

### **Midterm Study Guide**

Seven of the following questions will appear on the Midterm. In preparing answers, be sure you address each aspect of the question, avoid generalizations or unsupported assertions, and provide specific evidence from the assigned readings in formulating a persuasive response.

1. How did the flapper's appearance, her behavior, and her interactions with men distinguish her from the women of the previous generation and embody the emerging "modernity" of American culture during the 1920s?
2. What were the limits of the 1920s "sexual revolution"? How did the emergence of more "sexual candor" and the "commercialization of romance" during the 1920s both liberate and objectify women?
3. How did the reaction to Charles A. Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight in 1927 suggest that Americans were embracing both modernity and nostalgia?
4. Why was the whole international economic system of the 1920s dependent on the outflow of long-term loans from the United States? How were German reparations, French and British war debt, and American loans all related? Why was this an unstable system, especially after speculation and "buying on margin" led to a sudden surge in the U.S. stock market late in the decade?
5. Why, according to Peter Fearon, was prosperity during the 1920s "real," but also "fragile" and inequitably distributed throughout American society?
6. Why did the Hoover Administration's response to the Great Depression prove inadequate? How did the President's own individualist ideology impede government efforts to address the economic crisis?
7. To what extent did the programs of the New Deal succeed in addressing: 1) the banking and financial crisis; 2) agricultural overproduction; and 3) unemployment?
8. According to Lawrence Levine, Americans were not in a "revolutionary mood" during the Great Depression. Instead, he argues, traditional values, ideals, and hopes were central to the period's popular culture and shaped citizens' responses to economic hard times. What evidence does Levine introduce to make this case?
9. Why did Franklin D. Roosevelt believe that the military conflicts in Asia and Europe were related and thus constituted a "second world war"? Why was the survival of Great Britain, in Roosevelt's view, essential to the national security of the United States?