

US History II Famous Presidential Domestic and Foreign Policy

Theodore Roosevelt (1901 – 1905)

Domestic

Square Deal – conservation of natural resources; control of corporations; consumer protection. Roosevelt doggedly used Sherman Antitrust Act to regulate large corporations. Railroad regulation -broke up the Northern Securities Company (railroad monopoly)

He made the case for what he called "**the New Nationalism**" in a campaign speech. The central issue he argued was government protection of human welfare and property rights but he also argued that human welfare was more important than property rights.

Foreign

Big Stick policy "speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far." This policy called for "the exercise of intelligent forethought and of decisive action sufficiently far in advance of any likely crisis." This policy was supported by a world-class navy.

Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine stated that the United States will act as an international police power in the Western Hemisphere and intervene to prevent intervention by other powers.

William Howard Taft (1909 – 1913)

Foreign

Dollar Diplomacy was a form of American foreign policy to minimize the use or threat of military force and instead further its aims in Latin America and East Asia through the use of its economic power guaranteeing loans made to foreign countries.

Woodrow Wilson (1913 – 1921)

Domestic

New Freedom – Wilson's political ideology: lower tariffs; lower prices; attack the "triple wall of privilege" (banks, the tariff, and the trusts)

Foreign

Wilsonianism – Wilson's foreign policy ideas: self-determination of peoples; spread of democracy; spread of capitalism; open diplomacy (not secret); collective security (i.e. League of Nations); freedom of navigation and freedom of the seas

Declared war on Germany in WWI for submarine attacks on merchant and passenger ships

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Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933 – 1945)

Domestic

First New Deal – a series of programs instituted during the Great Depression aimed to restore prosperity to Americans (i.e. CCC, WPA, and TVA)

Second New Deal - launched in 1935 to combat continuing depression; more aggressive measures; focus on social concerns (included WPA, Social Security Act, National Labor Relations Board)

Foreign

Good Neighbor Policy emphasized cooperation and trade rather than military force to maintain stability in the Western hemisphere (Central and South America)

Neutrality Acts – a way to stay out of WWII conflicts

Lend-Lease Act – a way to get involved in WWII without the commitment of troops

Declared war on Japan after Pearl Harbor attack

Harry S. Truman (1945 – 1953)

Domestic

Fair Deal – Truman's domestic reform policy: expanded social security, new wages-and-hours legislation, new public housing legislation, and prevention of racial or religious discrimination in hiring (*Congress paid little heed to Fair Deal proposals because of inflation and conversion of country to a peacetime economy*). In the end, it raised the minimum wage, promoted slum clearance, and extended old-age benefits to an additional 10,000,000 people.

Foreign

Truman Doctrine (formalized a doctrine of Soviet containment); created the CIA, National Security Council, and the Atomic Energy Commission

Used atomic bombs in Japan to end the Pacific region part of WWII.

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Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953 – 1961)

Domestic

Continued FDR's New Deal programs

Foreign

New Look Policy – This national security policy reflected a concern for balancing the Cold War military commitments of the US with the nation's financial resources.

Eisenhower Doctrine US can use force to counter aggression from any country controlled by an international aggressor. US can give aid too.

John F. Kennedy (1961 – 1963)

Domestic

New Frontier domestic policies had goal to eradicate poverty and to support the space program. He promised federal funding for education, medical care for the elderly, economic aid to rural regions, and government intervention to halt the recession. He promised to end racial discrimination.

Lyndon B. Johnson (1963 – 1969)

Domestic

Great Society policies: expand civil rights, public broadcasting, Medicare, Medicaid, aid to education and the arts

Richard Nixon (1969 – 1974)

Domestic

Nixon's "**New Federalism**" gave power back to states which was lost by FDR's *New Deal*. In his **revenue sharing program** the federal government shared revenue with the states.

Foreign

Period of Détente was the easing of tensions between Russia, China, and US. Nixon visited Russia and China.

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Vietnamization – called for a gradual withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam allowing South Vietnam to step up its control of the region.

Gerald Ford (1974 – 1977)

Domestic

WIN (whip inflation now) campaign urged people to reduce spending and consumption and wear “WIN” buttons (gimmick with no teeth)

Foreign

Continued Nixon’s détente policy towards Russia and China (visited China)

Jimmy Carter (1977 – 1981)

Foreign

Carter Doctrine – after Russian invasion of Afghanistan, stated that the US would use military force to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf (i.e. Soviets should stay away from the Persian Gulf)

Ronald Reagan (1981 – 1989)

Domestic

Reaganomics – supply-side economic policies advocated tax reduction, economic deregulation, and reduction in government spending. Advocated a laissez-faire philosophy

Over his two terms, reduced inflation from 12.5% to 4.4%

Cut taxes, increased spending on military, tripled deficit

Foreign

Reagan Doctrine – provided overt and covert aid to anti-communist resistance movements

George W. Bush (2001 – 2009)

Foreign

Bush Doctrine – In response to 9/11 terrorists attacks, Bush created a doctrine declaring that the US has the right to secure itself against countries that harbor or give aid to terrorist groups; included a strategy of preemptive strikes.