

## Content Domain V: Modern Era



### A LOOK AT CONTENT DOMAIN V

Test questions in this content domain will measure your understanding of U.S. history from the Cold War to the present and its effects on everyday American life as the United States became the world's superpower. The topics covered in this domain include the post-World War II era, modern technology, social and political movements, and the war against terrorism. Your answers to the questions will help show how well you can perform on the following standards.

- Explain economic growth and its impact on the United States
- Identify dimensions of the civil rights movement, 1945–1970
- Describe and assess the impact of political developments between 1945 and 1970
- Analyze the impact of social change movements and organizations of the 1960s
- Describe changes in national politics since 1968



### Spotlight on the Standards

✧ ***Explain economic growth and its impact on the United States*** ✧

This standard will measure your understanding of America's economic growth from the end of World War II through 1970, and that growth's impact on our nation. This period led directly into present-day events, so your knowledge of it is critical to your understanding of how recent American history influences us now.

#### **Economic Growth**

After World War II, soldiers returned home to America and settled back into the lives they had left behind. One effect of this was a huge growth in population called the **Baby Boom**. From the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s the birthrate quickly increased, reaching its high point in 1957, a year when over four million babies were born. The generation referred to as Baby Boomers is the largest generation in American history.

Another effect of the soldiers' return was a housing shortage. The veterans' new and growing families needed homes to live in. In response, housing developers such as William Levitt created methods of building houses faster, cheaper, and more efficiently.

These methods led to the creation of the first suburbs—communities outside of a city and mostly made up of single-family houses for people whose family members worked in the city. The first example of a suburb was on New York's Long Island, where William Levitt's **Levittown** was the first master-planned community in America.

Because the new suburbs were outside the limits of large cities, there was little public transportation available for the suburban residents. They needed cars and increased car ownership meant more roads were needed, so Congress passed the **Interstate Highway Act**, authorizing the construction of a national network of highways to connect every major city in America. In all, 41,000 miles of new expressways, or freeways, were built. It was a record-size public works project.

Connected the suburbs to the major cities. Think Austel-Atlanta

### Television Changes

The first regular television broadcasts began in 1949, providing just two hours a week of news and entertainment to a very small area on the East Coast. By 1956, over 500 stations were broadcasting all over America, bringing news and entertainment into the living rooms of most Americans.

In the 1960 national election campaign, the **Kennedy/ Nixon presidential debates** were the first ones ever shown on TV. Seventy million people tuned in. Although Nixon was more knowledgeable about foreign policy and other topics, Kennedy looked and spoke more forcefully because he had been coached by television producers. Kennedy's performance in the debate helped him win the presidency. The Kennedy/ Nixon debates changed the shape of American politics.

TV newscasts also changed the shape of American culture. Americans who might never have attended a civil rights demonstration saw and heard them on their TVs in the 1960s. In 1963, TV reporters showed helmeted police officers from Birmingham, Alabama, spraying African American children who had been walking in a protest march with high-pressure fire hoses, setting police dogs to attack them, and then clubbing them. **TV news coverage of the civil rights movement** helped many Americans turn their sympathies toward ending racial segregation and persuaded Kennedy that new laws were the only way to end the racial violence and give African Americans the civil rights they were demanding.

#### Review Suggestions

To prepare for questions on the period from **1945-1970**, you should use your textbook to review

- Baby Boom
- Levittown
- Interstate Highway Act
- Kennedy/ Nixon Presidential Debates
- TV News Coverage of Civil Rights Movement
- Personal Computer
- Cellular Telephone
- *Sputnik I*

### Technological Wonders

In addition to the television, other post-War advances in technology brought Americans closer together than ever before. Telephone lines covered the country, allowing people to stay in contact regardless of distance. By the 1970s, early versions of today's **personal**

**computers**, the Internet, and **cellular phones** gave a few Americans a glimpse of the technologies that someday would connect everyone to each other regardless of where they were and would become as common as typewriters and public phone booths were in the 1970s.

### ***Sputnik I and the Cold War***

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite—*Sputnik I*—a feat that caused many Americans to believe the United States had “fallen behind” the Soviet Union in terms of understanding science and the uses of technology. The success of the Soviet satellite launch led to increased U.S. government spending on education, especially in mathematics and science, and on national military defense programs. Additionally, *Sputnik I* increased Cold War tensions by heightening U.S. fears that the Soviet Union might use rockets to launch nuclear weapons against the United States and its allied nations.



### **Sample Question for This Standard**

**The presidential debates between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960 demonstrated**

- A** the effect of opening relations with China on public opinion
- B** the importance of radio to the outcome of the election process
- C** the impact of the Bay of Pigs Invasion on the candidates’ positions
- D** the power of television to shape public perceptions about candidates

Answer: **D** Standard: **SSUSH21b**

Relations between the United States and China did not improve until the efforts of President Richard Nixon in the early 1970s. The Bay of Pigs Invasion did not occur until 1961 during the term of President John F. Kennedy. Therefore, neither of these events could have affected the outcome of the 1960 presidential election. Though radio was certainly one important tool used by political candidates during this time, the first television broadcast of presidential debates in 1960 had the most powerful impact on public perceptions of the candidates. Therefore, choice **D** is the correct answer.

### ***\*Identify dimensions of the civil rights movement, 1945-1970\****

The movement in favor of civil rights for African Americans and other minority groups dates back to the earliest days of U.S. history. While this movement still continues today, great strides were taken in the 25 years following World War II. This standard requires you to demonstrate an understanding of how America again reformed itself, although not all Americans supported the changes.

## Racial Integration

African Americans fought bravely in World War II and also worked in war industries in the United States during the war. After the war, they once again faced the racial discrimination that had been traditional before the war, but many people took bold actions to end discrimination and promote integration. Review the following details of six major events in the recent history of the civil rights movement.

- 1947—**Jackie Robinson** was the first African American to play for a major league baseball team in the United States, the Brooklyn Dodgers. This led to the complete integration of baseball and other professional sports. Robinson was the National League’s most valuable player in 1949 and the first African American in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Until this time, African Americans played professional baseball with the Negro League.
- 1948—President **Harry Truman** issued an executive order to integrate the U.S. Armed Forces and end discrimination in the hiring of U.S. government employees. In turn, this led to the civil rights laws enacted in the 1960s.
- 1954—In the ***Brown v. Board of Education*** case, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that state laws establishing “separate but equal” public schools denied African American students the equal education promised in the 14th Amendment. The Court’s decision reversed prior rulings dating back to the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case in 1896. Many people were unhappy with this decision, and some even refused to follow it. The governor of Arkansas ordered the National Guard to keep nine African American students from attending Little Rock’s Central High School; President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock to force the high school to integrate.
- 1963—**Martin Luther King, Jr.** was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, while demonstrating against racial segregation. In jail he wrote his ***Letter from Birmingham Jail*** to address fears white religious leaders had that he was moving too fast toward desegregation. In his letter, King explained why victims of segregation, violent attacks, and murder found it difficult to wait for those injustices to end. Later the same year, King delivered his most famous speech, ***I Have a Dream***, to over 250,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. In this speech, King asked for peace and racial harmony.
- 1964—The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. This law prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, national

### Review Suggestions

To prepare for questions on period from **1945-1970**, you should use your textbook to review

- Jackie Robinson
- Harry Truman
- *Brown v. Board of Education*
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *Letter from Birmingham Jail*
- *I Have a Dream*
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act of 1965

origin, and gender. It allowed all citizens the right to enter any park, restroom, library, theater, and public building in the United States. One factor that prompted this law was the long struggle for civil rights undertaken by America's African American population. Another factor was King's famous *I Have a Dream* speech; its moving words helped create widespread support for this law. Other factors were news reports of presidential actions that combated civil rights violations, such as Truman's in 1948 and Eisenhower's in 1954, and Kennedy sending federal troops to Mississippi (1962) and Alabama (1963) to force the integration of public universities there.

- 1965—The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** outlawed the requirement for would-be voters in the United States to take literacy tests to register to vote because this requirement was judged as unfair to minorities. The act provided money to pay for programs to register voters in areas with large numbers of unregistered minorities, and it gave the Department of Justice the right to oversee the voting laws in certain districts that had used tactics such as literacy tests or poll taxes to limit voting.

### Sample Question for This Standard

Use this quotation to answer the question.

In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.

—Alabama Governor George Wallace, 1963

The quotation expresses resistance to which Supreme Court decision?

- A Roe v. Wade
- B Miranda v. Arizona
- C Brown v. Board of Education
- D University of California Regents v. Bakke

Answer: C Standard: SSUSH22c

In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court addressed the issue of abortion. *Miranda v. Arizona* dealt with the responsibility of police to inform an individual taken into custody of her or his rights. In *University of California Regents v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court addressed the issue of affirmative action in schools, but this case occurred more than a decade later than Wallace's statement. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. In the quotation, Wallace expresses

his resistance to the desegregation that resulted from the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Therefore, choice **C** is the correct answer.

**\*Describe and assess the impact of political developments between 1945 and 1970\***

This standard will measure your understanding of how, in the late 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, political actions and decisions resolved thorny issues that Americans had faced for many decades. Individual rights, civil rights, and social welfare were addressed by Americans, sometimes within the institutions of the U.S. government, and sometimes by private citizens.

### Individual Rights

During most of the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. Supreme Court was headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. The **Warren Court**, as it was known, became famous for issuing landmark decisions, such as declaring that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*, that the Constitution includes the right to privacy, that the right of free speech protects students who wear armbands as an anti-war protest on school grounds, and that all states must obey all decisions of the Supreme Court. In 1963, the Warren Court issued another of its landmark decisions, ***Miranda v. Arizona***. Police must inform suspects of their constitutional rights at the time of arrest. The case involved a man named Ernesto Miranda, who was convicted and imprisoned after signing a confession although, at the time of his arrest, the police questioned him without telling him he had the right to speak with an attorney and the right to stay silent. The *Miranda* decision strengthened Americans' individual rights.

### Murder in Dallas

The **assassination of President Kennedy** in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963 was a tragic event with a twofold political impact.

1. The assassination showed Americans just how strong their government was because, although the president could be killed, the U.S. government would live on.
2. The assassination gave the new president, **Lyndon Johnson**, the political capital to force his domestic legislative package through Congress. This included the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which launched Johnson's "War on Poverty," and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in American schools and other public places.

### Great Society

During a 1964 speech, President Johnson summed up his vision for America in the phrase the **Great Society**. His programs to make the United States a great society would give all Americans a better standard of living and greater opportunities regardless of their background. The **Medicare** program is an important legacy of the Great Society as are

policies and programs that sought to improve elementary and secondary education, protect the environment, and reform immigration policies.

## 1968

The year 1968 was one of social and political turmoil in the United States. Review this list of key events that shocked America and made 1968 a defining moment of the modern era:

- January—Vietcong fighters launched the **Tet Offensive** during the Vietnam War, attacking over 100 South Vietnamese towns, 12 American air bases, and the U.S. embassy in South Vietnam. Many Americans turned against the war and against the Johnson administration, which had claimed the enemy was near defeat.
- April—The **assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.** caused riots in over 100 cities across America, despite pleas for calm from such prominent leaders as Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was then running for president. One week after King's death, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968 that prevented discrimination in housing.
- June—The **assassination of Robert F. Kennedy**, following soon after King's assassination, disheartened many people who shared Kennedy's desires for social reform and opposition to the Vietnam War. He was running for President when killed on the same night he won the California and South Dakota presidential primaries.
- August—The **Democratic National Convention** in Chicago is remembered as a scene where police armed with clubs and tear gas violently beat antiwar protesters on live TV. Many Americans started wondering if the American form of government could tolerate dissent.

### Review Suggestions

To prepare for questions on the period from **1945-1970**, you should use your textbook to review

- Warren Court
- *Miranda v. Arizona*
- Assassination of President Kennedy
- Great Society
- Medicare
- Tet Offensive
- Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy
- 1968 Democratic National Convention



## Sample Question for This Standard

The primary goal of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society was to

- A increase military spending
- B expand the national highway system
- C eliminate poverty and racial prejudice
- D reduce taxes and the size of government

Answer: C Standard: SSUSH23c

President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" programs did not directly address military spending, tax reduction, the size of government, or the national highway system. The goals of the Great Society domestic programs of Johnson were to eliminate poverty and racial prejudice in the United States. Therefore, choice C is the correct answer.

***★ Analyze the impact of social change movements and organizations of the 1960s ★***

The 1960s were a decade of great social change. Many movements competed for Americans' attention, including groups advocating rights for African Americans, Latinos, farmworkers, and women. Another movement supported environmentalism. While these movements were sometimes described as liberal, a conservative movement also arose during the Sixties. This standard measures your knowledge of these movements.

### Civil Rights Movement

Two civil rights groups prominent in the struggle for African American rights in the Sixties were The **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** and the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)**. Review the following breakdown to see how SCLC and SNCC started as similar organizations but grew to differ over time, especially in SNCC's changing composition.



	<b>SCLC</b>	<b>SNCC</b>
<b>Founding</b>	Founded by Martin Luther King, Jr., and other ministers and Civil Rights leaders	Founded by African American college students with \$800 received from the SCLC
<b>Goal</b>	To carry on nonviolent crusades against the evils of second-class citizenship	To speed up changes mandated by <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>
<b>Original Tactics</b>	Marches, protests, and demonstrations throughout the South, using churches as bases	<b>Sit-ins</b> at segregated lunch counters all across the South; registering African Americans to vote, in hope they could influence Congress to pass voting rights act
<b>Later Tactics</b>	Registering African Americans to vote, in hope they could influence Congress to pass voting rights act	<b>Freedom Rides</b> on interstate buses to determine if southern states would enforce laws against segregation in public transportation
<b>Original Membership</b>	Average African American adults; white adults	African American and white college students; included whites at first, but later it became all-African American organization
<b>Later Membership</b>	Same as original membership	African Americans only; no whites
<b>Original Philosophy</b>	Nonviolence	Nonviolence
<b>Later Philosophy</b>	Same as original philosophy	Militancy and violence; “Black Power” and African-American pride

### Anti-Vietnam War Movement

Americans against the war in Vietnam became more vocal in their opposition. Many anti-war groups started on college campuses to urge the government to end selective service (the draft) and to bring home all American troops from Vietnam. They used many of the same tactics as groups fighting for civil rights, including sit-ins, marches, and demonstrations. Later, some protesters became more radical, burning their draft cards, going to prison rather than going to Vietnam, and even fleeing to Canada.

### Women’s Movement

The **National Organization of Women** was founded in 1966 to promote equal rights and opportunities for America’s women. NOW had its origins in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the early 1960s. In both of these, women felt sidelined by the men who led organizations like SNCC and anti-Vietnam War groups. NOW’s goals included equality in employment, political and social equality, and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

### United Farm Workers' Movement

Latinos also protested to gain civil rights in the 1960s. Their leader was **César Chávez**, an American of Mexican descent who grew up picking crops in California with his family. As founder of the United Farm Workers movement, Chávez believed in nonviolent methods to achieve his goals. In 1965, he started a nationwide boycott of California grapes, forcing grape growers to negotiate a contract with the United Farm Workers in 1970. This contract gave farm workers higher wages and other benefits for which they had been protesting through the Sixties.

### Environmental Movement

Protecting the environment became important to many Americans. ***Silent Spring***, a 1962 book about pesticides by **Rachel Carson**, exposed dangers to the environment. This book led to the Water Quality Act of 1965. The first **Earth Day** was celebrated in 1970, when almost every community across America and over 10,000 schools and 2,000 colleges organized events to raise awareness of environmental issues; Earth Day is still celebrated each year. Also in 1970, President Nixon created the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to set limits on pollution, conduct environmental research, and assist state and local governments clean up polluted sites.

### Conservative Movement

In 1964, the Republicans nominated Senator **Barry Goldwater** for president, which was a sign of the rising power of America's conservative movement. Goldwater believed the federal government should not try to fix social and economic problems such as poverty, discrimination, or lack of opportunity. His conservative proposals included selling the Tennessee Valley Authority, making Social Security voluntary, and getting more involved in Vietnam. Goldwater lost the election to President Johnson, who said more American involvement in Vietnam would not solve the problems there.

The conservative movement continued with the 1968 candidacy and election of Republican **Richard M. Nixon**. He wanted to replace President

Johnson's Great Society programs with what Nixon called the New Federalism. This conservative initiative would take away some federal government powers, such as social welfare, and give them to state and local governments.

### Review Suggestions

To prepare for questions on the period from **1945-1970**, you should use your textbook to review

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Sit-Ins
- Freedom Rides
- Anti-Vietnam War Movement
- Women's Movement
- National Organization of Women (NOW)
- United Farm Workers Movement
- César Chávez
- Environmental Movement
- *Silent Spring*
- Rachel Carson
- Earth Day
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Conservative Movement
- Barry Goldwater
- Richard M. Nixon

## Sample Question for This Standard

**In the 1960s, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) disagreed about**

- A the tactic of sit-ins
- B the public role of religion
- C the practice of nonviolence
- D the censorship of public debate

Answer: C      Standard: SSUSH24a

Both the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) used the tactic of sit-ins. Neither group objected to the role religion could play in achieving their goals. Both groups shared the belief in free and open public debate. Though both groups initially embraced the practice of nonviolent resistance in achieving their goals, many members of the SNCC began to consider the use of violence in self-defense as legitimate in later years. This became a significant disagreement between the two groups. Therefore, choice C is the correct answer.

### ✱ *Describe changes in national politics since 1968* ✱

From presidential scandals to Supreme Court decisions, and from international peace efforts to the outset of the war against terrorism, national politics have changed since 1968 in ways undreamt of in the early 1960s. This standard will measure your knowledge of the events in the most recent period in U.S. history.

#### Supreme Court Decisions

The Supreme Court ruled on many cases that would change the perception of civil liberties and civil rights in America. Two controversial cases with the greatest impact were *Roe v. Wade* and *Regents of University of California v. Bakke* (also known as the Bakke decision).

- *Roe v. Wade*—1973—Addressed the right of women to choose whether to have an abortion under certain circumstances. By expanding the constitutional right of privacy to include abortion, the Court extended civil liberties protections.
- *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*—1978—Ruled race can be used when considering applicants to colleges, but racial quotas cannot be used. The Court barred the use of quota systems in college admissions but expanded Americans' civil rights by giving constitutional protection to affirmative action programs that give equal access to minorities.



### President Nixon and President Ford Administrations

**Richard Nixon's** presidency was one of great successes and criminal scandals. **Nixon's visit to China** in 1971 was one of the successes. He visited to seek scientific, cultural, and trade agreements and to take advantage of a 10-year standoff between China and the Soviet Union. Nixon hoped to win the Chinese to his side in case he had future negotiations with the Soviets. Later, Nixon was part of the **Watergate scandal**, which centered on his administration's attempt to cover up a burglary of the offices of the Democratic Party in the Watergate apartment and office complex in Washington, D.C. The crime was committed by Nixon's reelection campaign team, who sought political information. Nixon won reelection in 1972, but his efforts to cover up the crime soon unraveled and, facing impeachment, he resigned in 1974. The scandal left Americans dismayed by Nixon's actions and cynical about politics in general. It also led to changes in campaign financing and to laws requiring high-level government officials to disclose their finances. Because Nixon and many of the people involved in Watergate were lawyers, the reputation of the legal profession suffered too.



Nixon was succeeded by his vice president, **Gerald Ford**, whose two-year presidency was damaged by his connection to Nixon. It was damaged again when he pardoned Nixon for any crimes he may have committed. One bright spot is that the Vietnam War ended during the Ford administration by following a path established by Nixon, but Ford's domestic policies failed to stop growing inflation and unemployment, and America experienced its worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

### Carter Administration



**Jimmy Carter's** presidency was strongly influenced by international issues. He tried to bring peace to the Middle East and, in the **Camp David Accords**, negotiated a peace agreement between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister at Camp David (a presidential retreat in Maryland) in 1978. This was the first time there had been a signed peace agreement between Middle Eastern nations. Although the agreement left many differences unresolved, it did solve urgent problems facing the two nations. In 1978, the **Iranian Revolution** replaced a shah (king) friendly to America with a Muslim religious leader unfriendly to America. When Carter let the shah enter the United States for medical treatment, angry Iranian revolutionaries invaded the U.S. embassy in Iran and took 52 Americans captive. The **Iranian Hostage Crisis** lasted 444 days, until the captives were released after the election of Ronald Reagan as president, and it nurtured anti-Americanism among Muslims around the world.

### Reagan Administration



Ronald Reagan was president for much of the 1980s. During that time, many important events helped shape American politics to this day. As a conservative, Reagan wanted to decrease the size and role of the federal government.

- **Reaganomics** was the nickname for Reagan's economic policy. It included budget cuts, tax cuts, and increased defense spending. By cutting social welfare budgets, his policy hurt lower-income Americans and, overall, Reaganomics led to a severe recession.

- The **Iran-Contra Scandal** was Reagan's biggest failure in international policy. Administration officials sold weapons to Iran—an enemy of the United States—and then violated more laws by using the profits from those arms sales to fund a rebellion in Nicaragua fought by rebels called the *Contras* (a Spanish nickname for “counter-revolutionaries”). Details of this scandal are still largely unknown to the public.
- The **collapse of the Soviet Union** was Reagan's biggest success in international policy. The Soviet Union's last leader set up policies allowing freedom of speech and of the press and other reforms putting the U.S.S.R. on a path to democratic government, but these reforms got out of the leader's control and eventually led to the breakup of the 15 states that were the Soviet Union. Five of those states now comprise Russia, and the other ten are independent countries.

### Clinton Administration

**Bill Clinton's** presidency included ratification of the **North American Free Trade Agreement**. NAFTA brought Mexico into a free-trade (tariff-free) zone already existing between the United States and Canada. Opponents believed NAFTA would send U.S. jobs to Mexico and harm the environment, while supporters believed it would open up the growing Mexican market to U.S. companies; these pros and cons are still argued today.

Clinton also became the second president in U.S. history to suffer **impeachment**. The House of Representatives charged him with perjury and obstruction of justice. The charges were based on accusations of improper use of money from a real estate deal and allegations he had lied under oath about an improper relationship with a White House intern. Clinton denied the charges and the Senate then acquitted him, allowing Clinton to remain in office and finish his second term.

### 2000 Presidential Election

The presidential election of 2000 saw Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, facing the Republican governor of Texas, George W. Bush, as well as consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who ran as a third-party candidate. Polls showed the race would be close, and it turned out to be one of the closest elections in American history. Gore won the national popular vote by over 500,000 of the 105 million votes cast, but when American voters cast ballots for president, the national popular vote has no legal significance. Rather, Americans are voting for members of the **Electoral College** representing each candidate. Each state is assigned “electors” in equal number to its total amount of U.S. representatives and senators. (Georgia had thirteen electors in 2000: eleven representatives and two senators). In the 2000 election, Bush won by receiving 271 votes in the Electoral College to Gore's 266.

**Bush Administration**

**George W. Bush's** presidency will always be remembered for al-Qaeda's attacks on September 11, 2001 (9/11). In response, and with overwhelming support of both Congress and the American people, he signed a law the next month to allow the U.S. government to hold foreign citizens suspected of being terrorists for up to seven days without charging them with a crime. This law also increased the ability of American law-enforcement agencies to search private communications and personal records. Then he created the Department of Homeland Security and charged it with protecting the United States from terrorist attacks and responding to natural disasters.

In October 2001, another of Bush's responses to the 9/11 terrorist attacks was his authorizing **Operation Enduring Freedom**, the invasion of Afghanistan by the U.S. military and allied forces. That country's Taliban government was harboring the al-Qaeda leadership. The allied forces quickly defeated the Taliban government and destroyed the al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan; however, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden escaped.

The invasion of Afghanistan was part of Bush's larger **war on terrorism** for which he built an international coalition to fight the al-Qaeda network and other terrorist groups. In March 2003, American and British troops invaded Iraq in **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, went into hiding while U.S. forces searched for the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that Bush feared Hussein had and could supply to terrorists for use against the United States. No WMD were found before Hussein was captured. He was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed in 2006.

**Review Suggestions**

To prepare for questions on the period **since 1968**, you should use your textbook to review

- *Roe v. Wade*
- *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*
- Richard Nixon
- Nixon's Visit to China
- Watergate Scandal
- Gerald Ford
- Jimmy Carter
- Camp David Accords
- Iranian Revolution
- Iranian Hostage Crisis
- Ronald Reagan
- Reaganomics
- Iran-Contra Scandal
- Collapse of Soviet Union
- Bill Clinton
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Impeachment of Bill Clinton
- Electoral College
- George W. Bush
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- War on Terrorism
- Operation Iraqi Freedom

### Sample Question for This Standard

**What was the primary purpose of the U.S. interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq during the early 2000s?**

- A** to expand global markets
- B** to negotiate a peace settlement
- C** to counter the threat of terrorism
- D** to contain the spread of communism

Answer: **C** Standard: **SSUSH25g**

Neither expanding global markets nor negotiating peace settlements were factors in the decision by the United States to intervene in Afghanistan and Iraq during the early 2000s. The Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Containing the spread of communism was no longer a primary focus of U.S. foreign policy. The United States was attacked by al-Qaeda terrorists on September 11, 2001. Immediately following the attacks, the United States intervened in Afghanistan to eliminate al-Qaeda's terrorist training camps. In 2003, the United States intervened in Iraq to prevent Saddam Hussein from providing al-Qaeda terrorists with weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, choice **C** is the correct answer.