

11. THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE AFL AND THE CIO
- ▶ The American Federation of Labor (AFL) split apart at its national convention in 1935.
  - ▶ A majority of AFL leaders refused to grant charters to new unions organized on an industry-wide basis.
  - ▶ The AFL favored the organization of workers according to their skills and trades.
  - ▶ The CIO favored the organization of all workers in a particular industry.
12. TAFT-HARTLEY ACT, 1947
- ▶ The primary purpose was to curb the power of labor unions.
  - ▶ Supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act believed the following:
    - (a) Unions were abusing their power.
    - (b) Widespread strikes would endanger the nation's vital defense industries.
    - (c) Some labor unions had been infiltrated by Communists.
    - (d) Employers were being coerced into hiring union workers.
  - ▶ Organized labor opposed the Taft-Hartley Act.



APUSH test writers frequently ask questions about the Wagner Act and the Taft-Hartley Act. The former helped organized labor by guaranteeing labor the right to organize and form unions. The latter was intended to curb the power of labor unions.

13. UNITED FARM WORKERS
- ▶ The workers were organized and led by César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Philip Vera Cruz, and Larry Itliong.
  - ▶ This was a union of farm workers.
  - ▶ César Chávez is recognized as a significant civil rights leader.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT TWENTY ACTS OF CONGRESS

1. NAVIGATION ACTS, 1651
- ▶ The acts put mercantilism into practice. Colonial products that could be shipped only to England were listed.
  - ▶ The acts were designed to subordinate the colonial economy to that of the mother country.



Don't overlook the Navigation Acts and mercantilism. They have appeared on almost every APUSH exam.

2. SUGAR ACT, 1764
- ▶ The Sugar Act was the first law passed by Parliament to raise revenue for the British Crown.
  - ▶ The Sugar Act was designed to tighten enforcement of English customs laws in America.
  - ▶ Following bitter protests from the colonists, British officials lowered the duties.
3. STAMP ACT, 1765
- ▶ The primary purpose was to raise revenue to support British troops stationed in America.
  - ▶ Issue raised: Does Parliament have the right to tax the colonies without their consent?
  - ▶ The act was repealed because colonial boycotts of English goods were hurting British merchants.
  - ▶ The act was important for the following reasons:
    - (a) It revealed that many colonists believed they were entitled to all the rights and privileges of British subjects.

- (b) The colonists demonstrated their willingness to use violence rather than legal means to frustrate British policy.
  - (c) The British maintained that the colonies had no right to independence from parliamentary authority.
  - (d) Patriot leaders claimed that the act denied them their British birthrights.
4. COERCIVE ACTS, 1774
- ▶ The acts were the British response to the Boston Tea Party.
  - ▶ They were widely known in the colonies as the Intolerable Acts.
  - ▶ Parliament closed the port of Boston and drastically reduced the power of self-government in the Massachusetts colony.
  - ▶ The Coercive Acts also provided for the quartering of troops in the colonists' barns and empty houses.
5. KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT, 1854
- ▶ The act repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, thus heightening the sectional crisis.
  - ▶ It applied the principle of popular sovereignty to the territories.
  - ▶ It permitted the expansion of slavery beyond the Southern states.
  - ▶ It sparked the formation of the Republican Party.



The Kansas-Nebraska Act was one of the most important acts in American history. Be sure you know that it repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, applied the principle of popular sovereignty to the territories, and galvanized the formation of the Republican Party.

6. HOMESTEAD ACT, 1862
- ▶ The act permitted any citizen or prospective citizen to claim 160 acres of public land and to purchase it for a small fee after living on it for five years.
  - ▶ The Homestead Act played a role in encouraging the settlement of the Western frontier.
7. CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT OF 1882
- ▶ This was the first law to exclude a group from America because of ethnic background.
  - ▶ It prohibited the immigration of Chinese to America.
  - ▶ It was strongly supported by working-class Americans.
  - ▶ It reflected anti-immigration sentiment in California.

8. DAWES ACT, 1887
- ▶ The act divided Native American tribal lands into individual holdings.
  - ▶ The purpose was to assimilate American Indians into the mainstream of American culture.
  - ▶ Reflecting the forced-civilization views of the reformers, the act dissolved many tribes as legal entities, wiped out tribal ownership of land, and set up individual Indian family heads with 160 acres.
9. SHERMAN ANTITRUST ACT, 1890
- ▶ The act forbade unreasonable combinations or contracts in restraint of trade.
  - ▶ It had little immediate impact on the regulation of large corporations.
  - ▶ During the last decade of the nineteenth century, the primary use of the act was to curb labor unions.
10. THE PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT, 1906
- ▶ The act was an example of Progressive Era legislation.
  - ▶ It was prompted by the public outrage unleashed by the publication of Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*.
11. FEDERAL RESERVE ACT OF 1913
- ▶ The act created a central Federal Reserve Board appointed by the President.
  - ▶ It established a national system of 12 district banks, coordinated by a central board.
  - ▶ The Federal Reserve System made currency and credit more elastic.



Actions of the Federal Reserve Board spark headlines and heated debate. Although APUSH questions about the Federal Reserve Board do not spark debate, they do challenge unprepared students. Be certain you can identify the Federal Reserve Board.

12. NATIONAL ORIGINS ACT, 1924
- ▶ The primary purpose was to restrict the flow of newcomers from Southern and Eastern Europe.
  - ▶ It established immigrant quotas that discriminated against Southern and Eastern Europeans.
  - ▶ This was the primary reason for the decrease in the numbers of Europeans immigrating to the United States in the 1920s.

13. NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT, 1933
- ▶ *The National Industrial Recovery Act (NRA) sought to combat the Great Depression by fostering government-business cooperation.*
  - ▶ *The act allowed businesses to regulate themselves through codes of fair competition.*
  - ▶ *The NRA did not succeed. In contrast, Social Security proved to be much more enduring.*
14. NEUTRALITY ACTS, 1930s
- ▶ *The acts were expressions of a commitment to isolationism.*
  - ▶ *During the 1930s, isolationists drew support for their position from Washington's Farewell Address.*
15. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, 1935
- ▶ *The Social Security Act was part of the New Deal program of reforms.*
  - ▶ *The Social Security Act created a federal pension system funded by taxes on a worker's wages and by an equivalent contribution by employers.*
  - ▶ *The aging of America since the 1970s is widely seen as threatening the long-term solvency of the Social Security system.*
16. WAGNER ACT, 1935
- ▶ *The act is also known as the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.*
  - ▶ *It is also known as the Magna Carta of Labor because it ensured workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.*
  - ▶ *It led to a rapid rise in labor union membership.*
17. LEND-LEASE ACT, 1941
- ▶ *The purpose of the Lend-Lease Act was to provide military supplies to the Allies.*
  - ▶ *The Lend-Lease program was used primarily to help Great Britain and the Soviet Union resist Nazi Germany.*
18. TAFT-HARTLEY ACT, 1947
- ▶ *The primary purpose was to curb the power of labor unions.*
  - ▶ *Supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act believed that unions were abusing their powers and that widespread strikes would endanger national defense industries.*
  - ▶ *Organized labor opposed the Taft-Hartley Act.*
19. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ACT OF 1956
- ▶ *The act created the Interstate Highway System.*
  - ▶ *It played a key role in promoting suburban growth.*
20. UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1965
- ▶ *The National Origins Acts of the 1920s severely restricted immigration into the United States.*
  - ▶ *The United States Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished the national-origins quota system.*