After World War II, the United States became the world’s dominant power, fought two wars in Asia, engaged in a costly Cold War with the Soviet Union, conducted countless counter-insurgency campaigns in the Third World, and two long wars in the Middle East. Over a fifty-year period the U.S. economy soared and then stumbled, recovered, and then barely prevented the greatest economic depression of its history. The rise of suburban communities and the decay of inner cities created opportunities for some and impoverishment for others. Since the 1970s the U.S. has coped with de-industrialization, the globalization of the economy, and the power of finance capitalism. Politically, the federal government broadened its liberal, social-democratic policies in the 1950s and 1960s. Social movements for civil rights of African Americans, women, Native and gay peoples lobbied for new laws and altered how Americans live and think about themselves as individuals and groups. The sexual revolution and the computer revolution have redefined the meaning and practice of privacy. These changes, in turn, triggered a cultural and political backlash in the form of a fundamentalist-based opposition movement. Primary documents -- court cases, executive orders, speeches, films and political manifestos, among others – will be used to survey these transformations.