Likely topics:

- **1950s: politics, economics, society, culture** (strong possibility)
  - The "Affluent Society"
  - "Red Scare"/McCarthyism
  - Eisenhower's "dynamic conservatism"
  - Cult of Domesticity
  - Civil Rights
  - Emerging youth culture
  - Television
  - To what extent was there cultural consensus or conformity in the 1950s?

- **Impact of World War II on US society during the war and after the war**
  - Note: aside from 1930s neutrality questions, there have been no direct WWII questions since the 1980s (and these were done obliquely).

- **From Isolationism to Globalism**
  - Isolationism in the 1920s and 1930s
  - Roosevelt’s internationalist tendencies and U.S. entry into WWII
  - Post-war international structure: United Nations, IMF, World Bank
  - Cold War (U.S. is committed to containment of communism)

- **Cold War: 1945-1970; could focus on a specific decade or perhaps "roots" of the Cold War**
  - Truman's Cold War policies?
  - Eisenhower's policies?
  - Kennedy's policies?
  - Vietnam War?
  - To what extent was the U.S. successful in containing communism?
  - How did the Cold War affect America at home?

- **Unionism: 1920-1970**

- **New Frontier and the Great Society**

Other DBQ Topics:

- 1920s society (1986 DBQ and 1999 FRQ)
- 1920s conservative politics
- Great Depression and New Deal (DBQ on Hoover vs. Roosevelt)
- Isolationism and neutrality in the 1920s and 1930s (1998 FRQ)
- Atomic bomb (1988 DBQ)
- 1960s: (1995 DBQ covered this period and 2000 FRQ hit 1960s head on)
• “Americanism”: White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) values
  o “Red Scare”: 1919-1920 – Palmer Raids against Russians and suspected communists
    ▪ Strong anti-union sentiment
  o Anti-immigration/anti-foreignism
    ▪ Immigration Act of 1921: Reduces E. European immigration
    ▪ National Origins Act of 1924: Significantly reduces E. European immigration; bans Asians
    ▪ Sacco and Vanzetti
    ▪ KKK
  o Anti-modernism
    ▪ Creationism vs. evolution (Scopes Trial)
    ▪ Popular evangelism: Billy Sunday, Aimee Semple McPherson
  o Prohibition (anti-wet)
• “Roaring 20s” Economic Boom
  o Business seen almost like a religion (Bruce Barton: *The Man Nobody Knows*)
  o Henry Ford: assembly line (adopts ideas of Fredrick W. Taylor)
  o Buying on credit
  o Chain stores
  o New industries: movies, radio, automobile, airplane, synthetics, electric appliances, sports
  o White collar jobs: sales, advertising, management
  o “Welfare Capitalism”: If businesses take better care of their workers, unions will no longer be necessary
• Women’s issues and the sexual revolution
  o 19th Amendment
  o Alice Paul, Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
  o Sigmund Freud
  o Margaret Sanger: birth control
  o Flappers
  o Women in speakeasies
  o Increase of women in workplace
  o Liberalized divorce laws for women
• Culture
  o The “Jazz Age”: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington
  o Harlem Renaissance: Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Marcus Garvey
  o “Lost Generation”: criticized materialism of 1920s – F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, H. L., Mencken, Sinclair Lewis, William Faulkner, Gertrude Stein
  o Icons: Charles Lindbergh, Babe Ruth
• Conservative politics under Harding, Coolidge and Hoover: 1920-1932
• Harding’s conservative agenda (continued by Coolidge)
  ▪ Belief that purpose of gov’t is to make business more profitable
  ▪ Conservative “Old Guard” idea of laissez faire
  ▪ Tax cuts for wealthy, “trickle down” theory (Andrew Mellon)
  ▪ Anti-trust laws not enforced
  ▪ Prominent businessmen occupy top cabinet positions
  ▪ Federal gov’t not responsible for helping ordinary citizens (state and local gov’t responsibility)
  ▪ Rejected programs to help farmers
  ▪ Rejected public control of electricity (Muscle Shoals)
  ▪ Exception: Hoover was a progressive; head of Dept. of Commerce

• Harding scandals: Teapot Dome, etc.

• The Great Depression
  ▪ Long-term causes
    ▪ Weak industries: farming, railroads, cotton
    ▪ Overproduction/underconsumption
    ▪ Unstable banking system
    ▪ Uneven distribution of income
    ▪ Weak international economy: high tariffs, debt problems from WWI
  ▪ Short-term cause: Stock Market Crash of 1929 (?)
  ▪ Results
    ▪ 25% unemployment (33% including farmers); as high as 50% in Chicago
      • Blacks, blue collar workers most affected
      • “Hoovervilles”, hoboes, families broke up; marriages were delayed
    ▪ 25% of banks failed
    ▪ Thousands of businesses failed
    ▪ 25% of farms went under
      • “Dust Bowl” esp. in Oklahoma and Arkansas
  ▪ Hoover’s response
    ▪ Agriculture Marketing Act
    ▪ Volunteerism and charity
    ▪ Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)
    ▪ Moratorium on international debts

• New Deal
  ▪ Franklin Roosevelt and the “brain trust” (incl. Eleanor Roosevelt)
  ▪ New Democratic coalition: working class, blacks, intellectuals
  ▪ End to prohibition
  ▪ First New Deal (1933-35): more aimed at relief and recovery
  ▪ Second New Deal (1935-38): aimed at reform
  ▪ Relief: FERA, CCC, PWA, WPA, NYA
  ▪ Recovery: NRA, AAA, Emergency Banking Relief Act; end of Gold Standard

Challenges to New Deal
- American Liberty League (conservatives)
- Father Charles Coughlin
- Huey Long (socialist ideas; “Share Our Wealth”)
- Dr. Francis Townsend (old age pension plan)
- *Schechter vs. U.S.* (kills NRA)
- *Butler vs. U.S.* (kills AAA)
- Roosevelt “court packing” scheme

Recession of 1937-38: results in permanent Keynesian deficit spending

End of New Deal: larger numbers of Republicans in Congress + conservative southern Democrats oppose any more New Deal Programs

New Deal evaluated
- WWII ended the depression: 16% unemployment was the best New Deal did
- New Deal reforms significantly increased the role of the federal gov’t in the economy and in society

### Road to War: From isolationism to internationalism (1920-1941)

Isolationism after World War I
- Americans seek “normalcy” under Harding
- Refuse to sign Versailles Treaty and join the League of Nations
- U.S. signs “paper agreements” that look good in theory but do little to ensure peace
  - Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928
- Economic isolationism
  - Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922
  - Great Depression: Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930
  - Refuse to forgive European debts (although Dawes Plan does help until 1929)
  - FDR kills London Economic Conference, 1933

Political isolationism in 1930s
- Hoover-Stimson Doctrine: Does not recognize Japanese conquest of Manchuria
- Nye Committee, 1934
Meanwhile: Italy invades Ethiopia, Spanish Civil War, Germany remilitarizes
  • Americans react negatively to FDRs “Quarantine Speech” of 1937
  • Americans want U.S. out of China after Panay incident
  • U.S. remains neutral after Germany invades Poland in Sept. 1939
  • America First Committee (incl. Charles Lindbergh) urges U.S. neutrality

End of Neutrality
  • 1939 Neutrality Act: Democracies can buy weapons from U.S. on “cash and carry” basis
  • Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies
  • 1940 (Sept.), Destroyer-Bases Deal
  • “Arsenal of Democracy Speech,” Dec. 1940: U.S. should be “great warehouse” of democracy
  • Four Freedoms Speech: FDR convinces Congress to support Lend Lease, Jan. 1941
  • Lend Lease results in an “unofficial” economic declaration of war against Axis Powers, April 1941
  • Atlantic Charter (in response to German invasion of USSR), Aug. 1941
  • Official neutrality ends when Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

Impact of World War II on US society

During WWII
  • Ends the Great Depression (New Deal still had 16% unemployment, even in best of times)
  • Massive mobilization: Selective Service System, OWM, OPA
  • Women join the Armed Forces (WACs, WAVES, WAFs) and industry (“Rosie the Riveter”)
  • African Americans: A. Philip Randolph, March on Washington Movement, FEPC
  • Mexican immigration through Bracero Program
  • Japanese Internment
  • Race riots against blacks in northern cities; Zoot Suit Riots in L.A.
  • Union issues: War Labor Board; John L. Lewis; Smith-Connolly Act
  • Movement from the Northeast into the Sunbelt (South and Southwest)
  • 405,000 Americans dead; minimal damage to American property (unlike devastated Europe & Japan)

After WWII
  • U.S. produces ½ of world’s goods; leads to the “Affluent Society”; G.I. Bill of Rights
  • U.S. emerges as leader of the free world and as the world’s only atomic power (until 1949)
  • International financial structure: United Nations, IMF, World Bank
  • Smith Act of 1940 (leads to persecution of communists after the war)
• Union strikes in 1946 leads to Taft-Hartley Act of 1947

**1945-1960: Politics, Economics, Society**

**Truman’s Domestic Policy**
- Unable to advance further New Deal programs due to conservative coalition in Congress (Republicans and Southern Democrats)
- Civil Rights
  - *To Secure These Rights*
  - Desegregation of Armed Forces, 1947
- Election of 1948: Truman (D), Thomas Dewey (R), Strom Thurmond (“Dixiecrats”), Henry Wallace (Progressive)
  - The “Fair Deal”
  - The “Vital Center”

**Eisenhower’s "dynamic conservatism"**
- Maintains (but doesn’t expand) New Deal programs: Department of Health and Welfare
- National Highway Act; St. Lawrence Waterway
- Seeks to balance the budget
  - “New Look” military – emphasis on nuclear forces; “more bang for your buck”
- Federal gov’t should not get involved in social issues; states should be responsible

**African American Civil Rights – 1950s**
- A. Philip Randolph during WWII: March on Washington Movement, FEPC
  - Truman: *To Secure These Rights*, desegregation of Armed Forces
  - Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1956
  - Martin Luther King, Jr., Southern Christian Leadership Council
  - Crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1957
  - Greensboro sit-in, 1960

**African American Civil Rights – 1960s**
- Freedom Riders
- James Meredith, Ole’ Miss
- Birmingham march, 1963
- March on Washington, 1963: “I Have a Dream” speech
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Affirmative Action
- Malcolm X, Nation of Islam
- Black Power, Stokely Carmichael
- 1968 Assassination of MLK, Malcolm X

"Affluent Society": 1950-1970
- World War II: high employment, savings, moderate increase in standard of living
• National income nearly doubles in 1950s; almost doubles again in 1960s
• Suburbia (beginning with Leavittown)
  • National Highway Act
• Consumerism: homes, TVs, cars, appliances, vacations, etc.
• High defense spending accounts for 50% of federal budget; stimulates economic growth
• Impact of television on society: advertising, “idealized family,” standardization of culture
• Cult of Domesticity (conformity?)
  • Baby boom
  • Dr. Spock:
    • Middle-class men make enough $ so women don’t have to work (not true in working class families)
  • Impact of TV, movies, magazines, etc.
• Unions
  o Weak in 1920s (during conservative administrations of Harding, Coolidge & Hoover)
    • Numbers decreased due to “Welfare Capitalism” and anti-union sentiment
  o Significant increase in power after Wagner Act of 1935 (National Labor Relations Act)
  o John L. Lewis: strikes during World War II
  o Smith-Connolly Act of 1943
  o Taft-Hartley Act (1947): no more “closed shop”
  o “Right to Work” laws: some states outlawed “union shop”
  o Merger of AFL and CIO in 1955
  o Corruption under Jimmy Hoffa and Teamsters
  o Landrum-Griffin Act: Ike and Congress seek to reduce unions’ political influence
  o Union membership peaks by 1970; steady decline to the present
• Conformity in 1950s
  • Cult of Domesticity
  • Patriotism (anti-Communism)/ “Red Scare”/McCarthyism
  • Religious revival
  • Suburban lifestyle
  • Television: portrayal of “idealized society”
  • Lowest percentage of foreign-born Americans in U.S. history
• Challenges to conformity
  • Emerging youth culture: Rock n’ Roll, Elvis; movies – Marlon Brando, James Dean
  • Beat generation: Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsburg
  • Civil Rights (challenges White-dominated society)
  • Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963
• "Red Scare": 1946-196?
  • Smith Act, 1940
- House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)
- Alger Hiss Case; Richard Nixon
- Truman’s Loyalty Program, 1947
- 1949: China becomes communist; Soviets detonate A-bomb
- McCarthyism, 1950-1954
- Rosenbergs, 1950
- McCarran Act, 1950
- John Birch Society, 1958; “impeach Earl Warren”
- Sputnik, 1957
- Building of bomb shelters in back yards, late 50s-early 60s
- To what extent was there cultural consensus in the 1950s?
- Political: “Vital Center” – belief in 1) economic growth solving all social problems (while maintaining safety net of the New Deal); 2) pluralism – fair competition among competing political and economic interests; 3) anti-communism
  - Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy & Johnson play to the “Vital Center”
- Why does “Vital Center” shatter in 1968?
  - Economic growth does not mean end to poverty in the inner cities
  - How can there be equal competition if blacks and women are not equal?
  - Blind anti-communist ideology leads to the failure of U.S. in Vietnam
- Dominance of middle class values in suburbia, TV, movies, etc.
- Religion: everyone expected to go to church; Eisenhower inserts “under God” in Pledge of Allegiance
- Family was the center of social life
- To what extent was there a lack of cultural consensus in the 1950s?
  - Emerging youth culture
  - Not all groups agreed with white-dominated middle-class values: blacks, working women, working class

**Cold War: 1945-1970**

- Overview
  - U.S. fights in two major wars:
    - Korea (1950-1953): successful containment of communism south of 38th parallel; 54k dead
  - Two major crisis nearly lead to World War III
    - Berlin Crisis, 1948-49; Berlin Airlift
    - Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
  - To what extent was U.S. successful in containing communism?”
Europe: successful in preventing Soviets from expanding beyond where it already existed at the end of World War II; NATO vs. Warsaw Pact

Asia:
  - China: unsuccessful (Mao Tse-tung wins communist revolution in 1949)
  - Korea: successful containment of communism
  - Taiwan: successful (U.S. demonstrates commitment to prevent Red China invasion)
  - Vietnam: unsuccessful

Latin America
  - Cuba: unsuccessful (Cuba under Castro becomes strong ally of Soviet Union)
  - Guatemala, 1954: CIA overthrows communist-leaning leader
  - Organization of American States, 1946: anti-communism collective security (success?)

Middle East
  - Suez crisis: success (U.S. & Soviets work together against Britain, France & Israel)

“Roots of the Cold War”
  - U.S. had tried to defeat Bolshevik revolution by invading Russia at Archangel in 1918.
  - Communist and democratic/capitalistic ideology non-compatible
  - Failure of Allies to open 2nd front against Germany in 1943 angers Stalin
  - U.S. failure to inform Stalin of A-Bomb until July, 1945 angers Stalin
  - U.S. termination of Lend-Lease to Soviets (while Britain continued to receive aid) angers Stalin
  - Stalin promises free elections for E. Europe at Yalta, 1945
  - Stalin refuses free elections for E. Europe at Potsdam, 1945 (angers Allies)
  - Stalin refuses to give E. Germany back (angers Allies)
  - Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech of 1946 is a wake up call to Americans vis-à-vis Soviet threat

Truman's Cold War policies
  - Truman Doctrine
  - Marshall Plan
  - National Security Act
  - Berlin Airlift
  - NATO
  - NSC-68
  - Korean War

Eisenhower's policies
  - Secretary of State John Foster Dulles: “Massive Retaliation”; brinksmanship
• “New Look Military”
• CIA overthrows Moussadegh in Iran, 1953; returns Shah to power
• CIA overthrows leftist leader in Guatemala, 1954
• “domino theory”: provides aid to France and later S. Vietnam
• “Peaceful Coexistence” with Soviets (Khrushchev); Geneva Summit, 1955
• Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)
• Does not intervene during Hungarian uprising, 1956 (end of massive retaliation?)
• Intervenes in Suez Crisis, 1956 (along with Soviets)
• National Education Act (in response to Sputnik)
• NASA (in response to Sputnik)
• U-2 incident
• Plans to overthrow Castro

• Kennedy's policies
  • “Flexible Response”
  • Undertakes huge military build up (although he knows there is no “missile gap” with the Soviets)
  • Peace Corps, 1961
  • Alliance for Progress, 1961 (“Latin American Marshall Plan”)
  • 1961, Refuses Khrushchev’s ultimatum for U.S. to leave W. Berlin; Soviets build Berlin Wall
  • Bay of Pigs Invasion, 1961
  • Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
  • Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 1963
  • Sends 16,000 military advisers to Vietnam; approves of the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem

• Johnson’s Vietnam policies
  • Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964
  • Operation Rolling Thunder, 1965
  • Escalation, 1965-1968

• Vietnam War
  • Dien Bien Phu, 1954
  • Geneva Conference, 1954: Vietnam temporarily divided into North and South
  • Dulles forms SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization); only a few countries join
  • Ho Chi Minh (leader of Vietminh) vs. Ngo Dinh Diem (leader of S. Vietnam)
    • Vietminh in N. Vietnam support Viet Cong in S. Vietnam
  • “domino theory”: Eisenhower provides aid to S. Vietnam from 1954-1961
  • Kennedy increases military advisors in S. Vietnam: 1961-1963
  • Kennedy tacitly approves assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, 1963
  • Gulf of Tonkin incident; Gulf of Tonkin Resolution under Johnson begins war for U.S.
• Pleiku results in “Operation Rolling Thunder”
• Escalation under Johnson: 1965-1968; 500,000 men in Vietnam by 1968
• U.S. Army led by William Westmoreland; “body counts”; “search and destroy”; napalm
• Tet Offensive, 1968: Americans believe war can’t be won (begins the end of U.S. involvement)
• 1969, Nixon announces secret plan to end the war but it continues 4 more years.
• 1969, Nixon begins secret bombing in Cambodia, Laos, & N. Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh Trail)
• 1970, Nixon announces invasion of Cambodia; mass protests result: Kent State, Jackson State
• 1972, Paris Peace Accords result in plan for ending the war (not accepted until 1973)
• 1973, U.S. pulls out of S. Vietnam
• 1975, communists overrun Saigon and unify Vietnam under communism

**Vietnam at home**

- Vietnam does not become priority for U.S. public opinion until Gulf of Tonkin Incident, 1964
- Escalation in 1965 results in the draft
- The “New Left” led by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) spur youth public opinion concerning anti-draft and anti-war sentiment.
  - The “Counterculture” emerges, largely inspired by anti-war feelings
  - Burning of draft cards; massive protests at university campuses across the country
- Hawks (pro-war) vs. Doves (anti-war) in Congress
- Women, civil rights advocates, and liberals join the anti-war movement
- Congressional investigation led by Senator Fulbright shows that the gov’t has mislead the public concerning the war.
- Tet Offensive in 1968 results in massive protests at home to end the war
- Johnson decides not to seek re-election (Vietnam has claimed a presidency!)
- Riot outside 1968 Democratic Party Convention in Chicago between anti-war protesters & police
- Nixon wins election in 1968 on platform to bring the war to an end but to have “peace with honor”
  - The “Vital” Center is shattered
  - Republicans control the White House for 20 of the next 24 years.
- Mylai Massacre (revealed to U.S. public in 1969)
- Nixon’s “Silent Majority” speech, 1969
- “Vietnamization,” 1969
- 1971, Pentagon Papers
- 26th Amendment, 1971
- 1972, Nixon thinks anti-war sentiment will cost him election; seeks to discredit Democrats (results in Watergate)

**How did the Cold War affect America at home?**

- “Red Scare” – 1947-196?
- Increased military spending spurs the “Affluent Society”
- “Vital Center” emerges: anti-communism
- Korean War makes Truman unpopular; he doesn’t run again in 1948
- Space Race begins after Sputnik, 1957
- Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who hates Kennedy for his anti-Cuban policies
- Vietnam tears American society apart: Hawks vs. Doves; youths vs. authority; “Vital Center” shattered; new political backlash of “silent majority” (white middle-class)
  - Counterculture emerges
  - “New Left”, women, civil rights advocates oppose the war.
  - A culture war between conservatives and liberals climaxes in 1968 and continues to the present.
- Vietnam destroys Johnson’s hopes of a “Great Society” and eventually destroys his presidency
- The war helps Nixon get elected and begins a new conservative era in American politics
- The war triggers inflation that plagues the U.S. economy in the 1970s

1960s: Politics

- John F. Kennedy: The New Frontier
  - Election of 1960: Kennedy vs. Nixon; importance of TV debates
  - JFK, like Truman, is unable to get major initiatives passed due to conservative coalition in Congress
  - Tax cut issued to further stimulate economy
  - Forces steel industry not to raise prices
  - Initially ignores civil rights movement; finally gives support after Birmingham march in 1963
    - Sends Civil Rights Bill to Congress (does not get passed until Johnson is president)
  - Space Race: goal of putting man on the moon (achieved in 1969)
- Lyndon B. Johnson: The “Great Society”
  - Election of 1964: Johnson v. Barry Goldwater
  - “War on Poverty” (influence of Michael Harrington’s The Other America)
  - Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - Medicare Act of 1965
  - Head Start; federal funding for troubled schools
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Robert C. Weaver (1st black cabinet member)
  - Affirmative Action
  - Immigration Act of 1965: end to quota system
  - National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
  - Public television (PBS)
• Selects Thurgood Marshall as first African American to Supreme Court

• 1968
  • Tet Offensive
  • Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.; black leadership shifts to militants (i.e., Black Power, Black Panthers)
  • Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy
  • Riot at Democratic Party Convention in Chicago
  • Election of 1968
    • Nixon (Republican) vs. Hubert Humphrey (Democrat) vs. George Wallace
    • Nixon’s victory destroys the “Vital Center”; conservative backlash against liberalism begins (Nixon’s “Moral Majority” speech of 1969)

• 1960s Society: Far less consensus and conformity than 1950s
  • Civil Rights Movement (see above)
  • Impact of Vietnam War (see above)
  • “New Left” – Students for a Democratic Society (SDS); Tom Hayden
  • “Counterculture”: Woodstock
  • Rachel Carson: *Silent Spring* – beginning of environmental movement
  • Women’s Issues
    • Birth control pill; sexual revolution
    • Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963
    • National Organization for Women (NOW): equal pay; abortion, divorce laws, ERA
  • Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers
  • American Indian Movement founded, 1968
  • “Long Hot Summers” 1965-1968: inner city riots in black communities
    • Watts Riots, 1965
    • Kerner Commission
    • Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
  • Warren Court: (most significant court of the 20th century?)
    • *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954
    • *Engle v. Vitale*, 1962: bans mandatory school prayer in public schools
    • *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 1964: “one person; one vote”
    • Rights of the accused
      • *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 1963: right to a lawyer, even if one can’t afford it
      • *Escobedo v. Illinois*, 1964: right to a lawyer from the time of arrest
      • *Miranda v. Arizona*, 1964: rights of defendant must be read at time of arrest