

COMPARISON & SYNTHESIS

(APUSH Historical Thinking Skills)



The new AP US History exam requires students to make valid historical comparisons across periods and geographical areas. In order to help students make these comparisons, I am compiling a list of comparisons to serve as examples for students.

While some comparisons may be spot on in terms of similarities, other comparisons may have nuances or plot twists or entirely different outcomes.

In some cases, there may be two things that share a similarity, but also a key difference.

Using these or other similar comparisons could help students earn the **synthesis** point on the AP US History exam.

<p>Ratification of the Constitution</p> <p><i>Constitution (success) was a product of compromise between Federalists and moderate Antifederalists concerning the addition of a Bill of Rights.</i></p>	<p>Versailles Treaty Debate</p> <p><i>The Senate's rejection of the Versailles Treaty was the product of a failure on Wilson's part to compromise with Sen. Lodge and the "Reservationist" faction.</i></p>
<p>The Free Soil Movement (Antebellum)</p> <p><i>Stop the spread of slavery (while not actively opposing slavery where it was)</i></p>	<p>Containment (Cold War)</p> <p><i>Stop the spread of communism (while not actively opposing communism where it was)</i></p>
<p>Hamiltonian Federalists</p> <p>Believed in a more expansive role for government than the Jeffersonians</p> <p>Government should assist business</p>	<p>Progressives</p> <p>Believed in a more expansive role for government than conservatives</p> <p>Government should regulate business</p>
<p>Jeffersonian Republicans</p> <p>Represented the interests of farmers</p> <p>Believed that government should stay out of the economy (<i>laissez-faire</i>)</p>	<p>Populists</p> <p>Represented the interests of farmers</p> <p>Believed that the government should regulate the economy (e.g., nationalize railroads)</p>
<p>1900-1920 Progressive Reformers</p> <p>Muckrakers published exposé articles and books against corporate abuses and to increase govt. focus on public health, sanitation, living conditions</p> <p>Expanded rights for women (19th Amendment), not much increase for Af. Americans</p>	<p>1950-1970s Reformers</p> <p>Civil Rights leaders organized non-violent sit-ins, marches to achieve Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act</p> <p>Rachel Carson published Silent Spring - environmental movement led to EPA 1970</p>

Expansion of democracy at all levels - initiative, referendum, recall. 16th Amendment direction election of senators	Vietnam anti-war protests lead to expansion of democracy - 26th Amendment voting age 18
<p>Yellow Journalism</p> <p>Newspapers encouraged sensational stories in order to sell papers</p> <p>Public outcry was generated (e.g., "Remember the Maine") as a result of stories simply designed to increase circulation</p>	<p>Muckrakers</p> <p>Journalists published accounts in order to create public outcry for change</p> <p>Newspapers and magazines encouraged muckrakers because their sensational stories helped sell papers</p>
<p>Mayflower Compact</p> <p>Used as the first governing document for an English colony.</p> <p>Successful</p>	<p>Articles of Confederation</p> <p>First governing body of the United States.</p> <p>Unsuccessful and weak.</p>
<p>French and Indian War [causes of]</p> <p>British colonists expanding into the Ohio River Valley (claimed by France)</p>	<p>Mexican-American War [causes of]</p> <p>US annexation of Texas (including portion of border disputed with Mexico)</p>
<p>Nullification Crisis</p> <p>Brinkmanship</p> <p>Henry Clay negotiates a compromise tariff (at the last second) at a point where South Carolina and the federal government were on the verge of armed conflict</p>	<p>Cuban Missile Crisis</p> <p>Brinkmanship</p> <p>JFK and Khrushchev negotiate a compromise (at the last second) at a point where the US and USSR appeared to be on the brink of nuclear war over missiles in Cuba</p>
<p>War of 1812 [causes of]</p> <p>British were boarding American ships and impressing sailors and interdicting commerce</p> <p>VIOLATION OF NEUTRAL RIGHTS (Freedom of the Seas)</p>	<p>World War I [causes of]</p> <p>Germans resumed a policy of <i>unrestricted submarine warfare</i></p> <p>VIOLATION OF NEUTRAL RIGHTS (Freedom of the Seas)</p>
<p>Spanish-American War [causes of]</p> <p>Alleged attack on U.S.S. <i>Maine</i> (Havana Harbor)</p> <p>Furor fueled by Yellow Journalism</p>	<p>Vietnam War [causes of]</p> <p>Alleged attack on U.S.S. <i>Maddox</i> (Gulf of Tonkin)</p> <p>Furor fueled by Cold War anticommunist sentiment</p>
Manifest Destiny (Antebellum)	Imperialism (Turn of 20th c.)

<p>The US should expand to the Pacific - no matter who gets in the way (Mexico / Native Americans)</p>	<p>The US should acquire available imperial territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific - no matter who gets in the way (Spain / Filipino Natives)</p>
<p>Common Sense by Thomas Paine</p> <p>Rallied Americans up to fight for independence and to go to war</p>	<p>Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe</p> <p>Brought support to the antislavery movement and pushed more for war.</p>

<p>Dred Scott Case</p> <p>Nullified the Missouri Compromise</p>	<p>Kansas-Nebraska Act</p> <p>Nullified the Missouri Compromise</p>
<p>Sherman's March</p> <p>Sherman's army considers civilian property fair game - scorched earth policy in GA and SC.</p>	<p>20th Century Total War</p> <p>Civilians called upon to actively assist the war effort - civilian targets on both sides considered fair game for bombing raids</p>
<p>Native American Tribes</p> <p>Native American tribes failed to keep Whites from encroaching because they were leaderless and not unified.</p>	<p>Labor Unions</p> <p>Labor Unions were not successful during the 1890s because they did not have a single leader.</p>
<p>Social Gospel</p> <p>Created by Protestant clergy to apply Christian principles to social problems.</p>	<p>Gospel of Wealth</p> <p>Stated that the wealthy had a responsibility of philanthropy.</p>
<p>"Revolution of 1800" (Jefferson)</p> <p>Opposition candidate with limited government philosophy elected President - has mixed success reducing the size of government.</p>	<p>"Reagan Revolution" (1980)</p> <p>Opposition candidate with limited government philosophy elected President - has mixed success reducing the size of government.</p>
<p>"Corrupt Bargain"</p> <p>Henry Clay (allegedly) helps John Q. Adams win the presidency - becomes Sec of State.</p> <p>SCANDAL - many upset (no proof of foul play)</p>	<p>Ford Pardons Nixon</p> <p>Gerald Ford becomes POTUS after Nixon's resignation - pardons Nixon</p> <p>SCANDAL - many upset (no proof of foul play)</p>

<p>Cuban Revolution (1959)</p> <p>Pro-American ruler (Batista) with a record of human rights violations overthrown by anti-American revolutionaries (<i>the extent of the revolutionaries' anti-Americanism was unknown at the time</i>) after US support for the regime began to waver.</p>	<p>Iranian Revolution (1979)</p> <p>Pro-American ruler (Shah) with a record of human rights violations overthrown by anti-American revolutionaries (<i>the extent of the revolutionaries' anti-Americanism was unknown at the time</i>) after US support for the regime began to waver.</p>
<p>GETTING BIN LADEN (Obama 2011) GREAT SUCCESS</p>	<p>GETTING THE IRAN HOSTAGES (Carter 1979) EPIC FAILURE</p>
<p>Flappers (1920s)</p>	<p>Hippies (1960s)</p>
<p>Personal Liberty Laws</p> <p>De Facto nullification of the fugitive slave law in the Compromise of 1850</p>	<p>Lend Lease Act/Cash and Carry</p> <p>Somewhat ignoring the Neutrality Acts by gradually aiding Britain.</p>
<p>FDR on Civil Rights</p> <p>New Deal programs employed blacks (in segregated capacities) Exec Order 8802 Prohibited discrimination in the defense industry</p> <p>No advocacy of integration or federal anti-lynching legislation</p> <p>Never lost a former Confederate state</p> <p>FDR acted as a politician - his measures to employ blacks prompted black voters to join the New Deal Coalition (they'd previously tended to vote Republican) without alienating Southern whites.</p>	<p>Truman on Civil Rights</p> <p>Advocated for a federal anti-lynching law Desegregated the Military</p> <p>Lost FOUR former Confederate states in the 1948 election ("Dixiecrat" Party)</p> <p>Truman acted without regard to the political implications of doing the right thing.</p>