

2017

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AP European History

Free-Response Questions

2017 AP European History Free-Response Questions

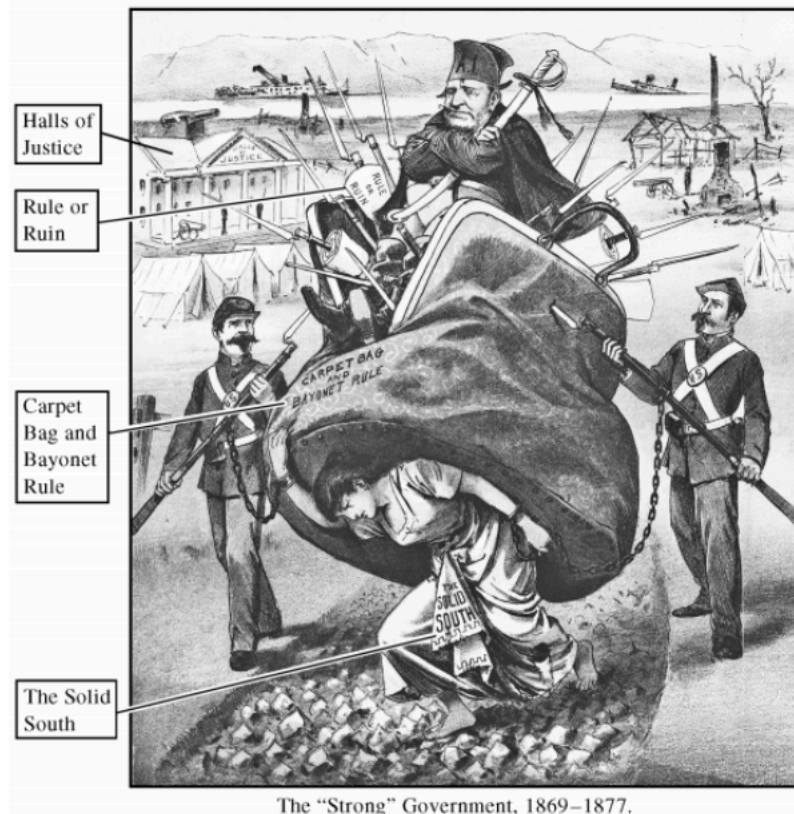
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2. Answer (a), (b), and (c).
- a) Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War (1939–1945) transformed the relationship of the United States with the rest of the world.
 - b) Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.
 - c) Briefly explain ANOTHER important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.

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Use the images to answer all parts of the question that follows.



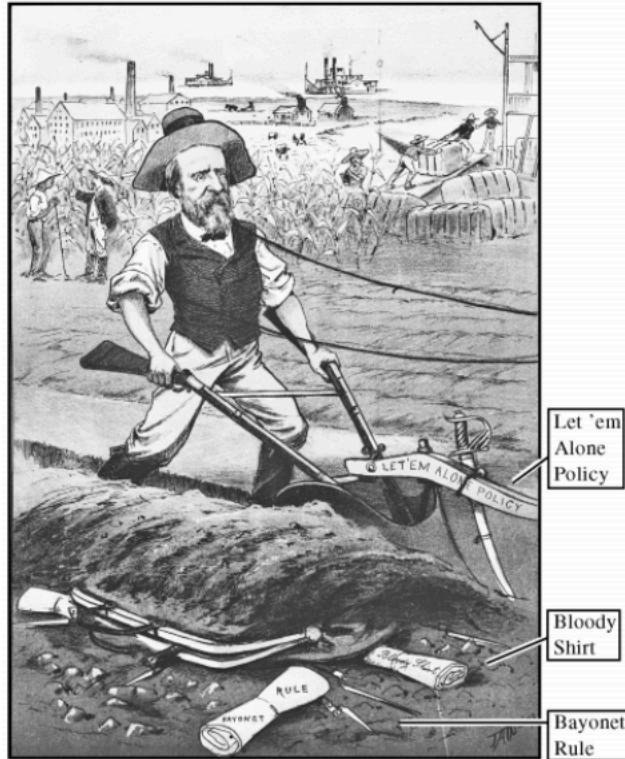
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The "Weak" Government, 1877-1881.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

3. Using the two images, both by artist James Wales, answer (a), (b), and (c).
- Briefly explain ONE historical perspective expressed by the artist about the changes from the period 1869-1877 to the period 1877-1881.
 - Briefly explain how ONE specific event or development led to a historical change suggested by the images.
 - Briefly explain ONE specific result in the period 1877-1900 of a historical change suggested by the images.

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“An arrogant and stubborn faith in America’s power to shape the course of foreign events compounded the dangers sown by ideological rigidity. Policymakers . . . shared a common . . . conviction that the United States not only should, but could, control political conditions in South Vietnam, as elsewhere throughout much of the world. This conviction had led Washington to intervene progressively deeper in South Vietnamese affairs over the years. . . . This conviction prompted policymakers to escalate the war. . . . Domestic political pressures exerted an equally powerful . . . influence over the course of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. . . . Another ‘loss’ to communism in East Asia risked renewed and devastating attacks from the right.”

Brian VanDeMark, historian, *Into the Quagmire*, 1995

“The escalation of U.S. military intervention [in Vietnam] grew out of a complicated chain of events and a complex web of decisions that slowly transformed the conflict . . . into an American war. . . . [President Lyndon Johnson] made the critical decisions that took the United States into war almost without realizing it. . . . Although impersonal forces . . . influenced the president’s Vietnam decisions, those decisions depended primarily on his character, his motivations, and his relationships with his principal advisers. . . . The war in Vietnam was not lost in the field, nor was it lost on the front pages of *The New York Times* or on the college campuses. It was lost in Washington, D.C., even before Americans assumed sole responsibility for the fighting.”

H. R. McMaster, historian, *Derelection of Duty*, 1997

4. Using the excerpts, answer (a), (b), and (c).
- a) Briefly explain ONE major difference between VanDeMark’s and McMaster’s historical interpretations of the United States involvement in the Vietnam War.
 - b) Briefly explain how ONE historical event or development in the period 1945 to 1975 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support VanDeMark’s interpretation.
 - c) Briefly explain how ONE historical event or development in the period 1945 to 1975 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support McMaster’s interpretation.

END OF SECTION I