

Major Periods & Important Dates in American History

Colonial Period 1607-1763

- Chesapeake: Jamestown (1st slaves & House of Burgesses; Bacon's Rebellion)
- New England; Mayflower Compact & Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- Diversity of the Middle colonies
- Salutary neglect; colonial assemblies
- Navigation Acts, mercantilism
- French and Indian war 1754-1763

Revolutionary Period, 1763-1789

- War debts; End to salutary neglect after French & Indian War, 1763
- Sugar & Stamp Acts; Townshend Acts
- Sons of Liberty; *No taxation without representation*; Committees of correspondence
- Lexington and Concord, 1775
- Second Continental Congress
- Declaration of Independence, 1776
- Saratoga; Battle of Yorktown
- Treaty of Paris, 1783

Early Republic, 1789-1824

- Articles of Confederation ratified, 1781 & the "Critical Period, 1781- 1788"
- Land Ordinance; NW Ordinance
- Constitution Ratified, 1789
- Washington, Adams, Jefferson presidencies
- Proclamation of Neutrality
- Marbury v Madison
- Louisiana Purchase
- War of 1812, 1812-1815
- "Era of Good Feelings," 1816-1824
- Compromise of 1820 (Missouri Comp)

Market Revolution, 1816-1845

- Clay's American System, 1816
- Tariff of 1816; 2nd BUS
- Roads, canals (Erie Canal), some railroads
- Growth of cotton in the Deep South; commercial farming in West; textiles in North

Age of Jackson, 1828-1840

- Universal white manhood suffrage
- "Corrupt Bargain" of 1824
- Andrew Jackson elected, 1828
- Bank War; Specie Circular
- Nullification Crisis
- Indian removal
- 2nd Great Awakening & reform movements (temperance, abolition, Seneca Falls, 1848)

Late Antebellum Period, 1840-1860

- Manifest Destiny, 1840s
- Mexican War, 1846-48
- Compromise of 1850
- Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854
- Formation of the Republican Party
- Dred Scott case, 1857
- Lincoln Douglas Debates, 1858
- John Brown at Harpers Ferry
- Election of Lincoln, 1860

Civil War, 1861-65

- Confederate States of America, 1861
- Fort Sumter attacked, 1861
- Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Atlanta
- Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
- Confederate Surrender, 1865
- Lincoln assassinated, 1865

Reconstruction, 1865-77

- Reconstruction Amendments (13th-slavery abolished, 14th-citizenship & rights, 15th-manhood suffrage)
- Weak presidents: A Johnson, Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes (2nd corrupt bargain)
- Nation reunifies
- End of Reconstruction; Jim Crow laws

The Gilded Age (1870-1900)

- Settlement of the West, 1877-1900
- Destruction of Native Americans, Farming, Ranching, Mining, Populism
- Industrial Revolution (ROSE)
- New forms of marketing and business organization, holding companies & trusts
- The Jim Crow South, disenfranchisement of blacks, sharecropping & crop lien
- Depression of 1893
- New Immigrants

U.S. Imperialism, 1890-1914

- Spanish-American War, 1898
- Guam, Puerto Rico, Philippines
- Philippine War
- Panama Canal
- Big Stick, Dollar, Moral Diplomacies
- Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
- Pancho Villa

Progressive Era 1900-1914

- Muckrakers (Tarbell, Riis, Steffens, Sinclair)
- Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- Northern Securities Co.
- "Square Deal"
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- Federal Reserve
- Underwood-Simmons Tariff
- Initiative, Referendum, Recall
- 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th amendments

WWI, 1914-1918

- Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
- Zimmerman Note
- WIB & CPI
- Selective Service Act
- Great migration
- 14 Points, Treaty of Versailles
- League of Nations
- Irreconcilables, Reservationists

1920s--1930s

- Roaring Twenties, Consumerism
- Women gain right to vote
- Harlem Renaissance
- Urban vs rural conflicts (Prohibition, evolution, immigration, KKK)
- 1929 Stock market crash
- Hoover's "Rugged Individualism"
- 1st New Deal, 2nd New Deal
- Relief, Recovery, Reform
- Court Packing

1940s

- Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941
- WPB, OSS, OPA
- Great Migration
- Rosie the Riveter
- D-Day, Island Hopping
- Manhattan Project
- A-bombs dropped; Japan surrenders
- Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam Conferences

1950s

- Affluent Society, Consumerism
- Suburbs, White Flight
- Baby boom
- Rock n roll, Juvenile delinquency
- Social expectations, conformity
- Jack Kerouac, Beats
- Automania

Cold War, 1947-1989

- Containment: Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, 1st peacetime alliance
- Soviets test A-bomb, 1949
- China goes communist, 1949
- Korean War, 1950-53
- HUAC, Loyalty Review Board
- McCarthyism, 1950-54
- Vietnam War, 1965-73 (Gulf of Tonkin)
- Nixon & Détente, 1972-1979
- Fall of Berlin Wall, 1989
- Collapse of Soviet Union, 1991

Civil Rights, 1954-68

- Brown v. Board of Ed. decision, 1954
- Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Birmingham
- March on Washington
- SCLC, SNCC, CORE, NAACP
- Civil Rights Act, 1964
- Voting Rights Act, 1965
- 24th Amendment, 1964
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated, 1968
- Stokely Carmichael; Black Power
- Malcolm X

1960s & 1970s

- JFK, New Frontier, assassination 1963
- Berlin Crisis
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- LBJ; "Great Society"
- Hippies, New Left
- Turmoil in 1968 (Tet Offensive in Vietnam, Chicago, assassination of RFK & MLK)
- President Nixon, 1969-1974, Conservatism, Silent Majority, Watergate, Resignation, 1974
- Triangular diplomacy: détente, China, Cease fire in Vietnam
- President Gerald Ford, 1974-76
- President Jimmy Carter, 1977-80
- Oil Embargo, Energy Crisis, Stagflation
- Iran hostage crisis, Camp David, Afghanistan

1980s & Recent Past

- President Ronald Reagan, 1981-89
- Supply-side economics
- Iran-Contra Affair
- SDI, nuclear build-up, Cold war ends,
- President George Bush, 1989-92; NAFTA
- The Persian Gulf War, 1991
- President Bill Clinton, 1993-2001, Impeachment, economic growth,
- President George W. Bush, 2000 Election; 9/11, War on Terror, Iraq War.
- Election of Barack Obama, 2008

HISTORICAL PERIODS TO MEMORIZE

Pre-colonial period (before 1492): Indians, Renaissance, Protestant Reformation

Colonial Period: 1607-1776

16th Century: geography, politics, economics, society (including religion)

17th Century: geography, politics, economics, society (including religion)

“Salutary Neglect”: 1713-1763

French and Indian War: 1756-1763

Revolutionary War era: 1763-1783; **Revolutionary War** (1775-1783)

“Critical Period” -- Articles of Confed (1783-1789)

Federalist Era (1789-1801)

Presidents Washington and Adams

Jeffersonian Democracy (1800-1824)

Presidents Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe

War of 1812: (1812-1815) Madison

“Era of Good Feelings”: 1816-1824; Monroe

Jacksonian Democracy: 1828-1848

Presidents Jackson, Van Buren, (Tyler?) & Polk

Manifest Destiny (1840s): Presidents Tyler & Polk (Jackson & Indian removal in 1830s)

Mexican War: 1846-1848

American Society: 1790-1860

Early Industrial Rev: textiles, railroads, iron, coal (TRIC)

Transportation Revolution: turnpikes, steamboats, canals, railroads

2nd Great Awakening (1820-1860): abolitionism, temperance, women's rights, etc.

Road to Civil War (1848-1860): Wilmot Proviso through election of 1860

Civil War (1861-1865)

Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Gilded Age (1865-1900)

Politics: scandal, money issue (1870s & '90s), tariff (1880s), Panics of 1873 & 1893

Second Industrial Revolution: ROSE -- railroads, oil, steel, electricity; Unionization

Urbanization: “New Immigrants” (1880-1924), Social Gospel, political machines, nativists

The Great West: Three frontiers -- 1) farming 2) mining 3) cattle

Populism, election of 1896

Imperialism (1889-1914): Hawaii, Spanish-Am War, Open Door, "Big Stick", "dollar diplomacy," "moral diplomacy"

Progressive Era (1901-1920): Presidents T. Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson

World War I: 1914-1918; President Wilson; Treaty of Versailles (1919)

1920s: Presidents Harding, Coolidge & Hoover
Conservative domestic policy; isolationist foreign policy (including 1930s)

“Americanism”

“Roaring 20s” and “Jazz Age” (+ “Lost Generation”)

The Great Depression 1929-1939; Hoover and FDR
New Deal: 1933-1938

World War II: 1939-1945 (U.S. 1941-1945)

Cold War: 1946-1991

Truman’s Presidency (1945-1953)

Cold War

domestic policy; “Fair Deal”

“Red Scare” (second one): 1947-1954?

“Affluent Society”: 1950-1970

1950s: President Eisenhower (1953-1961)

Foreign and domestic policy; Civil Rights era (1954-1965); consumerism; conformity

1960s: JFK & LBJ

Cold War (including Vietnam)

“New Frontier”

“Great Society” (including Civil Rights)

Women's rights

Vietnam War: 1964-1973

1970s: President Nixon (1969-1974), Ford, Carter

Cold War (end of Vietnam) and *détente*

Domestic issues (including Watergate); “New Federalism”; oil crisis; “stagflation”

“Imperial Presidency”: WWII-1974

1980s: Reagan and Bush

Conservative revolution: “Reaganomics”

Cold War and other foreign policy issues