Notes: USA Sphere of Influence

Questions/Main ideas:

**MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction**

After WWII, the US had a monopoly on nuclear weaponry and was unchallenged until Soviet testing in 1949. The US had initially used this monopoly as a deterrent to Soviet aggression; military analysts estimated conventional Soviet forces to outnumber the US 2:1, an obvious disadvantage. For two decades the superpowers wage an arms race, with each side trying to gain an edge by developing new and increasingly more powerful weapons. Until the late 1960’s early 70’s, the USA had nuclear superiority. During this time, agreement was reached on testing and non-proliferation of weapons, but it was not until the 1970’s that any agreement on limitation of the number of armaments was reached.

Once both powers mastered the production of thermonuclear power, they became preoccupied with developing delivery systems to convey their nuclear weapons to their targets. (The Soviets tested their first ICBM or inter-continental ballistic missile in August 1957) Both sides relied on military resources including; personnel, documents, and materials, captured at labs, factories and missile sites in Germany at the end of WWII. The arms race developed out of a desire to possess enough new and technologically superior weaponry to prevent the opposition from striking first. This strategy was based on the concept of MAD

Mutually Assured Destruction: The promise that if one power destroys the population of the enemy, the act will be reciprocated with force equal to or greater than their own.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Race for Space**

On 4 October 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik I, the first Earth satellite to achieve space orbit successfully. The following month, they launched a satellite containing a test animal. Khrushchev was determined to bluff regarding the true size and quality of the aircraft and missile force of the USSR. Using the supposed superiority of Soviet technology, he attempted in 1958 to wrest control from of West Berlin from the West.

Unfortunately for Khrushchev the US had, developed the U-2 spy plane (able to fly with out detection by radar.) Such a plane piloted by Gary Powers was shot down in Siberia in May 1960. It was now obvious to the world that Khrushchev was bluffing and the US had been able to ascertain Soviet strategic inferiority, through the use of espionage. The US conducted its first satellite launched in February 1958, but the USSR continued to be in the forefront of space technology. In 1960 the Soviets sent two dogs into space and successfully retrieved them from orbit. On 12, April 1961, the Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, became the first human being to travel in space (as you can imagine the Americans were thrilled) On April, 14th he returned and was paraded through Moscow with Khrushchev. Despite a temporary domination of the US in the Space Race the Soviets were unable to achieve military superiority. The American U-2 flights revealed that significantly fewer missiles were actually in place than the Soviets had led the West to believe and that the Americans had an edge in long-range strategic weapons. The development of the Polaris missile with a final range of 2500 nautical miles, gave the US a distinct strategic superiority as they could now bomb anyone anywhere on Earth (I am sure that made them feel better about the first man in space thing)

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Struggle for Global Domination Continues: East meets West**

By 1964, The US had 1880 strategic delivery units VS the 472 held by the Soviets.

The Cuban Missile Crisis across in part because the Soviets wanted to overcome inferiority in missile deployment by strategic missile placement.

**Partial Test Ban Treaty and beyond**

After the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) The US and the USSR agreed on the Partial Test Ban Treaty (this limited nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space)

However, despite the fact that both sides knew that a nuclear confrontation would destroy the world, both sides continued to stockpile nuclear weapons throughout the 1960’s, following a policy of brinkmanship (the practice, especially in international relations, of taking a dispute to the verge of conflict in the hope of forcing the opposition to make concessions)

By 1969, the USSR had tripled its stock of ICBMs and added a significant number of Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs) to its arsenal

This gave the USSR military parity with the US in weapons development

In the Early 1970’s the US began a program to develop new types of nuclear technology. A new anti-ballistic missile program was created and the Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle or MIRV (which gave the ICBM 3 to 10 individually targeted nuclear payloads) was developed

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**

The Arms race was both scary and expensive.

In the late 1960’s the US and the USSR began to discuss the possibility of putting a cap on the number of strategic weapons available and who would have access to them. In 1968 the US the Soviet Union and Great Britain signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. By the time it came into effect in March of 1970, 97 countries had agreed to limit the right to posses nuclear weapons to those countries who already possessed them. China and France refused to ratify the agreement (side note: neither of them had nuclear weapons at the time)

**SALT I**

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty did nothing to limit the number of nuclear weapons being built by the nuclear powers of the world. This changed on May 26, 1972, with the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks agreement or SALT I. This agreement limited the US and USSR to two Anti-Ballistic missile (ABM) sites and 200 interceptors each. The ABM was designed to intercept and destroy incoming missiles before they reached their targets. Parity in the number of ABM`s would hopefully preserve a strategic balance and limit the potential of either side risking a first strike. Limits were also placed on offensive weapons. The US capped ICBM production at 1054, while the USSR was permitted to grow its arsenal from 1530 to 1618, and so on, agreements were reached on the number of submarines, launchers, and land based missiles. The Soviets retained superior numbers of weaponry, however the US had superiority in those weapons not covered by the treaty, like long range bombers and MIRVs. SALT I was diplomatically important, however as many weapons were not regulated by the agreement it failed to stop the arms race.

The Soviets continued to work on an MIRV of their own, and the US was working on the Trident submarine, the MX and cruise missiles

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Questions/Main ideas:

**SALT II and beyond**

The SALT I agreement expired after five years. Soon after signing in, the Soviets and Americans began to talk about SALT I I which would be designed to control weapons technology.

By 1974 Presidents Ford and Brezhnev agreed in principle to limit strategic missiles.

Under the terms of the agreement each side would be permitted strategic missiles 1320 of which could be equipped with MIRVs, it also limited strategic bombers and placed limits on the numbers of weapons both sides could build

Not everyone was happy with SALT II it was criticized in the US Senate and combined with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (in 1979) stopped it from being ratified.

Despite failure to ratify the agreement both sides maintained its spirit until 1985 and the radical changes to the USSR brought about by the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev.



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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Star Wars Project: Ronald Reagan`s dream for a better USA**

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or Star Wars project was perhaps the most dramatic of Reagan's ideas

It initially entailed a defensive shield (like a big space umbrella) which would hit and destroy incoming enemy missiles, this would mean that no one could hit the US with nukes and the US would once again have the nuclear superiority it had enjoyed in the 1940`s

SDI was the latest in a long line of strategies to protect the US from nuclear attack. Before I CBMs, there were defences against a manned bomber attack over the North Pole. Bomb shelters were built all over North America, plans were laid to evacuate cities inside of the 4-6 hours it took to send the bomb to the USA.

Then when ICBMs were developed and the warning time dropped to under 15 minutes strategies were developed to ensure that a retaliatory strike would be launched before the Soviet bombs could wipe out life in the US

Then anti-missile defence systems were designed to counter the ICBMs and shoot them down before they could reach their targets.

The American system called Spartan-Sprint and consisted of two missiles, the first designed to explode a nuclear device in space in order to melt incoming missiles, A second faster missile was designed to engage missiles that the initial firing missed. Unfortunately neither the American or Soviet anti-missile defence systems worked

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Star Wars Project: Ronald Reagan`s dream for a better USA: Continued**

Proposed by Ronald Reagan in1983 SDI gained popularity in the nuclear debate in 1985

The concept was presented by the government as based in sound and achievable scientific theory, however, it was really vague, unrealistic, impractical and prohibitively expensive

Reagan proposed that a total defensive shield or astrodome be built that would protect all of the US from attack by Soviet missiles

Then the concept of a selective shield was proposed (largely because of cost) this shield would protect American missiles needed for a counter-strike in the event of an enemy attack.

The third proposal was a offensive laser system based in outer space, designed to attack Soviet cities directly and burn them to the ground (did I mention it did this from space?)

Of course the big space laser/Super Space dome were in total violation of the ABM treaty (part of SALT I)

It also seriously upset the Soviets, who were already going through the beginning of a major period of adjustment

Star Wars and the SDI are not total fantasies, the American Defence Department announced in 1987 it would track and target enemy missile sites from space shuttles the Ages class cruiser has a computer controlled firing system

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Society 1950-1980`s: The Civil Rights Movement**

The American Civil Rights Movement refers to the reform movements in the United States aimed at outlawing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring Suffrage in Southern states.

Brown v. Board of Education, 1954 declares that the education of black children in separate public schools from their white counterparts was unconstitutional. 1955 A young black boy, Emmett Till, is brutally murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. Two white men are acquitted by an all-white jury. They later boast about committing the murder. The public outrage generated by the case helps spur the civil rights movement (Aug.). Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955–1956 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus (Dec 1) to make room for a white passenger. (African Americans were by law expected to sit at the back of the bus and make way for whites) Parks was arrested, tried, and convicted for disorderly conduct and violating a local ordinance. After word of this incident reached the black community, African-American leaders gathered and organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott ultimately this pushed for full desegregation of public buses. With the support of most of Montgomery's 50,000 African Americans, the boycott until the local ordinance segregating African-Americans and whites on public buses was lifted. the boycotts, reduced bus revenue by approximately 80%. A federal court ordered Montgomery's buses desegregated in November 1956, and the boycott ended in triumph. Montgomery Bus Boycott. Desegregating Little Rock Arkansas, 1957. Governor of Arkansas called out the National Guard on September 4 to prevent entry to the nine African-American students who had sued for the right to attend an integrated school, in Little Rock Central High School.

**The Soviet Response**

In 1977 the USSR led the US 3 to 2 in mega tonnage ( the explosive yield of bombs measured in tonnes of TNT) however, it lacked missile accuracy.

Between 1971 and `84 defence spending in the USSR grew by 5% per year.

Estimates suggest that this was the equivalent of between 13 and 17% of their GNP (compared to 5.5% of the US GNP)

In the late 1970`s Soviet accuracy improved an d technology they imported from Japan allowed Soviet Submarines to move more quietly

In the 1980`s the quality of Soviet aircraft, submarines, warships and missiles all improved significantly

However by 1985 the money committed to the defence sector of the economy had created serious problems in the domestic economy and unrest and discontent among the Soviet citizens

Between 1979 and 1985 the arms race escalated, as the US and USSR argued about the Soviets in Afghanistan and NATO`s nuclear policy, among other issues

In 1981 Reagan proposed the Zero option according to which the Americans would not deploy missiles in Europe if the USSR would dismantle their SS-20`s there. The USSR refused fearing the remaining bombs of the French and British

In November of `81 Reagan puts forth the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START)

This involved the destruction of missiles on both sides, however left the US in a position of superiority regarding cruise missiles and bombers

The Soviets were not interested

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Society 1950-1980`s:   
The Civil Rights Movement Continues**

Sit-ins, 1960 one of the early sit-ins began at a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina four students from an all-black college, sat down at the segregated lunch counter to protest Woolworth's policy of excluding African Americans.

Sit-ins spread, protesters were encouraged to dress professionally, to sit quietly, and to occupy every other stool so that potential white sympathizers could join in

As students across the south began to "sit-in" local authority figures sometimes used brute force against the protestors Sit ins

Freedom Rides, 1961 Freedom Rides were journeys by Civil Rights activists on interstate buses into the segregated southern United States to test the United States Supreme Court decision that ended segregation for passengers engaged in inter-state travel. This was dangerous and the riders often faced violent repression for example In Montgomery, Alabama a mob charged a bus load of riders, smashing a Life photographer in the face with his own camera. In Alabama, a bus was firebombed, forcing its passengers to flee for their lives.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Civil Rights Movement Continued**

March on Washington 1963 The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is attended by about 250,000 people, the largest demonstration ever seen in the nation's capital. Martin Luther King delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The march builds momentum for civil rights legislation.

Despite Governor George Wallace physically blocking their way, Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes at the University of Alabama.

Four young black girls attending Sunday school are killed when a bomb explodes at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Voter Registration Organizing literacy test were being used in the US to keep African Americans off the voting roles by creating standards that even highly educated people could not meet. In addition, employers fired blacks who tried to register to vote and landlords evicted them from their homes. voter registration campaigns became an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement., and helped to led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act

1964 President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, into law, it provides civil rights legislation and prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. It is part of Johnson’s idea of a “Great Society”

The bodies of three civil-rights workers are found. Murdered by the KKK, James E. Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner had been working to register black voters in Mississippi.

Martin Luther King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Society 1950-1980`s:   
The Civil Rights Movement: Its not over**

1965 Malcolm X, black nationalist and founder of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, is assassinated

State troopers violently attack peaceful demonstrators led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., as they try to cross the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. Fifty marchers are hospitalized on "Bloody Sunday," after police use tear gas, whips, and clubs against them.

1966 The Black Panthers are founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale

1967 Stokely Carmichael, a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), coins the phrase "black power“

Major race riots take place in Newark and Detroit.

1968 President Johnson appoints Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. He becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice.

The Supreme Court rules in Loving v. Virginia that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional. Sixteen states still have anti-miscegenation laws and are forced to revise them. Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. (April 4). President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing. In the US white Americans especially in the South had political control of the country . The voting rights of blacks were oppressed,

racial segregation imposed, and violence against African Americans was wide spread.

The early 1900s was a period of massive racial prejudice and oppression in the USA.

While problems and civil rights violations were most intense in the South, social tensions affected African Americans in other regions as well.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Civil Rights Movement Continued: Voter Registration Organizing**

In the US white Americans especially in the South had political control of the country . The voting rights of blacks were oppressed,

racial segregation imposed, and violence against African Americans was wide spread.

The early 1900s was a period of massive racial prejudice and oppression in the USA.

While problems and civil rights violations were most intense in the South, social tensions affected African Americans in other regions as well.

The system of overt, state-sanctioned racial discrimination and oppression that emerged out of the post-Reconstruction South became known as the "Jim Crow" system. It remained virtually intact into the early 1950s.

Systematic disenfranchisement (the removal of the African American’s ability to vote) of African Americans lasted until national civil rights legislation was passed in the mid-1960s.

For more than 60 years, they were not able to elect a single person in the South to represent their interests in Congress, and because African Americans could not vote, they could not sit on juries limited to voters.

They had no part in the justice system or law enforcement.

There were many tactics used by the white majority to keep African Americans from being able to vote these included:

literacy tests, employers firing blacks who tried to register to vote and landlords evicting them from their homes

voter registration campaigns became an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement., and helped to led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act (1965)

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Organizations associated with the Civil Rights movement**

NAACP National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (founded 1909)

SNCC Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee

CORE Congress on Racial Equality

All of these groups were active in various parts of the following civil rights activities

**Civil Rights Continued: Desegregation**

Integration of Mississippi Universities, 1956-1965 resulted in massive protests, initially the universities blocked African Americans from entering the universities. After integration was forced through the court system white students and other whites began rioting , throwing rocks at the U.S. Marshals guarding the African American student who wished to enter the State university, then firing on the marshals. Two people, including a French journalist, were killed; many marshals suffered gunshot wounds; and many others were injured. After the Mississippi Highway Patrol withdrew from the campus, President Kennedy sent in the regular Army to enforce desegregation.

Albany Movement, 1961-1962 a desegregation movement formed in Albany, Georgia by local activists, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) ,later Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) also became involved.

The Albany Movement mobilized thousands of citizens and attracted nationwide attention but failed to accomplish its goals due to opposition.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Civil Rights Continued: Desegregation**

Birmingham campaign, 1963-1964 the Birmingham campaign focused on one goal—the desegregation of Birmingham's downtown merchants, rather than total desegregation, as in Albany. The movement's efforts were helped (in a way) by the brutal response of local authorities

The campaign used a variety of nonviolent methods of confrontation, including sit-ins, kneel-ins at local churches, and a march to the county building to mark the beginning of a drive to register voters.

The city obtained an injunction banning the protests. Believing that the order was unconstitutional, the protestors defied it and prepared for the mass arrests of their supporters. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of those arrested, this is where King is supposed to have written his famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail” in which King stated that: not only was civil disobedience justified in the face of unjust laws, but that "one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.“ He also said one should be willing to face the consequences of breaking the law.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Desegregation the Birmingham campaign and the Children’s Crusade**

The Children’s Crusade The desegregation movement in Birmingham was faltering. So a proposal was made to train high school students to take part in the demonstrations.

As a result, more than one thousand students skipped school to meet at the 16th Street Baptist Church to join the demonstrations, in what would come to be called the Children's Crusade.

Hundreds of them ended up in jail. This was newsworthy, but in this first encounter, the police acted with restraint

The crusade however continued. On the next day, another group of students gathered at the church. When they started marching, officials unleashed police dogs on them, then turned the city's fire hoses on the children.

Television cameras broadcast to the nation the scenes of water from fire hoses knocking down schoolchildren and dogs attacking individual demonstrators.

Sympathy for the movement grew in some areas, however other events of 1963 included, George Wallace, the Governor of Alabama, trying to block the integration of the University of Alabama. President John F. Kennedy was forced to send in the national guard to insure the enrolment of two black students.

Shortly after this Medgar Evers was murdered in Mississippi.

Despite these discouraging events the movement was gaining government recognition the week after Evers’s murder, on June 19, 1963, JFK submitted his Civil Rights bill to Congress.

The KKK bombed a church in Birmingham, killing four young girls in September

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Civil Rights Continued: March on Washington, 1963**

The march had six official goals:

meaningful civil rights laws

a massive federal works program

full and fair employment

decent housing

the right to vote

adequate integrated education

Of these, the march's real focus was on passage of the civil rights law that the Kennedy Administration had proposed after the upheavals in Birmingham.

The march was a success, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 demonstrators gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial, to listen to King deliver his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

**St. Augustine, Florida, 1963-1964**

Events in St. Augustine, Florida also contributed to the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. A movement, led by a local African American dentist and Air Force veteran, had been picketing segregated local institutions since 1963, he and three companions were brutally beaten at a Ku Klux Klan rally in the fall of that year.

Nightriders shot into black homes

Four teenagers who came to be known as "The St. Augustine Four" spent six months in jail and reform school for a sit-in in at the local Woolworth's lunch counter. It took a special action of the governor and cabinet of Florida to release them after national protests. In 1964, activists urged northern college students to come to the St. Augustine for Spring Break and go not to the beach, but to take part in demonstrations. Four prominent Massachusetts women all of whose husbands were Episcopal bishops, and the wife of the vice president of a major insurance company also came to lend their support

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Questions/Main ideas:

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**The civil rights movement**

Mississippi Freedom Summer, 1964 In the summer of 1964, nearly 1,000 activists went to Mississippi most of them were white college students who went to join with local black activists to register voters, teach in "Freedom Schools," and organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Many white residents deeply resented the protestors

State and local governments, police, the White Citizens' Council and the Ku Klux Klan used arrests, beatings, arson, murder, spying, firing, evictions, and other forms of intimidation and harassment to oppose the project and prevent blacks from registering to vote

In June three civil rights workers disappeared. A young black Mississippian and two Jewish activists, they were found weeks later, murdered by conspirators who turned out to be local members of the Klan, some of them members of the Neshoba County sheriff's department. (The movie Mississippi Burning was based on these events).

Dr. King Awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr Martin Luther King Jr Accepts the Nobel Peace Prize

Boycott of New Orleans by American Football League players, 1965

Questions/Main ideas:

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Civil Rights in the USA: Selma Alabama**

Selma and the Voting Rights Act, 1965 a voter registration program had been under way in Selma, Alabama, since 1963, but by 1965 had made little headway

King came to Selma to lead several marches, at which he was arrested along with other demonstrators. The marchers continued to meet violent resistance from police. When a resident of nearby Marion, was killed by police at a march in February. The director of the Selma Movement, initiated a plan to march from Selma to Montgomery.

In March of 1965, a march of 600 people to walked the 54 miles (87 km) from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery.

Only six blocks into the march, however, state troopers and local law enforcement, some mounted on horseback, attacked the peaceful demonstrators with Billy clubs, tear gas, rubber tubes wrapped in barbed wire and bull whips. Driving the marchers back into Selma..

national broadcasts of footage of lawmen attacking unresisting marchers seeking the right to vote provoked a national response. The marchers were able to obtain a court order permitting them to make the march without incident two weeks later.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Selma and the Voting Rights Act, 1965, Continued**

After a second march in March, however, local whites murdered another voting rights supporter,

Also in March, four Klansmen shot and killed a Detroit homemaker as she drove marchers back to Selma at night after the successfully completed march to Montgomery. Eight days after the first march, Johnson delivered a televised address to support of the voting rights bill he had sent to Congress. In it he stated: “But even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over. What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and state of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.” President Lyndon Johnson passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, this act suspended poll taxes, literacy tests and other subjective voter tests. It authorized Federal supervision of voter registration in states and individual voting districts where such tests were being. Memphis, King assassination 1968 King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Riots broke out in more than a hundred cities across the US

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The other side of the Civil Rights movement: Black power**

King faced challenges from within the Civil Rights Movement in two areas that were foundations of the movement as he saw it integration and non-violence.The Black Power movement was made most public by the Black Panther Party founded in 1966. This group followed ideology stated by Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam using a "by-any-means necessary" approach to stopping inequality.

They sought to rid African American neighbourhoodof Police Brutality. Their dress code consisted of leather jackets, berets, light blue shirts, and they adopted the afro hairstyle. They set up free breakfast programs, but were also known for referring to police officers as "pigs", and displaying shotguns and a black power fist. The statement "Power to the people.“ Was a popular Black Panther slogan

**American Society: Vietnam the early years**

The US had re-established its relationship with China at a time when they were mired in the Vietnam war.

Intervention in Vietnam began in the 50’s with military assistance to the French. By ’54, America was paying for 80% of the French war effort in Indo-China. In 1957, Eisenhower revealed the domino theory (the idea that if Vietnam fell to Communism the rest of South East Asia would also fall like “dominos”) this therefore meant that Vietnam was of great strategic significance to the Americans and apparently quite important to stop the spread of communism. Eisenhower also believed that Vietnam lay on the West’s defensive perimeter and therefore within the American sphere of influence

Thus begins one of the most controversial wars in USA’s history. While the Vietnam war still goes without validation, it had dramatic effects on American society.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Society: Vietnam continued Lyndon Johnson’s two front war**

Between 1959 and 1975 approximately 55, 000 Americans were killed and another 303,000 wounded in Vietnam

The US also spent about $150 Billion on a war that ended in the Communists taking Vietnam

The Americans began to escalate their action in Vietnam in 1965, when they began what would become a massive bombing campaign

Between 1965 and 1968 there were more than 500 000 American military personnel stationed in Vietnam. By the end of ’67, more bombs had been dropped on Vietnam than on Europe during WWII.

Commitment to military action in Vietnam came when President Lyndon Johnson was implementing his “war on poverty,” in an effort to create the Great Society

The two main goals of the Great Society were :social reforms; the elimination of poverty and the elimination of racial injustice.

Lyndon Johnson launched major spending programs that addressed education, medical care, urban problems, and transportation

This meant that Johnson wanted the American eeconomy to fund two wars and he wanted to accomplish this without raising taxes.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Society: Vietnam and social change in the US**

Vietnam occurred at a time when American society was undergoing fundamental change.

The civil rights movement, women’s movement, the environmental movement, and anti-establishment groups that manifested themselves in communes of “flower children” all challenged societal norms.

Civil disobedience, draft-dodging, and anti-war demonstrations indicted a decline of public supported. Growing divisiveness was promoted by the mass media. The Tet Offensive by North Vietnam on American bases, although considered a military failure on their part, brought about the first time the American public saw their enemies close-up on television killing their boys. The Vietnam war had become increasingly unpopular at home and internal dissent was on the rise. The election of Nixon came largely as a result of his promise to extricate the US out of ‘Nam. The Watergate scandal ultimately ends his presidency

**Détente Ends**

Issues other than Vietnam preoccupied the US.

The American government still wanted to take a leading role in policing the world while at the same time providing high-quality consumer goods to its population at reasonable prices.

Lack of ability to compete in automotive, steel, and textile markets pressured American industrialists to become more innovative.

The automotive industry was under siege particularly: The energy crisis of 1973 made fuel economy imperative, and Japanese cars were far superior in fuel efficiency.

Trade imbalances and energy prices led to a recession in the US by the late 1970’s.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**End of the Détente continues**

The years of Jimmy Carter (1976-1980) were characterized on the international scene not only by the end of the détente, but also the development of the notion that use of nukes need not destroy humanity.

USA’s national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, saw the world in bipolar terms and clearly viewed the Soviets as a global threat to be met militarily.

The Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, disagreed

Faced by two competing positions, Carter adopted a humanitarian approach and focused on human rights issues in the USSR.

His support of dissidents infuriated Brezhnev and lessened any opportunity for meaningful negotiations.

The most serious rupture in American-Soviet relations at the end of the 1970s occurred when Brzezinski (the American security advisor) used détente with China to decrease the influence of the Soviet Union.

In the new year of 1979, Carter and Deng Xiaoping had exchanged diplomatic representations and ended 30 years of American non-recognition of China.

Brzezinski capitalized on this opportunity and American exports to China nearly doubled in 1979.

The Chinese used the relationship to imply American relations while SALT II agreements were still un-ratified .

When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, détente effectively ended: America boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics and refused to ratify SALT II.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Cola War**

After the rapprochement between the US and China in ‘79, Coca-Cola (having links to Carter) obtained a monopoly to produce its beverage in China. The Soviet soft drink market had been given to Pepsi-cola , whose officials were closely linked to Nixon.

**Reagan**

In 1980, Ronald Reagan won a landslide victory over Carter.

He focused attention on the “evil empire” of USSR– promising to take a hard-line stand in foreign policy.

He argues the Soviets continued to produce arms at a time when the US had directed its attention to domestic issues.

He figured it was time to redress the imbalance and equip the US to fight a protracted war with conventional and nuclear weaponry.

The belief that nuclear war could be won had been popularized already, and despite contrary evidence, the Reagan administration operated on such a premise.

Believing that the economy could afford a massive military buildup, the administration ignored the budgetary deficit it was running.

The results were devastating: factories became less competitive and workers faced increased prices and fewer jobs.

Committed to “taking the government off the backs of the people”, Reagan refused to raise taxes. The government’s share of the GNP was 25.2%, the highest degree of involvement since WWII.

The Reagan administration was supported by a militant right wing anxious to protect the world from Communism.

Central America was too close to the US for it to allow success. The Reagan government, thusly, attempted to secure friendly governments in El Salvador and Nicaragua and prevent infiltration of Cuban or Soviet communists.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**American Sphere of Influence**

As early as 1823, with the issue of the Monroe doctrine, the Americans had declared their hegemony in Central America. The US had challenged Great Britain in the area by investing in it’s plantations, railroads, gold and silver, and in utilities and government securities. By 1914, Central America’s economy was dependent on its trade with the US. Latin America early 20th century intervention Part 2

Subject to Spanish colonization and economic imperialism of other nations, Central America has not been able to develop social and economic systems that satisfy the majority of their citizens.

Typically, their economies are controlled by a combination of foreign investors and local elites. This tends to turn countries into producers of one or two primary crops for export, rendering most of the locals impoverished and malnourished.

Over the years revolutionary groups devoted to ousting the wealthy elite and breaking the foreign economic monopolies have sprung up.

As American political influence in Central America has risen with increasing economic investment, the US has been determined to maintain economic stability in and control of the region,

This has been accomplished partially by supporting governments opposed to revolutionary ideals.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**El Salvador**

In the 1970’s, 2% of the population was made up of the Fourteen Families that controlled all the fertile soil and 60% of the total land area.

The ordinary people of El Salvador ranked among the five most poorly fed populations in the world, also having one of the highest population growth rates at 3.5% per year. This caused significant strain on the agricultural and environmental sector

El Salvador had for some time been in the grip of a civil war that can be traced to the 1972 presidential elections that saw Jose Napoleon Duarte deprived of his democratically achieved victory when the army declared its own candidate the winner.

After a failed coup, Duarte was exiled to Guatemala and guerrilla groups organized in the countryside.

Archbishop Oscar Romero became outspoken in condemning government and government supported vigilante terrorism, and the atrocities the military was committing on the population

When Pope John Paul II was elected in 1978, the Church advised Latin American Catholic leaders to commit to community, but not partisan causes. However, Romero continued his anti-government criticism. As government repression increased, most church leaders withdrew from political involvement

Pope John Paul II voiced disapproval of political activism.

Romero continued his anti-government protests until he was eventually killed by a right-wing political group in San Salvador (while celebrating mass).

The military dictatorship lost whatever support they had when the bodies of three American nuns and a layperson were found in a shallow grave, the nuns had been raped and then killed.

Jimmy Carter suspended military aid to the El Salvador government in response to these murders

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Questions/Main ideas:

**El Salvador: Continued**

American protest against Salvadoran government atrocities was short-lived.

The military aid Carter suspended to protest the slaying of US churchwomen was resumed under Reagan. By 1984 US military aid to the government of El Salvador amounted to $196 million dollars

Rebel groups were funded through Nicaragua from Cuba. The US was committed to the government in power to prevent leftist revolutions.

In 1984, Jose Napolean Duarte won the election,

Though Duarte was officially in charge, the army remained the dominant force in country.

This continued a vicious cycle of repression and rebellion of guerrilla forces in the countryside that left at least 45 000 civilians dead and created 750 000 Salvadoran refugees.

**Nicaragua**

From 1911 to 1933, the US was in military occupation of Nicaragua to control the natural system of waterways and the site of a contemplated trans isthmian canal much like Panama.

During this period, Nicaragua was essentially a protectorate of the US as they sought to prevent German and Japanese interests from constructing a canal through the region to rival its own.

From 1936 to 1979, the Somoza family ruled Nicaragua with American support and were unhindered in their manipulation of the Nicaraguan economy, controlling over half the arable land and state air and shipping lines. In 1972, an earthquake in the capital city of Managua marked the beginning of the Somoza family’s downfall. Relief supplies totaling $600 million were stolen by the National Guard and were resold on the black market.

Anastasio Somoza Debayle profited from the disaster by demanding that Managua be rebuilt on land he owned, even though the area was liable to future earthquakes.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Nicaragua: Continued**

The Somoza family fortune reached $1 billion as they profited from reconstruction contracts and further crowded out the small economic elite outside their ranks. This small group, now dispossessed of its wealth, formed the first effective opposition to the Somozas. This group of moderates led by Joaquin Chamorro in December 1974 formed the Union Democraticia Liberacion (hereafter UDEL). UDEL was soon obscured by the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional (FSLN) , a radical group founded in 1962 and named after guerilla leader Sadino. The Sandinistas were initially unsuccessful in their attempts to organize a resistance movement, but in 1977 they staged a series of raids that identified them as a significant threat to the government. The assassination of Jaoquin Chamorro on 10 January 1978 provoked rioting and a general strike. The moderates, though wary of the Sandinistas, joined them in a coalition to mobilize the masses. In August 1978, they seized 1500 hostages from a legislative session and demanded release of political prisoners. This sparked Sandinista support in the countryside, and sporadic uprisings resulted in 3000 deaths.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Nicaragua continued**

Despite American attempts to get Somoza and the Sandinistas to negotiate, the Sandinistas gained control of most of the country the following year.

On 17 July 1979, Somoza fled the country and was assassinated a year later in Paraguay.

The Sandinistas emerged victorious during the formation of a provisional government, which included representatives of both left-wing and moderate groups.

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, widow of the assassinated Jaoquin Chamorro, was one of the country’s most important moderates and a representative of the business community.

The Sandinistas, represented by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, were now the dominant faction and encouraged a land-reform program that created both state farms and state cooperative as well as granting private holdings.

By 1981, members of the provisional government feared the continued dominance of the Sandinistas

The Sandinistas refused to allow elections fearing resistance.

Former members of Somoza’a National Guard launched guerrilla raids into Nicaragua from bases in Honduras

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Contras**

These guerrilla groups were known as the Contras, they received about $10 million in covert US aid in 1981 and another $19 million in 1982

The Regan administration wanted to undermine the Sandinista government in 1983 it gave $24 million to the Contras, whom Reagan now termed “Freedom Fighters”

However by ‘84 fears of a new Vietnam style war caused Congress to stop granting aid

IN 1985 Congress approved nonmilitary aid AM Iran Contra Affair

While the CIA had been secretly funding the Contra resistance, the Cubans had been providing military aid to the Sandinistas, to whom the Soviets had given a $300 million subsidy

In 1984 , the Sandinistas allowed elections and Daniel Ortega won

As commander-in-chief of the Sandinista army, Ortega had been key in the 1979 expulsion of Union organizers who had attempted to ruin the Nicaraguan branches of US companies like Coca-Cola and Standard Fruit, this suggested that he was willing to cooperate with US interests

However by the time he took power Ortega was in open opposition to the US and had travelled to the Soviet Union in 1985 to gain support

**Iran-Contra Affair**

In November 1986 the US public learned that profits from the sale of arms to Iran had been diverted to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua

Colonel Oliver North revealed that, in addition to the arms money, $14 million in Private donations had been raised to aid resistance to the Sandinista government

This was a problem as Congress had called for a halt in military funding to the Contras in ‘84

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The War In Nicaragua continued**

As the conflict continued other Latin American countries became involved in August of ‘87 Oscar Arias (president of Costa Rica0 put forward a peace initiative based on three principles

Cessation of aggression in Latin American countries

Cessation of foreign aid to insurgencies

Respect for political Freedoms

In March of ‘88 a ceasefire is negotiated between the Sandinistas and the Contras

This was maintained with only sporadic violence

Then in ‘89 Ortega held another election on February 25,1990

Violeta Chamorrow won with 55% of the vote to Ortega’s 41%

**Violeta Chamorro**

Violeta Chamorro who won leadership of Nicaragua from Danielle Ortaga was the wife of a newspaper Owner/editor who had been assassinated for criticising the Somoza regime

She focused on revitalizing the economy and paying back money Nicaragua owed to the IMF and the World Bank

She gave back the sugar, coffee and cotton industries to the private sector and promised to compensate people who lost land during the program of nationalizing land

She asked president Bush for $2 billion in aid, he responded by stopping the US trade embargo and promising to resume diplomatic relations

The strategic nature of Nicaragua’s location made the US commit to a program of support for the forces opposing the Sandinistas

In October of ‘96 Right wing candidate from the PCL (associated with Somoza) won the election

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