

the harding presidency worksheet

answer key

The **Harding presidency worksheet answer key** provides insights into the administration of Warren G. Harding, the 29th President of the United States, who served from 1921 until his death in 1923. This article delves into the key elements of the Harding presidency, exploring his policies, significant events, and the controversies that marked his time in office. Understanding the context and implications of his presidency is essential for anyone studying American history, particularly the post-World War I era.

Overview of the Harding Presidency

Warren Gamaliel Harding was born on November 2, 1865, in Blooming Grove, Ohio. Before entering politics, Harding worked as a newspaper publisher. He became involved in local politics and eventually served in the U.S. Senate from 1915 until 1921. His election as president in 1920 was characterized by a campaign that promised a "return to normalcy" following the tumultuous years of World War I.

Key Policies and Achievements

During his presidency, Harding focused on several key policies aimed at stabilizing the economy and promoting growth. Some of the most notable achievements include:

1. **Economic Policies:** Harding advocated for pro-business policies that emphasized deregulation, tax cuts, and a reduction in government intervention in the economy.
2. **Budget and Accounting Act of 1921:** This act established the Bureau of the Budget, which aimed to streamline federal budgeting processes and improve financial accountability.
3. **Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922:** This legislation raised tariffs on imported goods, which was intended to protect American industries but also led to tensions in international trade.
4. **Veterans Bureau:** Harding established the Veterans Bureau in 1921 to oversee and provide care for returning soldiers, addressing the needs of veterans after World War I.

Significant Events During the Harding Presidency

The Harding presidency was marked by several significant events, both domestic and international, that shaped his administration's legacy.

The Teapot Dome Scandal

One of the most infamous scandals of Harding's presidency was the Teapot Dome scandal, which involved the secret leasing of federal oil reserves at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, and Elk Hills, California, to private oil companies. Key points about the scandal include:

- **Corruption:** The scandal exposed widespread corruption within Harding's administration, particularly involving Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall, who was later convicted of bribery.
- **Impact on Public Trust:** The revelations damaged the public's trust in the federal government and led to calls for reforms in government ethics and transparency.
- **Long-term Consequences:** The scandal prompted Congress to implement more stringent regulations regarding the leasing of federal lands and resources.

International Relations and Treaties

Harding's presidency also saw significant developments in international relations, particularly in the aftermath of World War I. Notable treaties and agreements included:

1. **Washington Naval Conference (1921-1922):** Aimed at limiting naval armaments and preventing a naval arms race, this conference resulted in several treaties that established limits on battleship construction among the major naval powers.
2. **Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928):** Although it was signed after Harding's death, the groundwork for this pact was laid during his presidency. It was an agreement between countries to renounce war as a tool of national policy.

Challenges and Controversies

Despite his efforts to promote stability and growth, Harding faced numerous challenges and controversies during his presidency.

Health Issues and Death

Harding's health was a concern throughout his presidency. He suffered from various ailments, including a heart condition. His health deteriorated significantly during a speaking tour of the West Coast in 1923. He died suddenly on August 2, 1923, in San Francisco, which led to widespread speculation about the circumstances of his death.

Criticism and Legacy

Harding's presidency has often been viewed through a critical lens, primarily due to the scandals that marred his administration. Key points of criticism include:

- **Lack of Leadership:** Critics argue that Harding lacked the vision and decisiveness required of a president, often delegating significant responsibilities to his cabinet members.
- **Corruption in Administration:** The Teapot Dome scandal and other instances of corruption have overshadowed any achievements of his presidency, leading to a perception of incompetence.
- **Historical Reputation:** Harding is often ranked among the least effective U.S. presidents in surveys conducted by historians and political scientists.

Conclusion

The Harding presidency worksheet answer key serves as a valuable resource for understanding the complexities of Warren G. Harding's time in office. While he aimed to promote economic growth and stability during a challenging period in American history, his administration was marred by scandal, corruption, and questions about his leadership abilities. Harding's legacy is a reminder of the importance of ethical governance and the impact of political decisions on public trust. As students and historians continue to examine his presidency, they gain insights not only into Harding's administration but

also into the broader context of early 20th-century American politics.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the main focus of the Harding administration?

The Harding administration primarily focused on returning the country to normalcy after World War I, promoting economic growth, and reducing government intervention in the economy.

What major scandal marred the Harding presidency?

The Teapot Dome scandal, involving the secret leasing of federal oil reserves, is the most notable scandal that marred Harding's presidency.

How did Harding's policies impact the economy?

Harding's policies, including tax cuts and deregulation, contributed to economic growth in the 1920s, although they also set the stage for economic disparities.

Who was Harding's Secretary of the Interior implicated in the Teapot Dome scandal?

Albert B. Fall, Harding's Secretary of the Interior, was implicated in the Teapot Dome scandal and was later convicted of accepting bribes.

What was the significance of Harding's 'Return to Normalcy' campaign slogan?

The 'Return to Normalcy' slogan signified a desire to revert to pre-war tranquility and stability, appealing to a war-weary public.

What was Harding's stance on civil rights?

Harding advocated for civil rights advancements, including calling for anti-lynching legislation and supporting the appointment of African Americans to government positions.

How did Harding's presidency end?

Harding's presidency ended with his sudden death from a heart attack in August 1923, during a trip to San Francisco.

What was the reaction to Harding's death?

Harding's death prompted widespread mourning, but it also led to increased scrutiny of his administration's scandals and policies.

How did historians view Harding's presidency in the years following his death?

Historians have had mixed views on Harding's presidency, often ranking it poorly due to the scandals but recognizing his contributions to economic recovery and civil rights.

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