

History 246
Second Midterm Paper
Presented in class: April 20, 2023
Completed paper due: April 27

Write a short (600-800 word) paper on the following topic, below. Your paper must fall within the assigned word count and note the correct word count at the bottom of your paper. Please use double spaced format, 12-point type. All papers must be presented to me in class on April 27, in hardcopy only. For this assignment, *all* information in the paper must come from the class lectures. You may not include any information gleaned from assigned readings, online research material, or any other sources that were not discussed in lectures. Do not write “According to the lecture” – that is unnecessary.

Here is the paper topic:

“During the decade of the 1970s, the US political economy experienced a transformation, as business interests orchestrated an assault against the ‘class compromise’ of the New Deal and post-New Deal eras. By the end of the 1970s, this assault was successful in overturning the compromise, shifting America in a free market direction. The main effect of these changes was to reduce working class incomes, while elevating living standards for the already wealthy.

Your essay should tell the story of how and why these changes took place. You should discuss at least three of the following factors: Declining rates of profit; rising inflation; political mobilization of business interests; rise of right-wing think tanks and lobby groups; the move to floating exchange rates; imposition of austerity in New York City; deregulation of finance and industry; and the austerity program imposed by the Federal Reserve under the direction of Paul Volcker.”