**Key Concept 9.1:** A newly ascendant conservative movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980s and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades.

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| **Sub Concept I:** Conservative beliefs regarding the need for traditional social values and a reduced role for government advanced in U.S.  politics after 1980. | |
| **Topics** | **Notes** |
| A) Ronald Reagan’s victory in  the presidential election  of 1980 represented an  important milestone, allowing conservatives to enact significant tax cuts and  continue the deregulation  of many industries. |  |
| B) Conservatives argued that  liberal programs were  counterproductive in fighting  poverty and stimulating  economic growth. Some  of their efforts to reduce  the size and scope of  government met with inertia  and liberal opposition, as  many programs remained  popular with voters.. |  |
| C) Policy debates continued  over free-trade agreements,  the scope of the government  social safety net, and calls to reform the U.S. financial system. |  |
| **Related Thematic Learning Objectives (Focus of Exam Questions)** | **POL-1.0:** Explain how and why political ideas, beliefs, institutions, party systems, and alignments have developed and changed.  **POL-2.0:** Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.  **POL-3.0:** Explain how different beliefs about the federal government’s role in U.S. social and economic life have affected political debates and policies.  **WXT-2.0:** Explain how patterns of exchange, markets, and private enterprise have developed, and analyze ways that governments have responded to  economic issues. |

**Key Concept 9.2:** Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes.

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| **Sub Concept II:** New developments in science and technology enhanced the economy and transformed society, while manufacturing  decreased | |
| **Topics** | **Notes** |
| A) Economic productivity  increased as improvements  in digital communications  enabled increased American  participation in worldwide  economic opportunities. |  |
| B) Technological innovations  in computing, digital mobile technology, and the Internet transformed daily life, increased access to information, and led to new social behaviors and networks. |  |
| C) Employment increased  in service sectors and decreased in manufacturing, and union membership declined. |  |
| D Real wages stagnated for  the working and middle class amid growing economic inequality. |  |
| **Related Thematic Learning Objectives (Focus of Exam Questions)** | **WXT-1.0:** Explain how different labor systems developed in North America and the United States, and explain their effects on workers’ lives  and U.S. society.  **WXT-2.0:** Explain how patterns of exchange, markets, and private enterprise have developed, and analyze ways that governments have responded to  economic issues.  **WXT-3.0:** Analyze how technological innovation has affected economic development and society. |

**Key Concept 9.2:** Moving into the 21st century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes.

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| **Sub Concept II:** The U.S. population continued to undergo demographic shifts that had significant cultural and political consequences.. | |
| **Topics** | **Notes** |
| A.) After 1980, the political,  economic, and cultural  influence of the American  South and West continued  to increase as population  shifted to those areas. |  |
| B) International migration  from Latin America and  Asia increased dramatically.  The new immigrants affected U.S. culture in many ways and supplied the economy with an  important labor force. |  |
| C) Intense political and cultural debates continued over  issues such as immigration  policy, diversity, gender  roles, and family structures. |  |
| **Related Thematic Learning Objectives (Focus of Exam Questions)** | **NAT-4.0:** Analyze relationships among different regional, social, ethnic, and racial groups, and explain how these groups’ experiences have related to U.S. national identity.  **CUL-3.0:** Explain how ideas about women’s rights and gender roles have affected society and politics.  **MIG-1.0:** Explain the causes of migration to colonial North America and, later, the United States, and analyze immigration’s effects on U.S. society.  **MIG-2.0:** Analyze causes of internal migration and patterns of settlement in what would become the United States, and explain how migration has affected American life. |

**Key Concept 9.3:** The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and

role in the world.

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| **Sub Concept I:** The Reagan administration promoted an interventionist foreign policy that continued in later administrations, even after  the end of the Cold War. | |
| **Topics** | **Notes** |
| A.) Reagan asserted U.S.  opposition to communism  through speeches, diplomatic efforts, limited military interventions, and a buildup of nuclear and conventional weapons. |  |
| B) Increased U.S. military  spending, Reagan’s diplomatic initiatives, and political changes and economic problems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union  were all important in ending the Cold War. |  |
| C) The end of the Cold War  led to new diplomatic  relationships but also new U.S. military and peacekeeping interventions,  as well as continued debates over the appropriate use of American power in the world |  |
| **Related Thematic Learning Objectives (Focus of Exam Questions)** | **WOR-2.0:** Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives in North America and overseas |

**Key Concept 9.3:** The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and

role in the world.

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| **Sub Concept II:** Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, U.S. foreign policy efforts focused on fighting terrorism around the world. | |
| **Topics** | **Notes** |
| A.) In the wake of attacks on  the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the United States launched military efforts against terrorism and lengthy, controversial conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. |  |
| B) The war on terrorism  sought to improve security  within the United States  but also raised questions  about the protection of civil  liberties and human rights. |  |
| C) Conflicts in the Middle East and concerns about climate change led to debates over U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and the impact of  economic consumption  on the environment. |  |
| D) Despite economic and  foreign policy challenges,  the United States continued as the world’s leading superpower in the 21st century. |  |
| **Related Thematic Learning Objectives (Focus of Exam Questions)** | **NAT-2.0:** Explain how interpretations of the Constitution and debates over rights, liberties, and definitions of citizenship have affected American  values, politics, and society.  **NAT-3.0:** Analyze how ideas about national identity changed in response to U.S. involvement in international conflicts and the growth of the United States.  **GEO-1.0:** Explain how geographic and environmental factors shaped the development of various communities, and analyze how competition for  and debates over natural resources have affected both interactions among different groups and the development of government policies.  **WOR-2.0:** Analyze the reasons for, and results of, U.S. diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives in North America and overseas. |