Explaining key events and changes in the USA unit

This resource gives you the key reasons to explain why events / changes happened in the USA, 1929 – 2000.

It should help you with Q4 and Q5 in particular:

Q4 = Explain = give reasons

Q5 = How far do you agree / to what extent...? Asks you to compare one factor against others.

These diagrams identify the key reasons connected to a major event / change. These could be the reasons / factors you include in your answers if these topics come up. Make sure you can add some supporting evidence to each factor and say WHY each reason was important (This caused change BECAUSE...)

Roosevelt

- New Deal
- Second New Deal
- Alphabet Agencies
- Increased morale / encouraged spending

Causes of the end of the Great Depression

World War Two

- Increased industrial output in war industries
- Creation of jobs conscription and in factories
- Increased spending on luxury itemsmore money put back into the economy.

Hoover

- Rugged Individualism
 - Early policies
 - Cut taxes
- Agricultural policies

wwii

- Job opportunities
- Financial independence



Causes of change in women's rights

Changes attitudes in society

- Access to the contraceptive pill

Work of women's rights groups / individuals

- NOW / Women's lib movement
 - Betty Friedan

Entertainment

- Music styles
- Cinema
- -Anti-her
- Development of TV



Impact of media on youth protest

- Vietnam
- Civil Rights
- Shown on TV



Causes of change in youth culture



Money

- disposable income
- New 'consumer group'
- More financial independence from parents



Threat of nuclear war

- 'Live for today' attitude
- -Hippy lifestyle

Influence of individuals

- Martin Luther King
 - Malcom X



Impact of peaceful protest

- Montgomery Bus Boycott
 - Marches



Causes of change in Civil Rights



Media

- police brutality shown on TV
- Changed peoples' attitudes to be more supportive of Civil Rights



Impact of legal system

- Support from President Kennedy highlighted issue
- Supreme Court rulings (e.g. Brown v Topeka) gave support to campaigns

Differing ideologies – Communism and Capitalism

 Roosevelt replaced by more anti-communist Truman

Causes of Cold War

Policy of Containment

- Widespread poverty in Europe after WW2 concern of Truman that these countries are vulnerable to communism (Domino Theory)
- Truman doctrine/Marshall Plan.

Lack of common enemy

- Breakdown in relationship Yalta and Potsdam.
- Disagreement what to do withGermany.

Arms Race

• Suspicion over atomic bomb.

Brezhnev Doctrine

 USSR would put down any attempt to suppress Communist control = alarmed USA
= Communication needed!

Communication

 Hotline between White House and Kremlin after Cuban Missile Crisis

Causes of

Détente

<u>Linkage</u>

- Brezhnev (Soviet Leader) and Nixon negotiating to end Vietnam war

Agreements to limit arms

- Test Ban Treaty (1963) signed and arms limitation agreement

US technology

- Nixon sought Chinese–US alliance, concern for Brezhnev (Soviet Leader) as he wanted access to US technology

Leaders

- Gorbachev
- Reagan
- Bush

Attitudes to nuclear weapons

- Summits
- Agreements SALT etc

Causes leading to the end of the Cold War

Collapse of Soviet Union

Gorbachev's policies –
Glasnost/Perestroika

Soviet Union economy

 Stars Wars couldn't be managed by Soviet Union – couldn't afford!