

**MCCKC History 121: U.S. History Since 1865**  
**Chapter 28: September 11 and the Next American Century**  
**Essay Questions**

1. Fully discuss and examine the limitations placed on freedom after September 11. Then compare the surrounding circumstances with those during both the McCarthy era and World War I. What is the balance between security and freedom during war? Does the Constitution protect citizens' rights during wartime? Should dissent be equated with lack of patriotism? Why, or why not?
2. Looking back to the early Cold War period, compare the "National Security Strategy" of George W. Bush in *Voices of Freedom* with NSC-68. How did each outline fundamental shifts in American foreign policy? How did each define freedom?
3. Evaluate whether the United States is an empire today. Be sure to discuss why some believe that it is and why others disagree.
4. Reflect back on the last half-century and comment on the Langston Hughes poem that concludes the chapter. What is the poem's meaning? If Hughes were still alive today, do you think he would argue that his poem is still relevant? Why, or why not?
5. Dating back to World War I, Randolph Bourne had commented that "war is the health of the state." Although presidents have always taken certain liberties during war, Eric Foner contends that George W. Bush took too many liberties, damaging the health of the state. Defend or refute that statement by writing an essay explaining the meaning of Bourne's quote and whether you agree with Foner that Bush violated long-standing constitutional principles in the name of war, endangering the health of the state.
6. Postelection polls after November 2004 initially suggested that moral values held the key to the election, but the moral values category was a grab bag. What seemed most important to the outcome of the election were the attacks of September 11 and the war on terror. Write an essay on what you see as the key issues to the 2004 election, fully explaining your opinions.
7. In January 2005, President George W. Bush outlined America's new goal as "ending tyranny in the world." Compare this goal with that of Franklin Roosevelt's quest to do the same in Europe and Asia during World War II. Be sure to discuss how Roosevelt and Bush used the words "freedom," "free," and "liberty." Discuss how each president used the international community. Finally comment on how successful Roosevelt was and how successful you think Bush will be in the quest to end tyranny in the world.
8. Hurricane Katrina's aftermath revealed to Americans the extent of poverty in the United States, much as earlier publications such as Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives* (1890) and Michael Harrington's *The Other America* (1962) had done. Compare the responses by the federal government and by the American people to the those publications and to the aftermath of the hurricane. What do you believe needs to be done today to alleviate poverty in the United States?
9. Write an essay that analyzes the successes and failures of Mexican immigration since the 1930s, paying close attention to the debates surrounding Mexican immigration today.