

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER, 2016

TITLE OF PAPER : HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES: 1865-1920

COURSE CODE : H422/IDE H422

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

Question 1

Describe the major provisions of moderate/Presidential Reconstruction of the South between 1863 and April 1865. Why and what steps did Radical Republicans in Congress take to oppose Presidential Reconstruction? [25 marks]

Question 2

The period immediately after the American Civil War of 1861-1865 ushered in a new political and economic climate that caused the United States to transform into the industrial and urban society that it is today. What set of prerequisites were responsible for this rapid transformation of America into the world's leading industrial empire? [25 marks]

Question 3

“Throughout the first half of the 19th century “the United States had generally annexed land adjacent to its existing boundaries into which American citizens could move relatively easily and which could ultimately become states of the Union....The Anti-imperialist influence [created] a political climate that sought no formal colonial possessions ” (Alan Brinkley, 2007).

With reference to the above statement, explain the extent to which the influence of the anti-imperialists stalled American imperialism at least until the 1890s. [25 marks]

Question 4

Discuss the major sources for the origins of the Progressive impulse in early 20th century American society. What were the major limitations of American progressivism? [25 marks]

Question 5

Give an account of the reasons raised by the United States to justify its decision not to join The First World War in August 1914. What was the immediate sequence of events that eventually led to American involvement in the war in April 1917? [25 marks]