# Power and Change

Trace how decisions in the 1960s and 1970s changed American life.

**USH.C.7.3** "Analyze the ongoing social and political transformations within the United States of America, affecting domestic and foreign policy. Examine the role of the Warren Court's application of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline four government actions in the passage. Circle one effect of each action, then give each action and its effect the same number.

### A Changing Role for Government

(1) In the 1960s, federal power reached deeper into daily life. The Warren Court used the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause to apply Bill of Rights protections to state governments, a process called incorporation. In Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), states had to provide lawyers for defendants who could not afford them in serious criminal cases. President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and War on Poverty expanded federal action through programs such as Medicare and Head Start. Supporters saw stronger protection and opportunity; critics worried about federal spending and power.

(2) Other changes reshaped who could participate in American life and what counted as a public problem. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 ended national origins quotas and favored family ties and job skills. Over time, immigration from Asia and Latin America grew, changing communities across the country. Rachel Carson's Silent Spring (1962) warned that pesticides could harm wildlife and people. Environmental activists pressed for national safeguards. The Clean Air Act of 1970 gave the federal government stronger tools to limit air pollution, affecting industry and public health.

(3) Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 by appealing to a "silent majority" weary of unrest. Abroad, détente eased tensions with the Soviet Union, while his 1972 visit opened contact with China, shifting Cold War diplomacy. At home, the Pentagon Papers exposed misleading government statements about Vietnam, increasing distrust. Watergate reporters uncovered abuses tied to Nixon's reelection; Nixon resigned in 1974. After Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned, the Twenty-fifth Amendment was first used to place Gerald Ford in that office. As president, Ford pardoned Nixon, sparking further debate about accountability.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Warren Court's use of the Fourteenth Amendment change what states had to do in criminal cases?

2. How did Johnson's programs and the 1965 immigration law expand or change the federal government's role in different ways?

3. How did an environmental warning help lead to a change in federal policy?

4. How did Nixon's foreign policy and the events reported at home affect the United States in different ways?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are writing a newspaper analysis in 1975. In four or five sentences, argue which two developments in the passage most changed the federal government's relationship with Americans. Use evidence from two different paragraphs and explain an effect that could last.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.7.3

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four government actions in the passage. Circle one effect of each action, then give each action and its effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did the Warren Court's use of the Fourteenth Amendment change what states had to do in criminal cases? | **Incorporation applied Bill of Rights protections to states. Under Gideon, states had to provide lawyers for defendants who could not afford them in serious criminal cases.** |
| 2 | How did Johnson's programs and the 1965 immigration law expand or change the federal government's role in different ways? | **Johnson's programs expanded federal action on health care and poverty. The immigration law changed federal admissions rules by ending national origins quotas and favoring family ties and job skills.** |
| 3 | How did an environmental warning help lead to a change in federal policy? | **Silent Spring warned about harm from pesticides, and environmental activists pressed for safeguards. The Clean Air Act later gave the federal government stronger tools to limit air pollution.** |
| 4 | How did Nixon's foreign policy and the events reported at home affect the United States in different ways? | **Détente and the opening of contact with China shifted Cold War diplomacy. Reporting on the Pentagon Papers and Watergate increased public distrust of government.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Warren Court's incorporation decisions and the Clean Air Act most changed the federal government's relationship with Americans. Gideon required states to provide lawyers to defendants who could not afford them in serious criminal cases. The Clean Air Act gave the federal government stronger tools to limit air pollution. Together, these changes could keep national authority important in courtrooms and in protecting public health.

For the marking job, accept any four accurate action-and-effect pairs stated in the passage. For Your Turn, accept other defensible choices supported by evidence from two different paragraphs and a plausible lasting effect.