



# Southmoreland School District

## United States History WWII to the Present

### **United States History World War II to the Present Overview:**

This course is a study of U.S. Contemporary History which will emphasize events relating to domestic and foreign policy in the United States and abroad from 1939 to the present. During the course of the year, students will be introduced to and demonstrate knowledge about important people, places and events associated with this time period. Major current event topics and governmental issues and procedures will be incorporated into the course, when applicable.

### **Module Titles:**

**Module 1: World War II**

**Module 2: Origins of the Cold War**

**Module 3: Civil Rights Movement**

**Module 4: Vietnam War**

**Module 5: 1970s/80s Economic Recession/Policies**

**Module 6: Decline of the Cold War**

**Module 7: Technology/Economic Boom of 1990s**

**Module 8: Modern U.S. Foreign/Domestic Policy**

### **Module Overviews:**

#### **Module 1:**

Students demonstrate knowledge and understanding about important people, places, and events associated with World War II, and discuss the causes, events, and results of the conflict.

#### **Module 2:**

Students trace the reasons that the wartime alliance between the US and the USSR unraveled and how tensions between the two nations resulted in a global conflict, and evaluate early Cold War policies to determine if they were historically effective. An analysis of the anti-Communist crusade in the United States centers on the rise and fall of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

#### **Module 3:**

Students explain the efforts to end segregation and how African Americans and other minorities gained social and legal equality in the US, as well as analyze and discuss domestic and foreign policy during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.



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### **Module 4:**

Students explain and discuss the causes, events, and results of the Vietnam War, and identify the subsequent social changes promoted by members of the counterculture and the ideological division of Americans caused by the Vietnam War

### **Module 5:**

Students develop an understanding of how the economic recession of the 1970's and 1980s impacted the nation and analyze the impact on Southwestern Pennsylvania. Additionally, a correlation is developed on the U.S. foreign policy effects on the nation's economy in the 1970's. Students differentiate the economic approach of President Reagan from previous presidents.

### **Module 6:**

Students re-evaluate U.S. Containment Policy following the fall of the Soviet Union, and analyze how U.S. foreign policy focus shifted from Russia/Soviet Union to the Middle East

### **Module 7:**

Students describe a political spectrum and explain what contributed to changes from 1945-present, and compare and contrast the economic boom of the dot-com era from the 1950s.

### **Module 8:**

Students explain the causes of the 2008 economic recession, and how the government attempted to rectify the economy, and compare and contrast foreign policy before and after September 11, 2001.