

Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST106 History of the United States Practice Exam 2 (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What organization aimed to unify workers across various industries during the labor movement?
 - A. American Federation of Labor
 - B. Congress of Industrial Organizations
 - C. National Labor Union
 - D. The Knights of Labor
2. What was the primary factor that promoted the development of suburbs in post-World War II America?
 - A. Increased urbanization
 - B. Advancements in public transportation
 - C. Availability of automobiles
 - D. Government housing policies
3. What was the strategic significance of Iwo Jima during World War II?
 - A. A launching point for air attacks
 - B. A key naval base
 - C. A small island with a volcano
 - D. Control of shipping lanes
4. The League of Nations was established by which key document?
 - A. The Treaty of Paris
 - B. The Fourteen Points
 - C. The Treaty of Versailles
 - D. The Kellogg-Briand Pact
5. What was the primary effect of the command economy created during the war?
 - A. Increased consumer spending
 - B. Substantial economic growth
 - C. Collaboration among citizens to support the war effort
 - D. Immediate post-war prosperity

6. How did the government perceive labor unions during the post-war era influenced by the Taft-Hartley Act?
- A. As essential for economic growth
 - B. As a necessary ally for politicians
 - C. As a potential threat to public order
 - D. As a vehicle for social change
7. Which US President is known for embracing deficit spending to stimulate the economy during a recession?
- A. Theodore Roosevelt
 - B. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - C. Harry S. Truman
 - D. Lyndon B. Johnson
8. Which amendment repealed Prohibition in the United States?
- A. 18th Amendment
 - B. 19th Amendment
 - C. 20th Amendment
 - D. 21st Amendment
9. Which group did Father Charles Coughlin increasingly criticize for its influence on the economy?
- A. Labor Unions
 - B. Political parties
 - C. Jewish people
 - D. Government officials
10. What was one outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the UN?
- A. To promote global disarmament
 - B. To facilitate war reparations
 - C. To maintain world peace after the war
 - D. To establish a collective military alliance

Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. C
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What organization aimed to unify workers across various industries during the labor movement?

- A. American Federation of Labor
- B. Congress of Industrial Organizations
- C. National Labor Union
- D. The Knights of Labor

The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was established in the 1930s with the specific goal of organizing workers across diverse industries, particularly in mass production sectors like steel and automotive. Unlike other labor organizations of the time that tended to focus on specific trades or skilled labor, the CIO sought to include all workers, irrespective of their specific job roles. This broad-based approach was crucial in advocating for workers' rights and better conditions during a transformative period in American labor history. The CIO was instrumental in significant labor actions and helped push for key legislation that benefitted numerous workers, which helped to solidify the labor movement's influence in the United States. Their emphasis on industrial unionism played a pivotal role in shaping the labor landscape during the Great Depression and beyond. This contrasts with initiatives from organizations like the American Federation of Labor, which primarily focused on skilled labor within specific trades, or the Knights of Labor, which also aimed for broader worker unification but lacked the same industrial focus that the CIO later emphasized.

2. What was the primary factor that promoted the development of suburbs in post-World War II America?

- A. Increased urbanization
- B. Advancements in public transportation
- C. Availability of automobiles
- D. Government housing policies

The primary factor that promoted the development of suburbs in post-World War II America was the availability of automobiles. After the war, there was a significant economic boom, which led to increased production and affordability of cars. This newfound mobility allowed families to live farther away from urban centers, where housing was often more affordable. The automobile made commuting to work in the city feasible, effectively enabling the growth of suburban areas. As families moved to the suburbs seeking larger homes and more space, this phenomenon was further supported by the construction of highways, which made it even easier to travel between suburban neighborhoods and urban job centers. The suburban ideal became a central aspect of American culture during this time, reflecting a desire for a lifestyle that emphasized family spaces, private yards, and a sense of community, often contrasted with the crowded conditions of urban living. While advancements in public transportation and government housing policies did play roles in shaping residential patterns, they were not as critical to the suburb boom as the automobile's impact. Urbanization trends were present before this period but shifted dramatically due to the suburb's lure made possible by automobiles.

3. What was the strategic significance of Iwo Jima during World War II?

- A. A launching point for air attacks
- B. A key naval base
- C. A small island with a volcano
- D. Control of shipping lanes

The strategic significance of Iwo Jima during World War II is best understood through its role as a launching point for air attacks, making it a vital target for the United States. The island's location, situated roughly halfway between Japan and the Mariana Islands, provided a critical base for Allied forces to establish air superiority. By capturing Iwo Jima, the U.S. could use its airfields to facilitate bomber missions against Japan's home islands, increasing the effectiveness of air assaults. While Iwo Jima is indeed a small island with volcanic terrain, this fact alone does not encapsulate its importance in the broader military strategy. The harsh landscape presented challenges for both attackers and defenders, but ultimately, the primary concern was its strategic potential for military operations, rather than its physical characteristics. The significance of Iwo Jima as a naval base was somewhat limited, as its role was less about providing a navy stronghold and more about supporting air operations. Similarly, while controlling shipping lanes was essential in the Pacific Theater, Iwo Jima specifically served more as an airbase than a logistical hub. Hence, the correct understanding centers around its utility for air attacks rather than its geological qualities or implications for maritime control.

4. The League of Nations was established by which key document?

- A. The Treaty of Paris
- B. The Fourteen Points
- C. The Treaty of Versailles
- D. The Kellogg-Briand Pact

The League of Nations was established by the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed at the end of World War I in 1919. This treaty not only aimed to formally conclude the war but also included a number of provisions intended to promote peace and prevent future conflicts. One of the most significant features of the Treaty of Versailles was the establishment of the League of Nations, an international organization designed to foster diplomatic dialogue and cooperation among countries, ultimately working to maintain global peace and security. The Fourteen Points, proposed by President Woodrow Wilson, outlined a vision for a just peace and included the idea of a league but was not the formal document that established it. The Treaty of Paris primarily dealt with the terms of peace and territorial adjustments for different nations after the war and did not create the League. The Kellogg-Briand Pact, promoting mutual renunciation of war, was aimed at preventing wars but came later and did not establish the League of Nations. Thus, the Treaty of Versailles is indeed the key document that officially established the League.

5. What was the primary effect of the command economy created during the war?

- A. Increased consumer spending
- B. Substantial economic growth
- C. Collaboration among citizens to support the war effort
- D. Immediate post-war prosperity

The command economy established during wartime was characterized by government control over production and the allocation of resources aimed specifically at supporting the war effort. This system necessitated collaboration among citizens to ensure that everyone contributed towards a common goal. Citizens participated in various initiatives, such as rationing and recycling efforts, and took part in community activities that fostered unity and dedication to the war cause. The emphasis on collaboration helped to mobilize the workforce and streamline production toward military and essential goods, ensuring that resources were allocated efficiently according to the needs of the conflict. This collective effort became a defining feature of life during the war, as individuals and communities recognized their roles in supporting their nation during a time of crisis. In this context, the sense of shared purpose and community collaboration was crucial in sustaining morale and facilitating the logistics of wartime production.

6. How did the government perceive labor unions during the post-war era influenced by the Taft-Hartley Act?

- A. As essential for economic growth
- B. As a necessary ally for politicians
- C. As a potential threat to public order
- D. As a vehicle for social change

The perception of labor unions by the government during the post-war era, particularly influenced by the Taft-Hartley Act, was largely one of viewing them as a potential threat to public order. The Taft-Hartley Act, enacted in 1947, was designed to limit the power of labor unions and impose restrictions on their activities. The act emerged in a context where there were fears of widespread strikes and unrest, especially with the context of the Cold War and concerns about communism. The government believed that the increasing power of labor unions could lead to disruptions in the economy, as strikes could halt production and affect various industries. Moreover, the act included provisions that aimed to curtail union activities deemed to jeopardize national security or public governance, reinforcing the government's stance that unchecked union power could threaten social stability. This perception ultimately shaped policies that sought to regulate and contain union influence during this period.

7. Which US President is known for embracing deficit spending to stimulate the economy during a recession?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt
- B. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- C. Harry S. Truman
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson

Franklin D. Roosevelt is known for embracing deficit spending as a means to stimulate the economy during the Great Depression. His administration implemented the New Deal, a series of programs and policies designed to aid recovery and reform the economy. Roosevelt recognized that traditional measures, such as balancing the budget, would not suffice in combating the severe economic downturn characterized by widespread unemployment and failing businesses. Instead, he advocated for increased government spending to create jobs, boost consumer demand, and ultimately revive economic activity. This approach marked a significant shift in economic policy, laying the foundation for modern Keynesian economics, which suggests that active government intervention is necessary during economic downturns to stimulate growth. The New Deal included public works projects, financial reforms, and social welfare policies, all supported by significant government spending, even when it resulted in budget deficits. This approach was emblematic of Roosevelt's belief that the federal government had a crucial role to play in managing the economy and ensuring the welfare of its citizens during times of crisis. Other presidents mentioned had varying approaches to economic issues but did not advocate for deficit spending in the same manner as Roosevelt during a recession.

8. Which amendment repealed Prohibition in the United States?

- A. 18th Amendment
- B. 19th Amendment
- C. 20th Amendment
- D. 21st Amendment

The 21st Amendment is significant because it marked the end of Prohibition in the United States, which had been established by the 18th Amendment. Ratified in 1933, the 21st Amendment allowed for the legal manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages, effectively reversing the restrictions imposed by Prohibition. This change was largely a response to the negative consequences of Prohibition, such as the rise in organized crime and the economic challenges of the Great Depression, leading to widespread calls for its repeal. The significance of the 21st Amendment lies in its restoration of legal alcohol consumption and its role in reshaping American societal norms surrounding alcohol. The other amendments listed do not pertain to Prohibition. The 18th Amendment initiated Prohibition, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, and the 20th Amendment changed the start dates for federal government elected offices. Thus, only the 21st Amendment directly addresses the repeal of Prohibition.

9. Which group did Father Charles Coughlin increasingly criticize for its influence on the economy?

- A. Labor Unions
- B. Political parties
- C. Jewish people
- D. Government officials

Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest and influential radio personality during the 1930s, became increasingly known for his anti-Semitic rhetoric as his views shifted over time. Initially, Coughlin was a strong supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal policies, but he later grew disillusioned and began to assign blame for economic woes to various groups, particularly the Jewish community. His broadcasts often included conspiracy theories about Jewish influence on banking and finance, contributing to an atmosphere of distrust and prejudice. This shift not only reflected his own ideological extremism but also tapped into and amplified existing social tensions during a period marked by economic hardship and rising anti-Semitism in the United States. The other groups mentioned, such as labor unions, political parties, and government officials, did receive criticism from Coughlin at various points as he expressed his populist sentiments and opposition to certain policies. However, his most notorious criticisms were aimed at Jewish individuals and communities, which became a central theme in his later broadcasts and writings.

10. What was one outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the UN?

- A. To promote global disarmament
- B. To facilitate war reparations
- C. To maintain world peace after the war
- D. To establish a collective military alliance

One outcome of the Allies' decisions in 1945 regarding the United Nations was the emphasis on maintaining world peace after the war. The UN was established with the primary goal of preventing future conflicts that could lead to another global war, similar to the devastation seen during World War II. This focus on peacekeeping was reflected in the UN Charter, which outlined principles aimed at fostering international cooperation, security, and diplomatic resolution of disputes. The founding members believed that a collaborative international organization was essential to address the complexities of global politics and to promote dialogue among nations. Therefore, the UN was structured not only as a forum for discussion but also included mechanisms for conflict resolution, peacekeeping missions, and the establishment of international laws aimed at maintaining security. While promoting global disarmament and facilitating war reparations were also concerns after the war, the UN's primary role highlighted in 1945 was aimed at preserving peace and preventing the escalation of conflicts that might lead to future wars. Establishing a collective military alliance, such as what existed with NATO later, was not a foundational aspect of the UN's creation; instead, it focused on broader international cooperation and diplomatic relations.