars, Trail of Tears)

ii. Old Southwest became home to revival of slavery and King Cotton

7. Role of Slavery

i. Slaves as labor was central to Market Revolution

- a. Black slavery was the labor that cultivated Old Southwest cotton plantations
 - b. Northern factories needed Southern cotton to provide the raw materials for textile production
 - c. Wealth from Southern plantations flowed into New York banks, which then loaned capital to northern entrepreneurs
 - d. No slavery, no cotton, no Market Revolution
 - e. Southern economy, despite conventional historical wisdom, was the 4th largest economy in the world; South only lagged behind New England and England in industrial development
- iv. Slavery as commodity was central to Market Revolution
- a. Between Constitution (1788) and 1808, almost ¼ million slaves imported to South, about same amount as had been brought to British North American in previous 150 years
 - b. After 1808, interstate slave trade was “Second Middle Passage”

III. Age of Jackson (1824-1840)

A. General

1. Rise of democratic society
 - i. de Tocqueville
 - ii. Class difficult to distinguish amongst whites through manners, dress, or public quarters
 - iii. Belief in equality of opportunity for white males
 - iv. ?????
2. Politics of Common Man
 - i. Universal white male suffrage
 - a. Started in new western states, spread to eastern states
 - b. No property or religious qualifications
 - ii. Party nominating conventions replaced closed-door caucuses
 - a. Anti-Masons first to have nominating convention

- iii. Popular election of presidential electors
- iv. Two-party system needed for presidential elections
- v. Rise of 3rd parties
 - a. Anti-Masons (attacked secret society of Masons as undemocratic elite)
 - b. Workingman's Party
- vi. More state and local elected offices
- vii. Popular campaigning
- viii. Spoils System – Jackson dispensed government jobs in return for party loyalty
- ix. Rotation in office – limit tenure to one term and appoint another deserving party man

B. Jackson's Presidency

- 1. Indians
 - i. Indian Removal Act (1830)
 - ii. Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831)
 - iii. Worcester v. Georgia (1832)
 - iv. Trail of Tears (1838, after Jackson's tenure)
- 2. Nullification Crisis (see Section VI-A-4)
- 3. Bank War
 - i. Background
 - ii. Bank recharter
- 4. 2nd term banking issues
 - i. Pet banks
 - ii. Specie Circular

IV. Antebellum Reform

- A. Religion
- B. Utopianism

C. Labor Unionism

1. Industry (see Section II)

2. Labor

i. First labor unions were communities of skilled craftsmen who were being replaced by factory system of production and unskilled labor, seen as early as 1790s

ii. 1820s and 1830s, these skilled craft societies worked together to form trade unions on a citywide basis in major cities

iii. National Trades' Union (1834) – an early example of official and significant skilled craft union organizing, but still more like preindustrial guilds than modern labor organization

iv. Early labor organizations largely unsuccessful due to Panic of 1837 and restrictive interpretation of common law (labor unions are illegal conspiracies)

v. Despite *Commonwealth v. Hunt* (1842), organized labor remained weak through 1850s and staged few strikes (and won even fewer)

vi. Skilled labor organizations had some successes in late 1850s

a. National Typographical Union

b. Stone Cutters

c. Hat Finishers

d. Molders

e. Machinists

vii. Reasons for weakness of antebellum labor movement

a. Despite gains for skilled craft workers, labor was still very weak by 1850s (especially compared to Britain's labor movement of 1850s)

b. Flood of replacement immigrant workers into U.S. weakened its labor movement (work for cheap and replace disgruntled workers)

c. Ethnic conflict due to immigrant labor decreased ability of labor unions to organize in a unitary fashion

d. Rising strength of industrial capitalists, with backing of states and courts

e. High unemployment during economic downturns and pull of western settlement on potential workers before the Civil War

3. Ideas

i. Earliest goal of labor was 10-hour workday

a. Only two states (NH, PA) had such laws by late 1840s, but had little impact

ii. Labor goal of limiting child labor

a. Only three states (MA, NH, PA) had such laws by late 1840s, but had little impact

iii. Women

a. Excluded from skilled craft unions

b. Began establishing protective unions in 1850s (with help of middle-class female reformers)

iv. Lowell System

4. Laws/Court Cases

i. Commonwealth v. Hunt (1842)

a. MA Supreme Court decision but accepted nationally after

b. Unions lawful organizations, strike is legal weapon

5. Strikes

i. Lowell Strikes (1834 and 1836)

a. 1834 – protest 25% wage cut

b. 1836 – protest rent increase in boardinghouses

c. Factory Girls Association failed during both strikes and Panic of 1837 destroyed FGA

d. Female Labor Reform Association (1845)

- Sarah Bagley

- Agitated for 10-hour workday and improvement in mill conditions

- Petitioned both management and state government

- Largely failed due to women moving into teaching, domestic service, and marriage and due to influx of immigrant workforce, thus the end of Lowell System

6. Economy

i. Panic of 1837 -

D. Temperance

E. Education

F. Women's Rights

G. Prison/Asylum Reform

H. Abolitionism

V. Antebellum Immigration

A. General

1. 1832 – beginning of large-scale immigration to U.S.
2. 1830-1860 – 4 million immigrants
3. Most immigrants stayed in Northern coastal cities, some moved to Old Northwest; almost none moved to South (no jobs because of slavery)
4. Reasons for antebellum U.S. immigration
 - i. Inexpensive and fast ocean transportation
 - ii. Famines and revolutions in Europe
 - iii. Reputation of U.S. as place of economic opportunity and political freedom

B. German

1. Driven from German lands because of economic hardships and political revolutions in late 1840s and 1850s
2. Most had modest means and considerable job skills
3. Moved westward to farm, mostly into Old Northwest

4. Became supporters of public education and opponents of slavery
5. Many German immigrants either part of family unit or single men (more suitable for moving West and farming)

C. Irish

1. Driven from Ireland because of potato famines and crop failures (1845-1849)
2. Discriminated against because of Roman Catholic faith, poverty, and lack of job skills
3. Often competed with blacks for domestic work and unskilled laborer jobs
4. Congregated in Northern cities
5. Most joined Democratic Party because of its traditional anti-British sympathies and support for common people
6. Slow but steadily increasing influence in Northern cities and Democratic political machines
7. Many Irish immigrants were young single women (more suitable for staying in eastern cities and getting factory or domestic work)

E. Nativism

1. Anti-immigrant sentiment amongst those born in U.S., usually with desire to slow or stop immigration
2. Protestant Anglos concerned about losing their jobs and their political influence to foreigners
3. Distrusted Roman Catholic faith of Irish and many Germans
4. Nativist Organizations
 - i. Native American Association (1837, formed political party in 1845)
 - ii. Society of the Star Spangled Banner (1850) – secret antiforeigner organization that combined multiple nativist groups
 - iii. American Party (Know-Nothings) (1850s) – nativist political party that won big in 1854 elections, then declined after; real significance of Know-Nothings was contribution to the collapse of 2nd party system (Whigs, Democrats)
6. Faded in importance during Civil War and Reconstruction

VI. Civil War

A. Causes

1. Underground Railroad
2. Northwest Ordinance
 - i. Banning of slavery in NW territory established Ohio River as boundary between free and slave territory in the region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River
 - ii. Helped set the stage for the balancing act between free and slave
3. Compromise of 1820 (Missouri Compromise)
 - i. Henry Clay
 - ii. Missouri as slave state, Maine as free state, no slavery in Louisiana Purchase north of 36-30 except Missouri
4. Nullification Crisis
 - i. High tariff policy after War of 1812 in 1820s hurt South, particularly Tariff of Abominations (1828) from JQA
 - ii. When Jackson failed to reduce tariff, radical South Carolinians organized around tariff issue, with Calhoun (Jackson's VP) as leader, and called for nullification of federal tariff
 - iii. In 1832, Calhoun resigned as VP to run for Senate and Jackson signed Tariff of 1832, which reduced tariff and received support from most Northerners and half Southerners but not good enough for South Carolina
 - iv. South Carolina nullified Tariff of 1828 and 1832 and said they were unconstitutional
 - v. In early 1833, Jackson got Force Bill (president can use military force against South Carolina) and Tariff of 1833 passed by Congress; new tariff accepted by South Carolina but they nullified Force Bill
 - vi. Tariffs reduced by nullification rejected by federal government
 - vii. Tariff would take backseat to slavery and territorial expansion as principle sectional issue(s)
5. Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion
6. Amistad

7. Mexican American War
8. Wilmot Proviso
9. Manifest Destiny
10. Compromise of 1850 (p. 397)
11. Uncle Tom's Cabin
12. Kansas-Nebraska Act/ Bleeding Kansas
13. Dred Scott Case
14. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry
15. Election of 1860
16. Secession of Southern States

B. Major Battles/Campaigns

1. Beginning of the Civil War: Ft. Sumter (1861)
- Turning Point: Vicksburg and Gettysburg (1863)
- End of Civil War: Appomattox (1865)

C. Results

1. Political
2. Economic
3. Social

VII. Reconstruction

A. Phase One: Presidential Reconstruction (1863-1866)

1. Plans for Renewed Union

B. Phase Two: Congressional (Radical) Reconstruction (1866-1873)

1. Johnson Impeachment

C. Phase Three: Redeemer Resurgence (1873-1877)

2. Compromise of 1877

D. Results

2. Congress During Reconstruction

3. In the South

4. In the North