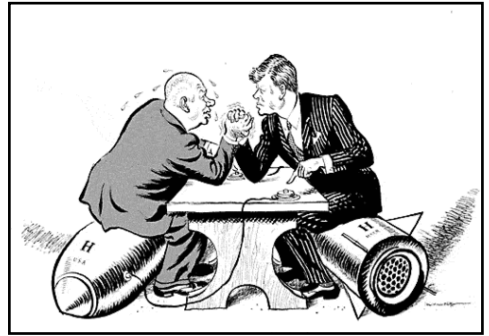


WADDESDON CE SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT



GCSE REVISION GUIDE

USA AND THE WIDER WORLD 1929-2000

Exam Format

1a) Outline the main features of the.... / Describe.... [5]

b) Explain why.... Changed... [7]

[In your answer, you should use the information in the sources and your own knowledge to show the extent of change and the reasons for this.]

Source A shows that... Another thing Source A shows is... However, Source B shows that... Source B also shows that... One reason from my own understanding why things had/had not changed for... was... Another reason was...

c) How successful was...? / Why was... important? / Why was... a turning point? [8]

One reason why... was successful/important/a turning point was... Another reason was... Also furthermore... On the other hand... Another reason why it may not be seen as successful/important/ a turning point was...

SECTION B QUESTION 4, 5 and 6 (YOU CHOOSE ONE question on either Race Relations or Wider World)

How far has... changed between 1930 and 2000? / What have been the most important factors in bringing about change in...? [12+3]

Race Relations:

In 1929... with the Depression... During World War 2... The Civil Rights Movement... Progress after 1970... Overall...

Foreign Policy:

In the 1930s... with the Depression... After Pearl Harbor... During the Cold War... There was a period of Détente... By the end of the twentieth century... Overall...

Revision Tips

- Keep your revision active – mind maps, index cards, tests, timelines, sort cards...
- Take regular breaks to keep your concentration to an optimum.
- Revisit previous topics you have revised regularly to put the information in your long term memory. If you revise a topic, you will forget 80% of it in the next 24 hours if you don't revisit it!
- Use this revision guide as a starting point! Then go to your notes for more detail. Practise answering the questions at the end of each section to reinforce and test what you have learned.
- See your History teacher if you need help!

DO YOUR BEST! GOOD LUCK!

US Foreign Policy 1929 to 1945: From Isolation to War

Why did the USA shift from Isolationism to War between 1929 and 1941?

- After WWI, the US government adopted a policy of **isolationism**
- Isolationism means a refusal to become involved in world affairs and international disputes, concentrating instead on internal domestic matters
- To show their isolationism the USA even refused to become involved in the League of Nations, an organisation set up in 1919 to keep peace in the world
- After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the US government felt more determined to concentrate on problems at home such as the terrible unemployment rather than foreign affairs
- The rise of Mussolini and Hitler in Europe and the expansion of the Japanese empire in the Pacific troubled the American government
- Gradually, it became clear that the USA could not isolate itself from the world
- After 1939, US President Roosevelt started to support Britain in WWII with such measures as the Cash and Carry Act and the Lend-Lease scheme
- It was Japanese aggression in the Far East and Pacific that really shook the USA out of its isolation though
- In 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the US naval fleet, **Pearl Harbor** in Hawaii in the Pacific
- The Japanese, realising that the USA was moving closer to war, intended to wipe out the US navy before this happened with the attack
- Immediately, Roosevelt declared war on Japan and her policy of isolation was at an end
- Hitler declared war on America several days later and so America became involved in the European war as well as the war in the Pacific

What was the USA's contribution to WWII?

- America's contribution to **WWII** was vast and involved men, money and resources
- The USA fought in every theatre of war and kept her allies, Britain and Russia, supplied with arms
- America fought on the seas, in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea, on land in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and the Far East as well as in the air over Europe and Japan
- D-Day, which was launched in June 1944, was the Western Allies' invasion of France to push the Germans back to the Fatherland and was led by the Americans
- After VE Day, the USA had to turn its attention to defeating the Japanese which was not going to be an easy task given the Japanese unwillingness to surrender
- Using conventional forces and tactics (like those used in D-Day) the Americans defeated the Japanese forces at Iwo Jima but sustained huge casualties in the process
- To defeat the Japanese they had to hop from island to island in the Pacific and fight to the death
- To minimise US casualties another solution had to be found to defeat Japan: the **atomic bomb**
- Truman, the new US President, made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan in August 1945; the first city to be hit on 6 August was Hiroshima, followed by Nagasaki on 9 August
- The Japanese government surrendered and the USA had won but at a terrible cost

GSCE History WIDER WORLD Model Answers and then Write Your Own!

1a) Describe what happened at Pearl Harbor in 1941. [5]

Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was where America's naval fleet was based at the beginning of the Second World War. Due to worsening relations with Japan and an embargo, the Japanese bombed the American navy at Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, without warning, killing and wounding nearly 4000 US citizens and causing considerable damage to the US fleet. This event brought the USA out of isolationism and into the Second World War on the side of the Allies.



What makes this answer 5/5? Tick 5 details the student uses to show off their knowledge!

Now have a go at writing your own answer. Once done, tick your five details!

2a) Describe the contributions that the USA made to help win World War II. [5]

3a) Describe the war in the Pacific. [5] What five points would you make?

-
-
-
-
-

What makes this 7/7?

Look at these two sources about American foreign policy in the 1930s and 1940s and answer the question that follows.

Source B



[A cartoon showing the view of many Americans towards foreign policy in the 1930s]

Source C

The Truman Doctrine of 1947 was the first time in the history of the USA that the government made a peacetime promise to involve herself directly in the affairs of other countries.

[From a school textbook]

b) Use sources B and C and your own knowledge to explain why American foreign policy had changed up to the late 1940s. [7]

Source B shows the isolationist policy adopted after the First World War and the USA's reluctance to become involved in other countries' problems. However, this changed after Pearl Harbor in 1941, when the USA joined World War II and made a huge contribution to Allied victory, helping with armaments and fighting, for example, in North Africa and with the D-Day landings in 1944. Source C shows change as it highlights the end of isolationism with the announcement of the Truman Doctrine in 1947. With the beginning of the Cold War, the USA was now promising to actively intervene to help countries under threat from communism. This started the USA's policy of containment and was accompanied by Marshall Aid. The Truman Doctrine marked a turning point in US foreign policy – the move from isolationism to interventionism.

US Foreign Policy 1945-65: The Cold War

What were the origins of the Cold War?

- America and the USSR had been allies during WWII but old suspicions re-surfaced between the two countries in the closing stages of the war
- The meeting of the Big Three (Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin) at Yalta was friendly enough but tensions arose at Potsdam over the future of Eastern Europe and suspicion over America's new secret weapon – the atomic bomb
- After WWII Europe became divided and an 'iron curtain' descended across the continent; countries like East Germany, Poland and Hungary became communist states and were heavily influenced by the USSR

What was the Cold War?

- The two superpowers after WWII, the USA and USSR, never actually came to blows in the Cold War, at least not directly
- Both tried to impose their ideologies – capitalism and communism – on other nations and gain superiority by the use of propaganda, spying and the building up of vast stores of weapons
- The main Cold War 'battlegrounds' included Berlin, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam and Afghanistan

What was the Truman Doctrine and Containment?

- In March 1947, Truman published the Truman Doctrine which was a promise to help any government that was being threatened either from within or from outside its own borders
- Although Truman did not mention the USSR specifically, his meaning was obvious – he was not going to allow the USSR to take over any more countries in Europe
- To back this up, the US government launched Marshall Aid – a financial plan to help rebuild Europe and so tempt countries away from communism
- Eventually \$13.75 billion was given in the form of Marshall Aid to the countries of Europe
- All this can be summed up in one term – the US policy of Containment – an attempt by the US to contain or block the spread of communism in the world
- This Policy of Containment was to be tested in the years ahead, beginning with the Berlin Blockade and Airlift

What was the Berlin Blockade and Airlift?

- After 1945, Berlin, deep within communist East Germany, was divided between the Allies – a communist East, dominated by the USSR and a capitalist West, dominated by the USA
- Stalin saw West Berlin as a capitalist island in a sea of communism and wanted the Allies out
- In 1948, Stalin ordered all road and rail traffic to be stopped between West Germany and West Berlin
- The USA (and Britain) were not prepared to abandon the people of West Berlin to communism and so decided to airlift supplies into their zones
- This was an important stand by the USA and showed their determination to contain the spread of communism
- From June 1948 to May 1949, everything that West Berlin needed was brought in by air; planes flew around the clock, one landing every 90 seconds

- In May 1949, Stalin gave in and allowed road and rail links to open once again
- Soon after this NATO was formed (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) – a military alliance of western European countries headed by the USA against the USSR
- The Soviet equivalent of this military alliance became known as the Warsaw Pact and involved the communist countries of Eastern Europe

What was the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- Cuba had become communist when Fidel Castro took power in 1959
- In response, the USA cut all trade links with the island and backed a plot to invade the island by a group of Cuban exiles in 1961
- This was called the Bay of Pigs invasion and was a complete disaster – all the Cuban exiles were either killed and captured
- Castro then turned to the USSR for financial and military support
- Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, began to build missile sites on the island, which would have been capable of hitting almost every major city in the USA
- In 1962, an American U2 spy plane on a flight over Cuba took photographs which showed what the USSR was planning
- JFK brought together an emergency committee to decide what to do including his brother Robert
- The majority of the committee advised military action but JFK and his brother decided to impose a blockade on the island to prevent any further build-up of arms
- The world held its breath – this was the closest matters ever came to nuclear war in the Cold War era
- Khrushchev ordered the ships to turn round at the eleventh hour after a deal had been struck between the two superpowers
- The USSR agreed to remove the missile sites on the condition that the USA agreed not to invade Cuba and, in a secret part of the deal, the USA also agreed to remove its missile sites from Turkey

What were the effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- The two superpowers realised how close the world had come to nuclear war and worked to prevent this from happening again
- A Hot-Line was set up between the Kremlin and the White House to speed up communications in the event of another crisis
- In 1963 a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed between the two superpowers which stopped nuclear tests above ground
- This period of better relations between the USA and the USSR came to be known as détente – a lessening of tension in the Cold War

Test your knowledge!

Why did the Cold War begin?

What was the Cold War?

What was the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Aid? How do they link to the Domino Theory?

Why did the Berlin Airlift happen? When was it?

What happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis? What were the consequences?

EXAM PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

a) Describe what happened during the Berlin Airlift. [5]

Tick your five details!

The Berlin Airlift was one of the first Cold War flashpoints between the USSR and the USA. It started in 1948 when Stalin blockaded all road and rail links into the western zone of Berlin. He hoped that the USA would have to withdraw from Berlin and the USA's policy of containment would fail. However, the West responded by airlifting in over 2 million tonnes of supplies into the city to ensure people's survival. After almost a year of this, Stalin was forced to give in and lifted the blockade. This was a Cold War victory for the West and NATO was set up soon after in 1949.

a) Describe the Cuban Missile Crisis. [5]

Now have a go! Once done, check the previous page for any extra details!

a) Describe the Truman Doctrine. [5] What five details would you use?

-
-
-
-
-

Source B



[A photograph of American and Russian soldiers greeting each other in Germany in May 1945]

Source C

By the mid 1950s the USA and the USSR had no chance of working together. Both sides distrusted each other. Both sides had become bitter enemies.

[From a school textbook]

b) Use B and C and your O.K. to explain why relations between the superpowers changed in the 1950s. [7]

Source B shows...

It also shows...

However, Source C shows...

It also shows...

One reason for this change was...

Another reason for the change was...

Compare this model answer to yours on the previous page! What would you add to yours?

Source B shows that at the end of the Second World War America and Russia were allies and that they had co-operated to defeat Hitler's Germany. Source C shows change in that by the mid-1950s the USA had 'no chance of working together' and that they had 'become bitter enemies'. From my understanding, the reason for the change in relationship was that the two sides no longer had a common enemy in Hitler and their differences in point of view became apparent. The US believed that capitalism was the only way to maintain freedom and democracy, whereas the USSR believed that communism was the only way. This began the Cold War, by the mid-1950s the 'iron curtain' across Europe established a divide between the communist East and the capitalist West, the two had become a super-power rivalry, whereby each were trying to limit the influence of the other.

c) Why was the Truman Doctrine of 1947 a turning point in US foreign policy? [8]

Add punctuation to this model answer!

the truman doctrine of 1947 was a turning point in US foreign policy for a number of reasons up until the truman doctrine, the usa had desperately tried to keep out of world affairs after the cost of world war one, a policy called isolationism the USA only reluctantly broke this policy after the attack on pearl harbor when she then had no choice but to get involved in the second world war when harry truman announced the truman doctrine in 1947, he actually promised that america would actively be involved in world affairs in the future, helping any country threatened by communism this was backed up by the announcement of marshall aid this was a turning point because for the first time the USA was being pro-active and open about wanting to help other countries in the context of the cold war

c)Why was the Second World War a turning point in US foreign policy? [8]

Now have a go!

One reason why the Second World War was a turning point in US foreign policy was...

Another reason why...

A final reason why...

US Foreign Policy 1965-1979: The Limits of Containment and Détente

Why did the USA go to war in Vietnam in 1965?

- In spite of this period of détente, the USA continued its policy of Containment around the world and this can be seen in Vietnam
- Communist North Vietnam threatened pro-USA South Vietnam after 1954 with attacks from the Vietcong, a communist guerrilla organisation
- Typical of the Cold War period, the USSR became indirectly involved by supplying arms and money to communist North Vietnam
- As part of the Truman Doctrine, the USA became involved to defend South Vietnam from communist takeover, just as they had done for South Korea between 1950 and 1953
- In 1965, US ground forces arrived in South Vietnam and fought against an often invisible enemy until their eventual withdrawal in 1973

What were the effects of the Vietnam War on US foreign policy?

- Defeat in Vietnam showed the USA that there were limits to its policy of Containment
- Another approach other than war had to be pursued in the Cold War
- A new period of détente followed under President Nixon

Why did President Nixon try to negotiate with China and the USSR in the 1970s?

- Nixon had to find a way to end the war in Vietnam and the support of both the USSR and China was vital
- Military spending in the war in Vietnam and on nuclear weapons was astronomical and cuts had to be made
- The USA realised that playing off China with the USSR could drive a wedge between the two powers thereby lessening the threat of the communist bloc
- China was eager to open up trade with the USA and the USSR also wanted to lessen military spending

What were the effects of Nixon's negotiations?

- Trade agreements were made with both the USSR and China
- There was a greater divide between the USSR and China
- **SALT I** – the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty - came into effect between the USA and the USSR in 1972 which was a five year ban on the building of any nuclear missiles
- The USA and the USSR co-operated in the signing of the **Helsinki Agreement** on Human Rights
- SALT II talks started in 1974 and co-operation continued until 1979

Why did détente end in 1979 and a 'second' Cold War begin?

- In 1979 the USSR invaded **Afghanistan** in an attempt to prop up the failing communist government there
- Relations between the USA and the USSR deteriorated rapidly
- The USA banned grain exports to the USSR, refused to ratify SALT II and boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games

EXAM PRACTICE: Test your knowledge!

Why did the USA get involved in Vietnam?

What was the outcome?

Give three examples of how relations with China improved?

Why did Nixon want relations to improve?

What was détente?

What broke détente?

Apply your knowledge!

a) Describe détente. [5]

Tick your five details! Add from the previous page if you need to!

What makes the answer below 8/8?

c) Why was the loss of the Vietnam War a turning point in US foreign policy? [8]

The loss of the Vietnam War was a turning point in US foreign policy for a number of reasons. First, up until the Vietnam War, the USA was successfully following the policy of containment. This meant that she was trying to prevent the spread of communism to other countries during the Cold War, for example, in Berlin, Korea and Cuba and she had been quite successful in this. However, containment failed in Vietnam as, despite best US efforts, South Vietnam fell to communism so this first failure was a turning point with relation to the USA's past successes. Second, having been actively involved in world affairs up until this loss, the USA was now much more reluctant to become involved in world affairs. The USA had been humiliated and her role as the world's policeman had been undermined. Finally, defeat in Vietnam was also a turning point because it began a period of better relations with China and the USSR, a period of détente, where Nixon actually visited and allowed trade with both countries which before Vietnam would have been unheard of.

US Foreign Policy 1979-91: Reagan, Gorbachev and the end of the Cold War

Why did President Reagan launch a 'second' Cold War and how did he help bring about the collapse of communism?

- Reagan, who became President in 1981, made no secret of his hatred of the USSR – he even called it the 'Evil Empire'
- He was unwilling to budge from his tough position in any negotiations
- In 1982 Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) began but quickly became deadlocked
- Soon after, Reagan launched SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative) or Star Wars – a plan to destroy missiles in space using lasers
- Reagan planned to outspend the ailing USSR in Star Wars and push the country to bankruptcy

Why did the Cold War come to and end in 1991?

- Gorbachev's policies of Perestroika (economic restructuring) and Glasnost (openness) encouraged capitalist ideas and greater freedoms in Russia and this weakened the grip of communism
- The USSR was pushed to bankruptcy as they tried to keep up with the USA's military spending
- A series of old, weak leaders in the USSR (with the exception of Gorbachev) set back the development of the country
- Eastern bloc countries (e.g. Poland in 1989) that had feared the USSR in the past began to reject communism and the USSR was too weak to do anything about it
- Inside the USSR, the people were increasingly dissatisfied with communism – it had failed to deliver in terms of living standards and encouraged laziness
- In 1989 Gorbachev met George Bush, the new US President, and declared that the Cold War was over
- In 1991 the communist system itself collapsed in the USSR and the country broke apart

How did events in the Middle East open a new area of American foreign policy?

- The Islamic Revolution in 1979 marked an end to the good relations that had existed between the US and Iran
- The Islamic fundamentalist leader of **Iran**, Ayatollah Homeni, preached hatred of the USA
- In 1980 a group of fanatical Muslim students invaded the US embassy in Tehran and held the American staff hostage for 444 days
- To weaken Iran's influence in the region, the USA secretly backed Saddam Hussein in the **Iran-Iraq** War between 1980 and 1989
- The CIA equipped Saddam Hussein with weapons and intelligence
- The US government hoped that both countries would be weakened in the Iran-Iraq War
- Saddam Hussein went on to invade Kuwait in 1991 having become a powerful and dangerous force in the region
- The USA led a UN-backed coalition force against Iraq in the **First Gulf War** to push Iraq out of Kuwait
- Operation Desert Storm was a successful military operation led by the Americans – Saddam Hussein was pushed out of Kuwait and UN sanctions were put in place.

EXAM PRACTICE: What five key details would you use?

Describe how Reagan launched a second Cold War. [5]

Describe the end of the Cold War. [5]

Describe the USA's involvement in Iran from the 1970s. [5]

Describe the USA's involvement in Iraq in the 1980s. [5]

US FOREIGN POLICY TIMELINE 1929-2000

Up to 1929:

1929:

1939:

1941:

1944:

1945:

1947:

1948:

1950:

1960:

1965:

1972:

1975:

1979:

1981:

1991:

Now add in the key events – Isolationism, WW2, Cold War, Détente, Middle East.

[12+3] MARK QUESTIONS – WIDER WORLD

- 1) Was the USA's influence in world affairs always one of powerful leadership throughout the period 1929-2000? (12+3)

In your answer, you may wish to consider:

*The policy of isolationism
The Second World War
The Cold War
The situation by 2000 and any other factors*

**WHAT MAKES THIS
AN EXCELLENT
ANSWER?**

America's influence was not always one of powerful leadership during this period. Instead, it changed as time went on.

At the start of the period the USA did not really show powerful leadership as she wanted to stay in isolationism which meant not getting involved in other countries affairs. She did not want to lose any more soldiers and she wanted to concentrate on building up her own economy after the Depression. The Neutrality Acts were signed to keep the USA out of World War II to begin with.

The big turning point was Pearl Harbour and World War II when the USA showed powerful leadership. After Pearl Harbour – where the American fleet was destroyed – everything changed. The USA sent thousands of soldiers to Europe and helped in the D-Day landings. They also ended the war in Japan by dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Without America, Hitler might have won WW2 which demonstrated how powerful her leadership was.

America also showed powerful leadership during the Cold War, when it was trying to contain communism. This meant trying to stop communism from spreading as promised in the Truman Doctrine. First, they sent lots of money to Europe under the Marshall Plan to stop countries going communist. Also, they dropped food into Berlin during the Berlin Airlift in 1948-9, forcing Stalin to end the blockade. President Kennedy also showed powerful leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 by threatening to attack the USSR if it didn't remove weapons from Cuba.

However, the USA did not show powerful leadership in the Vietnam War. Over 200,000 US troops died in Vietnam and the war was a total disaster. In the end, the whole of Vietnam became communist, so that ended the policy of containment. This was not powerful leadership but a total embarrassment and led to a period of détente where American leaders tried to improve relations with the USSR. In the end though, President Reagan showed powerful leadership by spending money on Star Wars which was one of the reasons why communism collapsed.

Finally, America showed some powerful leadership in the Middle East in helping to win the Gulf War and forcing Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait in the early 1990s. However, Carter was unable to resolve the hostage crisis with Iran and did it not end until Reagan became president showing it was not always possible to be a powerful leader.

Overall, America did show powerful leadership, but not for the whole period.

Was American foreign policy always successful throughout the period 1929-2000?

[12+3]

In your answer you may wish to consider:

The policy of isolationism

The Second World War

The Cold War

The situation by 2000 and any other relevant factors

**WRITE IN THE
EXAMPLES YOU WOULD
USE IN EACH
PARAGRAPH**

American foreign policy was successful at times throughout the period 1929 to 2000, although she was not always successful.

Between 1929 and 1941, the USA successfully followed a policy of isolationism...

However, in 1941 the USA's policy of isolationism failed and the USA was forced into World War II. However, the USA was very successful in World War II...

After World War II, the USA's Cold War policy of containment was successful to begin with...

However, as the Cold War wore on this changed and the USA was also unsuccessful, most notably with her defeat in the Vietnam War...

More success at improving relations with the USSR came with the USA's policy of Cold War détente... Nixon... Reagan...

The USA's involvement in the Middle East was of mixed success. In Iran,... In the Gulf War...

Overall, ...

How did America contribute to international developments between 1929 and 1990?
(12+3)

In your answer you may wish to consider:

The policy of isolationism
World War II
The Cold War
The situation by 2000 and any other

**WRITE IN THE
PARAGRAPH STARTERS
USING THE WORD OF
THE QUESTION**

At the beginning of the period America was trying not to contribute to international developments but had changed considerably by 2000.

1)

- Did not want to lose more soldiers
- Wanted to concentrate on own economy after Depression

2)

- Pearl Harbor brought USA into World War II
- Contributed to fighting in North Africa, Pacific and D-Day landings in Europe
- Contributed armaments e.g. tanks, planes, guns etc.
- Contributed Atomic bombs which defeated Japan

3)

- Berlin Airlift 1948-9
- Cuba 1962
- Vietnam 1965-74

4)

- Détente with USSR and China
- Nixon visited both in 1972 and began trade
- Reagan met with Gorbachev and signed INF in 1987 and helped to end the Cold War

5)

- Involved in Iran after the revolution and with the hostage crisis
- Involved in forcing Saddam Hussein out Kuwait during the Gulf War.

Overall, the USA began the period trying not to contribute to international developments but this soon changed as the USA emerged from World War II as a superpower who could no longer keep out of world affairs.