

Unit 7

5th Grade Social Studies America Since 1975 Study Guide



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Excellence
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Unit 7—America Since 1975 Study Guide

Name: _____

SS5H7 Trace important developments in American from 1975 to 2001.

- Describe the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the role of Ronald Reagan.
- Describe the events of September 11, 2001, and analyze their impact on American life.
- Explain the impact of the personal computer and the Internet on American life.

Vocabulary	
Terrorism	<i>Terrorism is when someone uses violence against innocent people to try to achieve a political goal. The September 11, terrorist attacks were one of the most infamous terrorist attacks in history, because more than 2,000 people died.</i>

<p>SS5H7a. Describe the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the role of Ronal Reagan <i>The Soviet Union finally collapsed in 1990-91, causing the Cold War to come to an end. Many protests broke out in parts of the Soviet controlled countries. The Soviet Union fell apart and many new independent countries were formed.</i></p> <p><i>President Reagan challenged the Soviet Union to tear down the Berlin Wall in the late 1980's. The Berlin Wall was torn down and many countries declared their independence from the Soviet Union soon after. The United States was the only remaining world superpower when the Soviet Union collapsed. Today, many countries have nuclear capabilities and have the power to destroy each other. The United States is still one of the strongest countries in the world. Russia, which was part of the Soviet Union, remains a strong country with nuclear capabilities.</i></p>
<p>SS5H7b. Describe the events of September 11, 2001, and analyze their impact on American life. September 11, 2001 <i>September 11, 2001, also known as 9/11, was the largest terrorist attack in American History. Several large airplanes were hi-jacked by terrorists and flown into buildings in the U.S. Two jets crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, one jet crashed into the Pentagon (National Defense Headquarters) and a fourth jet crash-landed in a field in Pennsylvania. A terrorist group known as Al Qaeda, which was led by Osama Bin Laden, carried out the attacks.</i></p>
<p>Changes in America <i>One of the biggest changes in America following the September 11th attacks, was the change in security. Every major location increase security measures. Airports across the country changed in many ways. The U.S. created the Transportation Security Administration and hired more than 60,000 people to keep air travel safe. Since 2001 all passengers have been required to pass through high security checkpoints when entering airports.</i></p>

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War on Terrorism (2001-Present)

The United States responded to the terrorist attacks on 9/11 by declaring a War on Terrorism. Unlike other wars in our country's history, this war was not fought against a particular country but was fought against terrorists wherever they lived. The main portion of Al Qaeda's terrorist group was headquartered in Afghanistan, so most people think of the war in Afghanistan as being the War on Terrorism. In reality, the United States was NOT fighting against Afghanistan, but the Afghan government partnered with our military to help take out the terrorist groups that were hiding out in their country. The War on Terrorism has had mixed results. It took 10 years, but Osama bin Laden was finally found and killed in 2011. Many other terrorist leaders have been captured or killed. The downside of the war has been that many terrorist leaders have been taken out by drones or laser guided missiles, which kill the terrorist leaders, but have also killed nearby civilians. These civilian deaths have caused some to dislike the U.S. even more. In 2014, ISIS became a well-known terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria. Many in the U.S. government have debated whether the U.S. should continue to be involved in Iraq and fight against ISIS. The war on terror is continuing to this day.

People to know:

Ronald Reagan—Reagan is known for many things, but in this unit he is most well-known for challenging Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union, to tear down the Berlin Wall in 1987. Within a few years the Soviet Union had collapsed and more than 15 new countries gained independence.

Osama Bin Laden—Bin Laden was the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He was also the leader of the Al Qaeda terrorist network. After avoiding capture for 10 years he was finally found and killed in his secret home in Pakistan in 2011.

SS5H7c. Explain the impact the development of the personal computer and Internet has had on American life.

The development of the personal computer and the Internet has changed every aspect of life. Business can now be conducted with businesses all around the world in a matter of minutes. The success of technology companies has caused our country's economy to do incredibly well. Many businesses can make products much quicker because they are run by computers rather than having to manually do the work. In addition, personal lives have forever been changed by the invention of smart phones in 2007. People now have access to all the information they could ever want by typing in a few words on a phone.

Here a few key dates about when different technologies related to the internet and personal computers became available:

1973—First cell phone was used (they did not become widespread until the 1990's and early 2000's)

1991—World Wide Web was launched making the internet freely available to all

1992—First Text message was sent

1997—First social media site was launched

2005—YouTube was launched

2008—Apple launched the first app store to support their new iPhone which had been released in 2007