

**Chapter 1**

1. Do you think there were important differences among the ways that the Spanish, French, English, and Dutch each reacted to the New World? If so, what were they? If not, why not?
2. Who do you think was more affected by the first interactions between Europe and the New World – the Native Americans or the Europeans? How and why?
3. Was European immigration to the New World motivated more by economic or cultural factors? Explain.

**Chapter 2**

1. Compare the experiences of the Roanoke colony with those of the Jamestown colony and explain what factors led to the failure of the former and the eventual success of the latter.
2. What were the critical differences between the English settlements in Virginia and Massachusetts?
3. Why did slavery emerge as a major labor source in the North American colonies by the end of the seventeenth century?
4. What steps did England take to establish greater control over her North American colonies? Why were they not always successful?
5. Compare the colonization efforts of England, Spain, and France in the New World.

**Chapter 3**

1. Discuss the differences between the demographics of the colonial South and the colonial North.
2. Assess the beginnings of slavery in North America (in the main text) and argue which historical explanation for its origins (from the section “Debating the Past”) seems most accurate.
3. How did the English colonists’ attitudes towards Indians compare with their views toward Africans?
4. How did immigration affect social and economic life in the colonies?
5. What were the critical differences between a southern plantation and a New England town?
6. Assess the character and nature of religion in colonial America.
7. Describe the technological status of eighteenth-century Americans by examining the development and limits of technology.

**8. What effect did the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening have on life in British North America?**

#### **Chapter 4**

**1. Why was British rule in the colonies decentralized? What groups benefited from this and how?**

**2. Up until the 1760s, how did the British governance of the colonies shape the general attitudes of Americans regarding their rights and responsibilities within the British Empire?**

**3. What were the policy differences between Britain's Navigation Acts (mid-1600s) and the various Acts passed after 1763?**

**4. Why did the Navigation Acts not spark colonial rebellion as did the Acts passed after 1763?**

**5. What effect did the French and Indian War have on the coming of the American Revolution?**

**6. Select any four colonial leaders and explain the specific role each played in the coming of the American Revolution.**

**7. Was the American Revolution avoidable? What did the British government do which inadvertently encouraged colonial rebellion?**

#### **Chapter 5**

**1. Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each side in fighting the Revolutionary War.**

**2. Describe the significance France played in the American Revolution.**

**3. What impact did the American Revolution have on the rights and status of women?**

**4. What was the legacy of the American Revolution for Native Americans?**

**5. Characterize the debate over slavery in America immediately following the Revolution.**

**6. What was the American ideology of republicanism during the Revolutionary era?**

**7. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the structure of government as defined by the Articles of Confederation. Why did the Articles of Confederation ultimately fail? Why was pressure building for a new constitution during the second half of the 1780s?**

**8. Detail the problems facing the Confederation over the issue of western land and explain its success in resolving many of those problems.**

## Chapter 6

1. A number of major compromises were made at the Philadelphia convention. Discuss three of them in some detail.
2. Why was there such opposition to the proposed Constitution of 1787?
3. Why did states that initially opposed the proposed Constitution of 1787 ultimately ratify it?
4. Who were the primary authors of the Federalist Papers and what was the significance of these publications?
5. Characterize the “competing visions” the Federalists and the Republicans had for the country during the 1790s. Which side do you believe had the better vision and why?
6. Why was there so much opposition to political parties in the 1790s? Why did the Jeffersonians decide to create a political party?
7. What personal characteristics and political decisions contributed to making George Washington an effective president?
8. In what ways was the Adams administration an expression of the Federalist philosophy? In what ways was it not?
9. What was the long-term significance of the elections in 1800?

## Chapter 7

1. Describe the main features of American education during the early nineteenth century.
2. What were the decisions made and actions taken by Thomas Jefferson during his administration which most significantly changed the role of the presidency in American politics?
3. Describe the importance of *Marbury v. Madison* in the evolution of the federal government.
4. What historical events and ideas disturbed church establishments and prompted the Second Great Awakening in American society? How did the Second Great Awakening compare with the First Great Awakening?
5. What evidence supports the claim that American technology underwent a “revolution” between 1790 and 1820?
6. In what ways was American nationalism strengthened in the early nineteenth century? In what ways was it challenged?
7. Why did the War of 1812 take place? What resulted from it?
8. What historical events exposed the instability and weakness of the American federal government during its first thirty years of existence? How was the authority of the government strengthened?

## Chapter 8

1. How did the United States government attempt to stimulate economic growth during the early nineteenth century?
2. During the first decades of the nineteenth century, what role did the federal government play in “internal improvements” of transportation?
3. Compare life in the Old Northwest with life in the Old Southwest.
4. What factors motivated Americans to engage in a westward migration in the early nineteenth century? What type of American was more likely to move into the West?
5. Describe the “era of good feelings” and explain what happened to it.
6. By examining the Missouri Compromise, what can one learn about slavery as a political issue in the United States during the early nineteenth century?
7. What rulings by the Marshall Court enhanced its own power and that of the federal government?
8. Could the United States have enforced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823? Why or why not?
9. What was the long-term significance of the Monroe Doctrine?
10. Was the “corrupt bargain” of 1824 really corrupt? Explain.

## Chapter 9

1. What changes in the political process occurred during the 1820s which support the claim that American democracy was on the rise? How “democratic” was the United States during the 1830s? Who was included in the political process and who was not?
2. What obstacles did Andrew Jackson see to American democracy? What steps did he take to reduce those obstacles?
3. What steps did Andrew Jackson take as president to strengthen the authority of the federal government? What did he believe should be the limit of that authority? How did Andrew Jackson’s ideals of democracy compare with Thomas Jefferson’s?
4. What role did political parties play during the 1830s and 1840s? Since 1790, how had the nation’s general perception of political parties as part of the democratic process changed and why?
5. Why did Andrew Jackson not consider native tribes to be a part of democratic America? How did his Indian removal policy fit into his concept of democracy?
6. What were the various tactics employed by the “Five Civilized Tribes” to resist removal? Why were these tactics ultimately unable to prevent their removal? What alternatives to Indian removal existed and why were they not taken?

7. For what reasons did Andrew Jackson oppose the doctrine of nullification and the Bank of the United States. What were the consequences of his successful defeat of the doctrine and the Bank?
8. Characterize the presidency of Martin Van Buren.

### Chapter 10

1. How do you account for the terrific growth of American industry prior to the Civil War? Why did railroads become the key American industry in the nineteenth century?
2. Describe the immigrant experience in the United States in the 1830s and 1840s.
3. How did the rise of the factory system change the American family?
4. Examine technological developments in America between 1800 and 1860. What are the characteristic features in the advances made throughout this period?
5. What were the advances in new technology that had the greatest effect on the emerging American factory system during the first half of the nineteenth century?
6. How did the emergence of the factory system change the face of American labor during the first half of the nineteenth century?
7. How did American leisure time and activities during the 1830s and 1840s compare with leisure during the 1810s and 1820s?
8. How had the status and role of American women changed between 1800 and 1860?
9. Between 1830 and 1860, what region of the nation changed the most dramatically overall? Explain.

### Chapter 11

1. Explain why the Southern economy remained largely agricultural during the first half of the nineteenth century. In the first half of the nineteenth century, why did cotton become the major economic crop of the American South? What obstacles to industrialization existed in the South during the nineteenth century?
2. Prior to 1860, how did the role and status of Southern women compare to that of Northern women?
3. Describe the distinguishing class features of the people who were known as either “planters,” “plain folk,” “hill people,” or “crackers.”
4. Compare and contrast the working and living conditions of black Southern slaves to the lives of white Northern factory workers during the first half of the nineteenth century.
5. What is the difference between slave resistance and slave rebellion? Why was one more prevalent than the other?

6. Consider the American revolutionary era in the 1760s and 1770s with the slave revolts of the 1820s and 1830s. What factors made participants in the slave revolts much less likely to succeed in their struggle for independence?
7. Between 1800 and 1860, was slavery in the American South becoming stronger or weaker? Explain.

## Chapter 12

1. What were the social factors which motivated the many reform movements in the North before the Civil War?
2. How do the ideas of nineteenth-century transcendentalism link to twentieth-century ecology? Why did most communal living “experiments” generally quickly fail?
3. Compare American medical care in the colonial period with medical care in the first half of the nineteenth century. What aspects of care had changed and what had remained the same?
4. Why did a feminist movement come into being in the United States during the 1840s?
5. Discuss the various ideas and divisions within the antislavery movement.
6. How could one argue that William Lloyd Garrison both helped and hurt the cause of abolition?

## Chapter 13

1. Describe the territorial gains made by the United States between 1830 and 1860. Why was the United States able to add so much new territory to its control in the 1840s?
2. Compare the westward expansion of the United States during the first half of the nineteenth century with westward expansion during the eighteenth century. What was similar and what was different?
3. How did participants in the California gold rush differ from other migrants to the West prior to 1860?
4. How did the slave issue affect the United States’ westward expansion?
5. Why did the United States go to war with Mexico in 1846? What were the major consequences of the Mexican War?
6. Assess and rate the presidency of James K. Polk.
7. Why was the Compromise of 1850 written? How did it affect national politics?
8. Why did the Whig Party collapse and the Republican Party come into being?
9. Why were the Democratic presidents of the 1850s so ineffectual?
10. Between 1850 and 1860 what evidence suggests the South was becoming inflexible on the issue of slavery?

11. Since 1800, what were the factors in the regional development of the United States which made civil war more likely?
12. Prior to his election as president, describe Abraham's Lincoln's positions on slavery.
13. Could the Civil War have been avoided?

## Chapter 14

1. What advantages and disadvantages did each side have when the Civil War began?
2. How did Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis compare as presidents and military commanders?
3. What problems did each side have as they mobilized to fight the Civil War?
4. Why did some Southern states remain in the Union in 1861, and what steps did the federal government take during the war to maintain their support?
5. Why was the South so confident of its "cotton diplomacy"? Why did it fail?
6. In what ways did women participate in the Civil War, and how did their activities compare with the involvement of women in the American Revolution?
7. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do and how did it alter the Civil War?
8. Describe the debate in the North over the involvement of African Americans in the Civil War and assess the significance of their participation in the war.
9. How did new technology change the strategy of war? Why was the death toll in the Civil War so tremendous? Why may the Civil War be described as the first "modern war"?
10. Why did 1863 prove to be such a pivotal year on the battlefield?
11. Which battle—Vicksburg or Gettysburg—was more significant in determining the outcome of the Civil War?
12. Given the material and manpower advantage of the North, what factors enabled the South to wage war as long as it did?
13. Why did the North have to effectively destroy much of the South in order to win the Civil War?
14. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Ulysses Grant and Robert E. Lee as military commanders.

## Chapter 15

1. In 1865, what major challenges faced the nation? How did the various plans for reconstructing the nation attempt to address those challenges?
2. How did Lincoln's plan differ from those of the Radical Republicans?
3. How did the assassination of Abraham Lincoln affect Reconstruction?
4. Why did the elections of 1866 empower Radical Republicans?
5. Why has the presidency of Andrew Johnson generally been considered a failure by historians?
6. Why was Andrew Johnson impeached? Did he deserve to be removed from office?
7. What did the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution do? How successful was each in practice?
8. Assess the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant.
9. In what ways did Reconstruction succeed? In what ways did it fail? What has been its legacy?
10. "The slave went free; stood a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery." Explain this assessment by W. E. B. Du Bois of the Reconstruction Era by offering the historical evidence which supports each of the three parts of the quote.
11. Why would the legacy of Reconstruction matter throughout the twentieth century?
12. What was "new" and what was "old" in the "New South"?
13. Describe "Jim Crow."
14. Compare the conditions of black Americans living in the South in the 1850s with the 1870s.