

Constitutional Amendments

The first ten amendments were passed in 1791 and are collectively called the Bill of Rights.

1. Five freedoms—**separation of church and state; freedom of speech, press, and assembly; right to petition government** for settlement of a complaint or to make up for wrongdoing
2. Right to bear **arms**
3. **Quartering of troops** prohibited in peacetime without permission
4. No unreasonable **search and seizure**
5. **Rights of accused persons**—capital crimes require Grand Jury indictment; can't be tried twice for the same crime (no double jeopardy); can't be compelled to testify against yourself; can't be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; owner must be compensated for private property taken for public use
6. Right to **speedy, public trial**
7. Right to **trial by jury** in civil cases
8. **Limits of fines and punishments**—no excessive bail nor cruel or unusual punishment
9. **Rights of the people**—rights stated in the Constitution are not the only rights that people have
10. Powers not delegated to the federal government nor denied to the states by the Constitution are **reserved to the states or the people**
11. **Lawsuits against states (1798)** Federal judicial power does not extend to lawsuits brought against individual states.
12. **Election of executives (1804)** Established procedures for the electoral college to vote for specific candidates for president and vice-president.
13. **Slavery abolished (1865)** Involuntary servitude is illegal except as punishment for a crime.
14. **Civil rights (1868)** All persons born or naturalized in the U.S. are citizens; states may not abridge rights of citizens—equal protection of the law, due process, compensation if the government takes private property. States will lose some representation if they deny the vote to any male citizens. Former Confederate leaders not allowed to hold government positions.
15. **Right to vote (1870)** Voting privileges cannot be denied on the basis of race or previous condition of servitude.
16. **Income tax (1913)** Legalized a direct tax on income and profit, not dependent on population distribution.
17. **Direct election of Senators (1913)** U.S. Senators will be elected by the people, not by state legislatures.
18. **Prohibition (1919)** The manufacture, transportation, or sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
19. **Woman suffrage (1920)** Women gained the right to vote equal to men.
20. **"Lame duck" sessions (1933)** The terms of president and vice-president end on January 20, and of Congress on January 3, instead of in March. Modified some of the 12th Amendment process of choosing a president.
21. **Repeal of prohibition (1933)** Repealed the 18th Amendment. Alcohol was legal again.
22. **Limit on presidential terms (1951)** A president can serve only two terms.
23. **Voting in the District of Columbia (1961)** The District of Columbia may have members of the electoral college to choose the president and vice-president. The number will be equal to its relative size if it were a state.
24. **Abolition of poll taxes (1964)** States may not use poll taxes as a voting requirement in federal elections.
25. **Presidential disability/succession (1967)** Established procedures for how the office of president or vice-president will be filled in the event of death, resignation, removal from office, or disability.
26. **18-year old vote (1971)** National voting age set at 18.
27. **Congressional pay (1992)** Congressional pay raises begin in the session of Congress after the one that voted for the raise.

Important Documents in American History

- Magna Carta (1215)** English agreement that guaranteed certain rights to all Englishmen; influenced the American Bill of Rights' protections of individual rights
- English Bill of Rights (1689)** English agreement that guaranteed certain rights to all Englishmen; influenced the American Bill of Rights' protections of individual rights
- Mayflower Compact (1620)** Signed by many Pilgrims on their way to New World; they agreed to create a new government and follow its laws; helped establish the idea of self-government
- Common Sense (1776)** Influential pamphlet written by Thomas Paine; it urged Americans to declare their independence
- Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)** Written by Thomas Jefferson; announced the separation of the colonies from England
- Articles of Confederation (1781–1789)** First U.S. government; it was eventually a failure because it created a national government that was too weak
- Constitution (written in 1787)** Blueprint for the American government
- The Federalist Papers (1787–1788)** Series of essays about the nature of government by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay; written to help get the Constitution ratified
- Bill of Rights (adopted in 1791)** First 10 amendments of the Constitution; guarantees individual rights
- Monroe Doctrine (1823)** Presidential message that said that Europe should not interfere in the affairs of Latin America and the United States would not interfere in European affairs
- “South Carolina Exposition and Protest” (1829)** Written by John C. Calhoun; outlined the doctrine of nullification, which was a strong statement for states' rights
- The Liberator (1831–1865)** Newspaper printed by William Lloyd Garrison; most influential antislavery periodical in United States history; it increased sectionalism between the North and South
- Emancipation Proclamation (Jan. 1, 1863)** Executive order given by Abraham Lincoln; it freed the slaves in the Confederacy
- Gettysburg Address (1863)** Famous speech given by Abraham Lincoln; it said that the Union was worth fighting for at any cost
- Lincoln's Second Inaugural (1865)** Lincoln said Civil War was about slavery and that the Union was fighting to end slavery
- Bryan's “Cross of Gold” speech (1896)** stated Populist position against gold standard which favored business and bankers; ran for president as Democrat but lost and Populism lost power
- Zimmermann Note (1917)** telegram from Germany to Mexico offering help in recovering territory in the southwest U.S.; U.S. entered World War I
- The Fourteen Points (1918)** President Woodrow Wilson's plan for peace after World War I; proposed a League of Nations
- Covenant of the League of Nations (1920)** established an organization to settle international disputes diplomatically; U.S. never joined; forerunner of the United Nations
- Roosevelt's “Four Freedoms” speech (1941)** stated hopes for post-war world where all would have freedom of speech and worship and freedom from want and fear; influenced U.N. charter
- United Nations Charter (1945)** created a new organization of nations dedicated to world peace and international cooperation
- Truman Doctrine (1947)** U.S. would support free people resisting takeover from hostile forces within or outside of their countries
- Marshall Plan (1947)** Secretary of state George Marshall's plan to provide aid to help Europe rebuild after World War II
- “Letter from the Birmingham Jail” (1963)** Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statement of his philosophy of nonviolent protest
- “I Have a Dream” speech (1963)** Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of racial harmony; March on Washington
- Pentagon Papers (1971)** Defense Department document revealing government's lack of honesty in its communication about Vietnam
- Carter's “Moral Equivalent of War” speech (1977)** focused attention on U.S. dependence on foreign oil for economic and personal needs; resulted in National Energy Act
- Contract with America (1994)** Congressman Newt Gingrich's conservative plan for government reform; helped Republicans gain control of Congress

Quick Prep

This Quick Prep section provides a handy reference to key facts on a variety of topics in American history.

Major Eras of American History

Era and Dates	Description
Pre-European Contact c. 1000 B.C.–1492	Flourishing societies of indigenous peoples live by hunting, farming, fishing, and trading.
Exploration & Colonization 1492–1763	Europeans explore, establish colonies, create conflict with Native Americans; European rivalries continue.
Revolutionary Era 1763–1789	Maturing colonial economies; increasing tension with Great Britain leads to war and independence.
Early Republic 1789–1812	New federal government; first political parties; uncertain international relations; expansion to the Mississippi
Westward Expansion 1812–1846	Growth in transportation and industry; Jacksonian democracy; Manifest Destiny; removal of Native Americans
Antebellum Era 1836–1860	Differences over expansion of slavery leads to increasing sectionalism; conflict with Mexico.
Civil War and Reconstruction 1860–1877	War over states' rights to secede and emancipation; union preserved; voting rights for African Americans
Industrial Age/ Gilded Age 1877–1900	Immigration, industrialization, urbanization Big business, railroads, organized labor, machine politics
Progressive Era 1890–1920	Reform—urban problems; temperance; government and business corruption; women's right to vote.
American Imperialism 1890–1920	America becomes a world power, gains overseas colonies.
World War I 1914–1918	European conflict challenges U.S. policy of neutrality; Allied victory intended to make the world safe for democracy.
Roaring Twenties 1920–1929	Business booms, superficial prosperity; new lifestyles for women; growth of mass media; Red Scare
Great Depression 1929–1941	World trade declines, banks fail, high unemployment, urban and rural poverty; New Deal expands role of federal government.
World War II 1939–1945	Dictators threaten world peace on 2 fronts—Europe and Pacific; mobilizes U.S. economy and industry; U.S. helps win war and becomes a world leader
Cold War 1945–1989	Tension and competition between U.S. and Communist USSR; threat of nuclear war; McCarthyism (1950s)
Postwar Boom 1946–1959	American dream—social conformity, suburban and automobile culture, baby boom, consumerism; TV
New Frontier and Great Society 1960–1968	New leadership, bold ideas, prosperity; space race Johnson's Great Society—social welfare, civil rights
Civil Rights Movement 1954–1968	Nonviolent protest—voting rights, desegregation; federal support vs. states' resistance; Black Power movement and urban riots
Vietnam War Years 1954–1975	Domino theory—contain communism War divides the country—campus protest, draft resistance
Era of Social Change 1960–1975	Women, Latinos, and Native Americans seek equality; Hippie counterculture; “do your own thing”
End of the 20th Century 1970s–1990s	1970s—inflation, energy crisis, environmentalism 1980s—political conservatism, federal deficit 1990s—booming economy, digital revolution, economic globalization

Important Events in American History

Date	Event	Significance
1492	Columbus first lands in America	begins sustained European contact
1607	founding of Jamestown, Va.	first permanent English colony
1620	Pilgrims at Plymouth	beginning of permanent settlement of New England
1754–1763	French and Indian War	Britain ends French presence in the colonies
1775–1783	Revolutionary War	U.S. wins independence from Britain
1776	Declaration of Independence	America breaks with Britain
1781	Articles of Confederation	first attempt at national government
1787	U.S. Constitution signed	federal government established
1793	First textile mill in U.S.	Industrial Revolution comes to America
1803	Louisiana Purchase	doubles the size of the country
1812–1814	War of 1812 with Britain	U.S. maintains independence
1831–1833	Nullification Crisis	South Carolina threatens to secede
1830s	Indian removal—Trail of Tears	Eastern native nations (especially Cherokee) forced west
1837	telegraph invented	long distance communication unites country
1846–1848	War with Mexico	U.S. gains additional territory in the Southwest
1850	Bessemer steel process developed	allows development of railroads, skyscrapers, bridges
1861–1865	Civil War	the Union is preserved and slavery ends
1869	first transcontinental railroad completed	faster travel coast to coast
1876	telephone invented	long distance voice communication
1877	end of Reconstruction	South begins era of segregation
1880	electric light bulb	inexpensive form of light for homes and businesses
1886	American Federation of Labor formed	first effective group of labor unions; still active today as AFL-CIO
1890	Battle of Wounded Knee	end of Indian Wars in the West
1892	Populist Party formed	farmers unite against railroads and big business
April–Aug. 1898	Spanish-American War	U.S. gains an empire in Caribbean and Philippines
1909	NAACP formed	African Americans organize to achieve equality
1910–1920	Great Migration of African Americans	growth of large African-American communities in Northern cities; racial tensions develop
1913	Ford produces one auto every 2 hours	mass production techniques make U.S. world industrial leader
1914	Panama Canal completed	travel between Caribbean and the Pacific eased
1914–1918	World War I	European conflict challenges U.S. neutrality
1917	U.S. enters World War I	tips the balance of power to the Allies; Central Powers defeated
1919	League of Nations chartered	agreement to settle differences without war
1919–1933	Prohibition	established shared popular culture across nation
1920	first commercial radio station	alcoholic beverages banned; flaunting of the law
1920	women get the right to vote	women achieve political equality sought since 1848
1919–1920	Red Scare	fear of Communist takeover of America
1924	immigration quotas set	limits Southern and Eastern Europeans; no Asians
1925	Scopes trial	debate between religion and science over teaching evolution
1927	Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic; first commercial air flights	modern age of air travel begins
1929	Stock market crashes	Great Depression begins
1930	major cities connected by paved roads	increased travel by car with greater speed and convenience
1933	New Deal begins	unprecedented expansion of the role of federal government
1933–1936	Dust Bowl	increased poverty; large numbers migrate to California

Important Events in American History *continued*

Date	Event	Significance
Sept. 1939	Hitler invades Poland	World War II begins
Dec. 7, 1941	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor	U.S. enters World War II
1941–1945	U.S. involvement in World War II	U.S. becomes a world power
Feb. 1942	internment of Japanese Americans begins	violation of civil rights
June 1942	Battle of Midway	Japanese fleet decimated; U.S. begins island hopping
June 6, 1944	D-Day	Allies invade Normandy; begin liberation of Europe
Aug. 6 & 9, 1945	atomic bombs devastate Japan	ends World War II; begins nuclear age
1950–1953	Korean War	desire to contain Communism ends in stalemate
1950–1954	McCarthyism	fear of Communism leads to civil rights violations
1950s	TV becomes popular	shared popular culture expands; Americans now watch about 4 hours each day
1951	UNIVAC first computer sold commercially	Computer revolution begins, resulting in widespread personal computer and Internet use
1954–1973	American involvement in Vietnam	longest war in American history divides the nation
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Supreme Court mandates school desegregation
1954	polio vaccine introduced	elimination of deadly childhood disease within 20 years
Dec. 1955–Dec. 1956	Montgomery bus boycott	first nonviolent civil rights protest
Sept. 1957	USSR launches Sputnik I satellite	begins the space race
Sept. 1957	Little Rock (Arkansas) Nine	fight for school desegregation begins
1961	Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba	failed attempt by U.S. to overthrow Castro
1962	Cuban missile crisis	U.S. and USSR come to brink of nuclear war
1963	March on Washington; King’s “I Have a Dream” speech	leads to Civil Rights Act of 1964
Nov. 22, 1963	President Kennedy assassinated	tragedy unites the country in grief
1964	Tonkin Gulf Resolution	begins undeclared war in Vietnam
May 1964	Johnson launches Great Society	war on poverty; support for civil rights
1966	National Organization for Women founded	women unite to achieve equality
1967	race riots in major cities	civil rights movement turns violent
January 1968	Tet offensive	causes moderates to turn against the war in Vietnam
1968	Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy assassinated	sparks national rioting and protest
1969	Neil Armstrong walks on the moon	America wins the space race with USSR
April 22, 1970	first Earth Day	signals growing interest in environmentalism
May 1970	student protestors killed at Kent State	deepens division over the war
1972	Congress passes the Equal Rights Amendment	gender equality; not ratified
Feb. 1972	President Nixon visits China	opens relations closed since 1949
1973	U.S. troops withdraw from Vietnam	war turned over to the Vietnamese
1973	beginning of energy crisis	America’s overdependence on Middle Eastern oil
Aug. 1974	Watergate scandal; President Nixon resigns	diminishes faith in government
1975	fall of Saigon	communists rule Vietnam; war spreads throughout SE Asia
Nov. 1979–Jan. 1981	Iran holds 52 Americans hostage	conflict over the shah
1981	Sandra Day O’Connor appointed to Supreme Court	first woman justice
1989–1991	fall of the Berlin Wall; breakup of the Soviet Union	Cold War ends
1990–1991	Persian Gulf War	U.S. supports Kuwait; protects its oil supplies
Dec. 1998–Jan. 1999	President Clinton’s impeachment trial	remains in office
Sept 11, 2001	terrorists attack World Trade Center and Pentagon	U.S. begins war on terrorism
March 2003	U.S. invades Iraq	fear of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism; brutal dictator removed

Geographic Features of U.S. Regions

Climate	Vegetation	Land Forms and Bodies of Water
NORTHEAST		
Warm summer continental Cool summer continental Humid Subtropical	Temperate broadleaf and mixed forest	Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Erie) Atlantic coastline Green Mountains Adirondack Mountains Hudson River Connecticut River Ohio River
NORTHCENTRAL (MIDWEST)		
Appalachian Mountains Mississippi River Tennessee River Atlantic coastline Gulf of Mexico	Temperate broadleaf and mixed forest Temperate grasslands, savannas, shrublands Temperate coniferous forest	Great Lakes (Michigan, Superior) Mississippi River Missouri River Great Plains Lake of the Ozarks Black Hills
SOUTHEAST		
Humid subtropical Tropical wet and dry	Temperate coniferous forest Temperate broadleaf and mixed forest Flooded grassland and savanna	Appalachian Mountains Mississippi River Tennessee River Atlantic coastline Gulf of Mexico
NORTHWEST (includes Alaska)		
Semiarid Desert Mediterranean Marine west coast Subarctic (Alaska) Highlands Arid	Temperate coniferous forest Temperate grasslands, savannas, shrublands Temperate broadleaf forest (includes rain forest) Mediterranean shrub Desert and dry shrub Tundra (Alaska) Northern coniferous forest (Alaska)	Great Salt Lake Cascade Range Columbia River Rocky Mountains Pacific coastline Sierra Nevada Mountains Alaskan coastline
SOUTHWEST (includes Hawaii)		
Mediterranean Semiarid Arid Tropical Rainforest (Hawaii) Humid subtropical Highlands	Desert and dry shrub Mediterranean shrub Temperate grasslands, savannas, shrublands Temperate coniferous forest Tropical moist broadleaf, includes rainforest (Hawaii) Tropical grassland and savanna (Hawaii)	Pacific coastline Rio Grande River Colorado River Sierra Nevada Mountains Rocky Mountains Mojave Desert Grand Canyon Painted Desert

Government and Economic Systems

System	Definition	Example
Government Systems		
dictatorship	A single person rules with unlimited power. Dictatorship is also called autocracy and despotism.	Nazi Germany under Hitler, Iraq under Saddam Hussein (1979–2003)
democracy	Citizens hold political power either directly or through representatives. In a direct democracy, citizens directly make political decisions. In a representative democracy, the citizens rule through elected representatives.	direct democracy: some small town governments (town meetings) representative democracy: United States since the 1700s
federalism	Powers are divided among the federal, or national, government and a number of state governments.	United States since 1789
military state	Military leaders rule, supported by the power of the armed forces.	Japan 1930s–1945 (formally a monarchy but militarists controlled government)
monarchy	A ruling family headed by a king or queen holds political power and may or may not share the power with citizen bodies. In an absolute monarchy, the ruling family has all the power. In a limited or constitutional monarchy, the ruler's power is limited by the constitution or laws of the nation.	absolute monarchy: much of Europe and Russia before World War I constitutional monarchy: United Kingdom has formal monarch with very limited powers
parliamentary	Legislative and executive functions are combined in a legislature called a parliament.	United Kingdom since the 1200s
presidential	The chief officer is a president who is elected independently of the legislature.	United States since 1789
republic	Citizens elect representatives to rule on their behalf.	United States since 1789
theocracy	Religious leaders control the government, relying on religious law and consultation with religious scholars. In early theocracies, the ruler was considered divine.	Afghanistan under Taliban 1996–2001
totalitarianism	The government controls every aspect of public and private life and all opposition is suppressed.	Germany under Hitler, Italy under Mussolini, Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin
Economic Systems		
command	The production of goods and services is determined by a central government, which usually owns the means of production. Also called a planned economy.	former Soviet Union
communism	All means of production—land, mines, factories, railroads, and businesses—are owned by the people, private property does not exist, and all goods and services are shared equally.	former Soviet Union
free enterprise	Businesses are privately owned and operate competitively for profit, with minimal government interference. Also called capitalism	United States
market	The production of goods and services is determined by the demand from consumers. Also called a demand economy.	United States
mixed	A combination of command and market economies is designed to provide goods and services so that all people will benefit.	United Kingdom 1945–1979. present-day Israel
socialism	The means of production are owned by the public and operate for the welfare of all.	Current Denmark and Sweden (government owns some industries and operates them for the public good)
traditional	Goods and services are exchanged without the use of money. Also called barter.	Many Native American civilizations before European contact

Important Laws in American History

Northwest Ordinance (1787) established a government for the Northwest Territory and described rules that a territory would follow in order to become a state

Alien and Sedition Act (1798) restricted rights of immigrants and freedoms of speech and the press

Missouri Compromise (1820) preserved balance in Congress between slave and free states by admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state; prohibited slavery north of Missouri

Tariff of Abominations (1828) protected American industry, mostly in the North, from competing with inexpensive British goods; prompted Calhoun's nullification theory

Indian Removal Act (1830) Indians east of the Mississippi River were to be moved to new lands in the West

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) repealed Missouri Compromise and allowed Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether they would allow slavery—used the new idea of popular sovereignty

Fugitive Slave Act (1850) fugitive slaves had to be returned to their owners; they could not testify in court or have a trial by jury; heavy penalties for anyone who helped an escaped slave

Homestead Act (1862) offered 100 acres of land free to anyone who would farm it for five years

Civil Rights Act of 1866 declared everyone born in the U.S. to be a citizen and entitled to equal rights regardless of race

Reconstruction Acts (1867) known as Radical Reconstruction; imposed military control of southern states and said that they had to ratify the 14th Amendment and allow former slaves to vote

Pendleton Act (1883) government service based on merit rather than on patronage

Interstate Commerce Act (1887) established Interstate Commerce Commission, designed to regulate rates charged by railroads

Sherman Antitrust Act (1890) first attempt by federal government to regulate corporations and break up monopolies; hard to enforce; sometimes used to limit labor union activity

Federal Reserve Act (1913) established a partnership of government and private banking interests to insure a stable banking system and currency

Clayton Antitrust Act (1914) clearly defined limits on rights of corporations; strengthened Sherman Antitrust Act

Emergency Quota Act (1921, amended 1924) limited numbers of immigrants, discriminated against eastern and southern Europeans; outlawed Japanese immigration

Glass-Steagall Banking Act (1933) created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Social Security Act (1935) social welfare program; retirement and unemployment insurance

National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) (1935) established National Labor Relations Board; defined unfair labor practices

Fair Labor Standards Act (1938) standardized minimum wage and maximum workweek; outlawed factory work for children under 16 years old

GI Bill of Rights (1944) education benefits, unemployment insurance, low-interest loans

Labor Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Act) (1947) limited labor union rights and emphasized workers' right to *not* join a union or participate in union activities

Civil Rights Act of 1957 first since Reconstruction, empowered federal government to enforce school desegregation and voting rights

Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, or gender; equal access to public facilities

Voting Rights Act of 1965 ended literacy tests, allowed federal officials to register voters

Immigration Act (1965) eliminated quotas established in 1924; opened Asian immigration

Civil Rights Act of 1968 prevented discrimination in housing; stronger antilynching laws

Environmental Protection Agency (1970) oversees all aspects of pollution control, e.g. enforcement of clean air and water standards

Equal Rights Amendment (1972) intended to strengthen equality for women; three states short of ratification

Indian Education Act (1972) and Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (1975) greater power given to tribes for self-government and education

War Powers Act (1973) limits presidential autonomy in committing U.S. troops abroad

Welfare reform legislation (1996) limited welfare benefits and required most recipients to get jobs

Telecommunications Act (1996) intended to increase competition by allowing communications companies to be in multiple businesses and to own multiple TV and radio stations

Important Works of Literature, Art, and Culture

John Singleton Copley portraits, 1750s–1780s, included Revere, Hancock, and many other patriots
Phillis Wheatley poems, 1773, by Boston slave published in England
Thomas Paine *Common Sense*, 1776, pamphlet promoting independence
John Trumbull *The Declaration of Independence*, 1794, this and other paintings dramatize Revolutionary War
Washington Irving *The Sketch Book*, 1819, American short stories popular around world
Ralph Waldo Emerson essays, 1836–1841, transcendentalism
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow narrative poems, 1847–63, helped establish national historical myths
Nathaniel Hawthorne *The Scarlet Letter*, 1850, novel, Puritan morality
Herman Melville *Moby Dick*, 1851, novel, white whale, metaphor of good and evil
Harriet Beecher Stowe *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1852, influential novel on the evils of slavery
Henry David Thoreau “Essay on Civil Disobedience,” 1849; *Walden*, 1854, a year living in nature
Walt Whitman *Leaves of Grass*, 1855, established new American poetic style with unrhymed verse
Winslow Homer paintings, 1860s–1890s, help shift American art toward realism
Matthew Brady photos, 1861–65, battlefield photos bring home brutal reality of war
Mark Twain *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 1884, novel of life on the Mississippi River
Emily Dickinson *Poems*, 1890, recluse with an inventive style
Theodore Dreiser *Sister Carrie*, 1900; *An American Tragedy*, 1925; novels reflect American naturalism
Upton Sinclair *The Jungle*, 1906, novel exposes conditions of meatpacking industry; inspires government regulation
Eugene O'Neill plays, performed 1916–57, changed American drama to realistic form; often tragic portrayals
Sinclair Lewis *Main Street*, 1920; *Babbitt*, 1922; novels satirizing conformity; first American Nobel Prize winner
Georgia O'Keefe paintings, 1920s–60s, famous for illustrating American Southwest in abstract style
T. S. Eliot *The Waste Land*, 1922, epic poem of modernism
Robert Frost *New Hampshire*, 1923, New England poems over career receive four Pulitzer Prizes
F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby*, 1925, novel of the “lost generation,” the jazz age
Langston Hughes *The Weary Blues*, 1926, Harlem Renaissance poet
Ernest Hemingway *The Sun Also Rises*, 1926; *A Farewell to Arms*, 1929; *The Old Man and the Sea*, 1952; novelist of “the lost generation,” crisp style
William Faulkner *The Sound and the Fury*, 1929, Southern novelist, decline in American values
Aaron Douglas paintings, 1930s, Harlem Renaissance, African Americans in daily life and themes from African art
Jackson Pollock paintings, 1930s–1950s, abstract art influences many
Zora Neale Hurston *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, 1937, Harlem Renaissance novelist and folklorist
John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath*, 1939, novel about the Dust Bowl
Richard Wright *Native Son*, 1940, novel about the pain of being black in America
Walker Evans with James Agee *Let us Now Praise Famous Men*, 1941, Depression-era photos with text
Edward Hopper *Nighthawks*, 1942, painting of diner which displays isolation of modern American life
Tennessee Williams *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1947, sometimes called best play ever written by an American
Norman Mailer *The Naked and the Dead*, 1948, classic novel of war
Arthur Miller *Death of a Salesman*, 1948, play paints struggles of an average American
J. D. Salinger *The Catcher in the Rye*, 1951, novel about adolescence
James Baldwin *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, 1953, novel about racism and black rage
Allen Ginsberg *Howl*, 1956, Beat Generation poet
Jack Kerouac *On the Road*, 1957, autobiographical novel of the Beat movement
Joseph Heller *Catch-22*, 1961, antiwar novel spawns a catch-phrase
Rachel Carson *Silent Spring*, 1962, nonfiction investigation of chemical pollution inspires environmental movement
Malcolm X with Alex Haley *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, 1965, explores African-American radical politics
Andy Warhol Campbell's Soup Can, 1965, silk-screen painting, symbol of pop art movement
N. Scott Momaday poems and novels, 1968–89, focus on Kiowa heritage and Native American struggles
Kurt Vonnegut *Slaughterhouse Five*, 1969, novel highlights firebombing of Germany in World War II
David Mamet plays and movie scripts, 1972–, explore hard edge of American life for lower-middle class
Saul Bellow *Humboldt's Gift*, 1975, novel portrays modern American experiences in a changing society
Maya Lin Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1982, single granite wall memorial lists names and honors war dead
Toni Morrison *Beloved*, 1988; *Jazz*, 1992; African-American Nobel-Prize winning novelist
Tim O'Brien *Going After Cacciato*, 1975, novel of the Vietnam War
Alice Walker *The Color Purple*, 1982, Pulitzer-Prize winning novel about poor black women
Amy Tan *The Joy Luck Club*, 1989, novel about Asian-American immigrant women and their children

Key People in American History

- Abigail Adams (1744–1818)** Wife of President John Adams; “Remember the Ladies”
- Samuel Adams (1722–1803)** Revolutionary leader—Sons of Liberty; antifederalist
- Jane Addams (1860–1935)** Cofounder of Hull House; 1931 Nobel Peace Prize
- Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906)** Women’s rights leader—National Woman Suffrage Association
- Neil Armstrong (1930–)** American astronaut—first person to land on the moon, 1969
- Bernard M. Baruch (1870–1965)** Head of the War Industries Board during World War I
- Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922)** Invented the telephone, 1876
- Omar Bradley (1893–1981)** U.S. general during World War II—Africa, Sicily, Normandy
- John Brown (1800–1859)** Extreme abolitionist; led Pottawotamie Massacre, raid on Harper’s Ferry
- William Jennings Bryan (1860–1925)** “Cross of Gold Speech”; opposed evolution at Scopes trial
- John C. Calhoun (1782–1850)** Vice-President, Senator (S.C.); nullification theory
- Stokely Carmichael (1942–)** SNCC leader; coined term Black Power, 1966
- Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919)** Carnegie Steel; “robber baron”; philanthropist
- Rachel Carson (1907–1964)** Marine biologist; author of *Silent Spring*, 1962
- Fidel Castro (1926–)** Communist leader of Cuba; led 1959 revolution
- César Chávez (1927–1993)** Formed United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, 1962
- Shirley Chisholm (1924–)** First black woman elected to Congress, 1968
- Winston Churchill (1874–1965)** Inspirational British leader; World War II; Iron Curtain speech
- William Clark (1770–1838)** Coleader of expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase
- Christopher Columbus (1451–1506)** First European to land in the Americas
- Hernando Cortés (1485–1547)** Spanish explorer who conquered Mexico
- Clarence Darrow (1857–1938)** Defended John Scopes for teaching evolution, 1925
- Jefferson Davis (1808–1889)** President of the Confederate States of America
- Eugene V. Debs (1855–1926)** Five-time presidential candidate—Socialist Party of America
- Stephen A. Douglas (1813–1861)** Illinois Senator; debated Lincoln; popular sovereignty
- W. E. B. Du Bois (1868–1963)** Founder of the NAACP, 1909; *The Souls of Black Folk*, 1903
- Thomas Edison (1847–1931)** Invented incandescent electric light bulb, 1880; phonograph, 1878
- “Duke” Ellington (1899–1974)** Composer; band leader; pianist of the Harlem Renaissance
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1863–1914)** Serbian leader; his assassination triggered World War I
- Geraldine Ferraro (1935–)** First woman vice-presidential candidate (Dem.), 1984
- Henry Ford (1863–1947)** Assembly line, standardized parts; affordable automobiles, 1920s
- Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)** Enlightenment thinker; Revolutionary leader; printer
- Betty Friedan (1921–)** *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963; National Organization for Women, 1966
- Bill Gates (1955–)** Founder of Microsoft Corporation; MS-DOS, Windows operating systems
- King George III (1738–1820)** British monarch during the American Revolution
- Newt Gingrich (1943–)** Conservative Republican congressman (Ga.); Contract with America, 1994
- Samuel Gompers (1850–1924)** Formed American Federation of Labor, 1886
- Allen Greenspan (1926–)** Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board since 1987
- Alexander Hamilton (1755–1804)** Author of the Federalist Papers; first secretary of the treasury
- Adolf Hitler (1889–1945)** Dictator who headed Germany’s Nazi Party, 1933–1945
- Ho Chi Minh (1890–1969)** Communist ruler of North Vietnam, 1954–1969
- Hiram Johnson (1866–1945)** Progressive governor of California, 1911–1917
- James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)** Executive secretary of the NAACP in the 1920s
- “Mother” Jones (1830–1930)** Leader of women’s labor movement, 1867–1930
- Florence Kelley (1859–1932)** Progressive-era reformer; campaigned for child-labor law
- Nikita Khrushchev (1894–1971)** Communist leader of USSR, 1957–1964
- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968)** Civil rights leader; 1964 Nobel Peace Prize
- Henry Kissinger (1923–)** National security adviser to President Nixon
- Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834)** French soldier who aided American revolutionaries
- Robert La Follette (1855–1925)** Progressive-era reform governor of Wisconsin; targeted railroads
- Robert E. Lee (1807–1870)** Leading Confederate general, Army of Northern Virginia
- John Llewellyn Lewis (1880–1969)** Leader of United Mine Workers of America, 1919 strike
- Meriwether Lewis (1774–1809)** Coleader of expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase
- Charles A. Lindbergh (1902–1974)** First transatlantic solo flight, 1927
- Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. (1850–1924)** Conservative Senator (Mass.); opposed League of Nations
- Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964)** U.S. general during World War II and the Korean War

Key People in American History *continued*

Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840–1914) The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1890

Malcom X (1925–1965) American Black Muslim leader, 1952–1964; black separatist

Wilma Mankiller (1945–) First woman elected to head a major Indian tribe (Cherokee), 1987

George Marshall (1880–1959) Secretary of state; Marshall Plan aids Europe after World War II

Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993) NAACP attorney in Brown; first African-American Supreme Court justice, 1967

José Martí (1853–1895) Leader for Cuban independence from Spain

Joseph A. McCarthy (1908–1957) Republican senator from Wisconsin; anti-Communist activist, 1950s

Metacom (1639?–1676) Wampanoag Chief also known as King Philip; warred with Puritans

Samuel F. B. Morse (1791–1872) Invented the telegraph, Morse code, 1837

Lucretia Mott (1793–1880) Abolitionist; women's rights leader—Seneca Falls Convention

Benito Mussolini (1883–1945) Italian Fascist dictator, 1922–1943

Thomas Nast (1840–1902) Political cartoonist against Boss Tweed/Tammany Hall, 1869–1871

Chester Nimitz (1885–1966) Victorious U.S. admiral at battle of Midway, June 1942

Sandra Day O'Connor (1930–) First woman Supreme Court justice, 1981

Thomas Paine (1737–1809) Common Sense (1776); influenced American and French Revolutions

Rosa Parks (1913–) Refusal to move to rear of bus leads to Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, 1955

George Patton (1885–1945) U.S. general, World War II—Africa, Normandy, Battle of Bulge

H. Ross Perot (1930–) Texas billionaire, 3rd-party presidential candidate, 1992, 1996

John J. Pershing (1860–1948) Military leader Indian Wars to World War I

Powhatan (c. 1547–1618?) Chief whose tribe befriended, warred with Jamestown settlers

Hiram Revels (1827–1901) First African American in U.S. Senate, during Reconstruction

Eddie Rickenbacker (1890–1973) American fighter-pilot hero of World War I

John D. Rockefeller (1839–1937) Standard Oil Company; “robber baron”; philanthropist

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) Wife of President Franklin D.; advocate for social causes

Sacajawea (c. 1786–c. 1812) Shoshone woman, guide for Lewis and Clark expedition

Sacco & Vanzetti—Italian immigrants, anarchists, executed during the Red Scare, 1927

Jonas Salk (1914–1995) Developed an effective polio vaccine in the 1950s

Santa Anna (1795–1876) President of Mexico and military leader in Mexican-American War

H. Norman Schwarzkopf (1934–) American commander in chief—Persian Gulf War

Roger Sherman (1721–1793) Constitutional Convention—proposed Great Compromise

Upton Sinclair (1878–1968) Muckracker; The Jungle, 1906, publicized abuses in meat-packing industry

Sitting Bull (1831–1890) Sioux leader; defeated Custer at Little Bighorn; killed at Wounded Knee

Bessie Smith (1894?–1937) Outstanding female blues singer of the Harlem Renaissance

Joseph Stalin (1879–1953) Communist Russian dictator, 1924–1953

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902) Women's rights leader—Seneca Falls Convention

Gloria Steinem (1934–) Founder National Woman's Political Caucus and Ms. magazine, 1970s

Thaddeus Stevens (1792–1868) Radical Republican leader of Congressional Reconstruction

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896) Wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1852

Hideki Tojo (1884–1948) Japanese dictator, October 1941–August 1945

George Wallace (1919–) Alabama governor; 1968 presidential candidate; opposed to integration

Earl Warren (1891–1974) Liberal chief justice of Supreme Court, 1953–1969

Daniel Webster (1782–1852) Senator from Massachusetts; noted orator; against nullification

Ida B. Wells, (1862–1931) African-American journalist; antilynching crusade, 1890s; NAACP

Presidents of the United States

President	Years in Office	Birth State	Political Party	Key Events During Term in Office
George Washington (1732–1799)	1789–1797	VA	none	Bill of Rights Whiskey Rebellion cotton gin invented
John Adams (1735–1826)	1797–1801	MA	Federalist	XYZ Affair Alien and Sedition Acts
Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826)	1801–1809	VA	Democratic-Republican	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i> Louisiana Purchase Embargo of 1807
James Madison (1751–1836)	1809–1817	VA	Democratic-Republican	War of 1812 American System
James Monroe (1758–1831)	1817–1825	VA	Democratic-Republican	industrialization Missouri Compromise Monroe Doctrine
John Quincy Adams (1767–1848)	1825–1829	MA	Democratic-Republican	Erie Canal Tariff of Abominations
Andrew Jackson (1767–1845)	1829–1837	SC	Democrat	Nullification and bank war Jacksonian Democracy Indian Removal Act
Martin Van Buren (1782–1862)	1837–1841	NY	Democrat	Trail of Tears Panic of 1837
William H. Harrison (1773–1841)	1841	VA	Whig	1st President to die in office
John Tyler (1790–1862)	1841–1845	VA	Whig	Irish and German immigrants Oregon Trail
James K. Polk (1795–1849)	1845–1849	NC	Democrat	Texas annexation and Mexican War Gold Rush Seneca Falls Convention
Zachary Taylor (1784–1850)	1849–1850	VA	Whig	Fugitive Slave Act
Millard Fillmore (1800–1874)	1850–1853	NY	Whig	Compromise of 1850 <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Franklin Pierce (1804–1869)	1853–1857	NH	Democrat	Bleeding Kansas Gadsden Purchase
James Buchanan (1791–1868)	1857–1861	PA	Democrat	<i>Dred Scott</i> Harpers Ferry raid
Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)	1861–1865	KY	Republican	Secession and Civil War Emancipation Proclamation first President assassinated
Andrew Johnson (1808–1875)	1865–1869	NC	Democrat	13th and 14th amendments Radical Reconstruction impeachment trial sharecropping in the South
Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885)	1869–1877	OH	Republican	15th amendment transcontinental railroad Panic of 1873 Battle of Little Big Horn
Rutherford B. Hayes (1822–1893)	1877–1881	OH	Republican	Compromise of 1877 labor unions and strikes
James A. Garfield (1831–1881)	1881	OH	Republican	assassinated
Chester A. Arthur (1829–1886)	1881–1885	VT	Republican	Standard Oil trust created Edison lights up New York City

Presidents of the United States *continued*

President	Years in Office	Birth State	Political Party	Key Events During Term in Office
Grover Cleveland (1837–1908)	1885–1889	NJ	Democrat	Dawes Act Samuel Gompers and AFL
Benjamin Harrison (1833–1901)	1889–1893	OH	Republican	Wounded Knee Massacre Sherman Anti-Trust Act Populism and Hull House founded
Grover Cleveland (1837–1908)	1893–1897	NJ	Democrat	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> Pullman strike Tammany Hall
William McKinley (1843–1901)	1897–1901	OH	Republican	new immigrants Spanish-American War Open Door policy
Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)	1901–1909	NY	Republican	Progressivism Square Deal and Big Stick Diplomacy
William H. Taft (1857–1930)	1909–1913	OHa	Republican	Dollar diplomacy NAACP founded
Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924)	1913–1921	VA	Democrat	WWI and League of Nations 18th and 19th amendments
Warren G. Harding (1865–1923)	1921–1923	OH	Republican	Tea Pot Dome scandal cars and planes alter America
Calvin Coolidge (1872–1933)	1923–1929	VT	Republican	Jazz Age Harlem Renaissance
Herbert C. Hoover (1874–1964)	1929–1933	IA	Republican	Stock Market Crash Depression and Dust Bowl
Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945)	1933–1945	NY	Democrat	1st and 2nd New Deal WWII and Holocaust Japanese Internment
Harry S Truman (1884–1972)	1945–1953	MO	Democrat	A-bomb and Marshall Plan Cold War begins and Korean War United Nations created
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890–1969)	1953–1961	TX	Republican	McCarthyism; <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> Highway Act and suburbs rock 'n' roll and youth culture
John F. Kennedy (1917–1963)	1961–1963	MA	Democrat	Camelot & March on Washington Cuban Missile Crisis; assassination
Lyndon B. Johnson (1908–1973)	1963–1969	TX	Democrat	Civil and Voting Rights acts M.L. King assassinated escalation in Vietnam anti-war and counter culture Great Society
Richard M. Nixon (1913–1994)	1969–1974	CA	Republican	feminism; environmentalism U.S. pulls out of Vietnam China visit; Watergate; resigns
Gerald R. Ford (1913–)	1974–1977	NE	Republican	pardons Nixon
James E. Carter, Jr. (1924–)	1977–1981	GA	Democrat	stagflation / energy crisis hostages in Iran
Ronald W. Reagan (1911–2004)	1981–1989	IL	Republican	rise of conservatism Cold War ends
George H. W. Bush (1924–)	1989–1993	MA	Republican	Persian Gulf War
William J. Clinton (1946–)	1993–2001	AR	Democrat	NAFTA impeachment
George W. Bush (1946–)	2001–	CT	Republican	war on terrorism; Patriot Act; invasion of Iraq

Important Supreme Court Decisions

- Marbury v. Madison (1803)** Established the principle of judicial review—the Supreme Court could review all laws made by Congress
- Fletcher v. Peck (1810)** Overturned Georgia law that violated an individual's right to enter into a contract
- Dartmouth College v. Woodward (1819)** State of New Hampshire couldn't revoke the college's colonial charter because it was a contract
- Worcester v. Georgia (1832)** Recognized the Cherokee tribe as a political entity; Georgia couldn't regulate them nor invade their land
- Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)** Ruled that African Americans were not citizens of the U.S.; declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)** A state could not tax a national bank
- Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)** Federal government (not the state governments) had the power to regulate trade between the states
- U.S. v. Cruikshank (1876)** The national government could not punish someone for violating the civil rights of individuals—only the states had that power
- U.S. v. Reese (1876)** Declared that the 15th Amendment did not automatically protect the right of African Americans to vote (only listed the ways that states were not allowed to prevent them from voting)
- Munn v. Illinois (1877)** Said that states and federal government could regulate railroads because they were businesses that served the public interest
- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)** Established the principle of “separate but equal,” said segregated facilities per se did not violate the 14th Amendment
- Muller v. Oregon (1908)** A state could legally limit working hours for women (Oregon law had established a ten-hour workday)
- Bunting v. Oregon (1917)** A ten-hour workday for men was upheld
- Morgan v. Virginia (1946)** Segregation on interstate buses was unconstitutional
- Sweatt v. Painter (1950)** State law schools had to admit black students, even if separate law schools for blacks existed
- Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)** Unanimously overturned Plessy v. Ferguson, ruled that segregated schools are inherently unequal; mandated desegregation
- Mapp v. Ohio (1961)** Evidence obtained illegally could not be used in court
- Baker v. Carr (1962)** Electoral district lines that are arbitrarily drawn violate voters' constitutional rights and may be challenged
- Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)** Poor people are entitled to free legal counsel
- Escobedo v. Illinois (1964)** People have a right to have an attorney present during questioning
- Reynolds v. Simms (1964)** “One person, one vote” principle mandated redistricting in all 50 states based on population; shifted balance of power from rural to urban districts
- Miranda v. Arizona (1966)** Police required to inform all criminal suspects of their constitutional rights—“Miranda rights”—before questioning; the right to remain silent, warning that anything suspects say may be used against them, and the right to an attorney before and during questioning
- Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (1971)** Busing may be used to achieve racial balance in schools where segregation had been an official policy and no alternative plan was provided
- Roe v. Wade (1973)** Gave women the right to seek abortion in the first three months of pregnancy, under their right to privacy
- Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)** Allan Bakke, a white student, had to be admitted to UC Medical School, a victim of “reverse discrimination”
- Richmond v. J.A. Croson Company (1989)** City of Richmond's mandating 30 percent of public works funds for minority contractors declared illegal
- Webster v. Reproductive Health Care Services (1989)** States allowed to impose restrictions on abortion
- Rust v. Sullivan (1991)** Doctors working in government-sponsored clinics were prevented from providing women with information about abortion, even if the life of the mother were in danger

Key Terms in American History

abolition—the ending of legal slavery

American Indian Movement (AIM)—formed in 1968 to work for Native American rights

Americanization movement—education program designed to help immigrants assimilate to American culture

anarchist—a person who opposes all forms of government

antebellum—belonging to the period before the Civil War

assimilation—minority group's adaptation to the dominant culture

atomic bomb—bombs using a nuclear reaction to create widespread destruction; ended World War II

Berlin airlift—U.S. and Britain dropped supplies into West Berlin, blockaded by Soviets, 1948

Berlin Wall—prevented citizens from moving between East and West Berlin, 1961–1989,

Bessemer process—cheap, efficient way to make steel, developed c. 1850

big stick diplomacy—U.S. foreign policy of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt which used threats of military intervention to exert influence over other countries, especially in protecting U.S. interests in Latin America

black codes—laws, in Southern states after the Civil War, to limit rights of African Americans

blacklist—names of people barred from working in Hollywood because of alleged Communist connections

Black Panthers—militant political organization to combat police brutality and provide services in African-American ghettos, founded 1966

Black Power—slogan revived by Stokely Carmichael in the 1960s to encourage black pride and leadership

Bleeding Kansas—description of the antebellum Kansas Territory, due to conflict over slavery

bootlegger—smuggler of illegal alcoholic beverages during Prohibition

boycott—refusal to have economic relations with a person or group

buying on margin—purchasing stocks or bonds on credit

capitalism—economic system in which private individuals and corporations control the means of production and earn profit on them

cash crop—one grown for sale rather than personal use

Cold War—period of tension between U.S. and USSR, 1945–1989

colonization—establishment of outlying settlements by a parent country

Columbian Exchange—movement of plants, animals, and disease between the Americas and Europe after Columbus's voyage

communism—political and economic philosophy of one-party government and state ownership of property

concentration camp—prison camp operated by Nazi Germany in which Jews and other minorities were murdered or forced into slave labor

confederation—alliance of states or nations acting together for mutual benefit

consumerism—preoccupation with purchasing material goods

containment—blocking of a nation's attempt to spread its influence, especially attempts to spread communism after World War II

counterculture—American youth in the 1960s opposed to mainstream culture; based on peace, love, individual freedom

D-Day—Allied invasion of mainland Europe June 6, 1944

debt peonage—workers bound in servitude until debts are paid

de facto segregation—racial separation based on custom rather than law

deficit spending—government spending that exceeds revenue

de jure segregation—racial separation based on law

demographic—having to do with population

depression—very severe and prolonged contraction of economic activity

dollar diplomacy—U.S. foreign policy of using the nation's economic power to exert influence over other countries; use first associated with Pres. Taft

domino theory—belief that if one country falls to communism its neighbors will

double standard—granting greater sexual freedom to men than to women

dove—opponent of U.S. participation in Vietnam War

draft—legally required military service

Dust Bowl—areas of Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas hard-hit by drought and dust storms, 1930s

electoral college—group selected by states to elect president and vice-president; number of electors equals Congressional representation of each state

emancipation—freeing of slaves

Enlightenment—18th-century intellectual movement that emphasized the use of reason and the scientific method as means of obtaining knowledge

environmentalist—a person who works to protect the environment

executive branch—administers and enforces laws

fascism—political philosophy that advocates centralized dictatorial nationalistic government

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—created in 1933 to insure bank deposits against loss

Federalist—supporter of the Constitution and strong national government

free enterprise—economic system based on private property, free markets, and individuals making most economic decisions

fundamentalism—Protestant religious movement based on belief in literal truth of the Bible

genocide—deliberate and systematic extermination of a particular ethnic, national, or religious group

Key Terms in American History *continued*

Gentlemen's Agreement—Japanese government agreed to limit emigration to the U.S., 1907–1908

GI Bill of Rights—1944 law that gave financial and education benefits to World War II veterans

gold standard—monetary system in which a country's currency is valued at a fixed sum of gold

grandfather clause—exempted Southern whites from the strict requirements applied to African-American voters

Grange—organization of farmers to combat power of railroads, late 19th century

Great Awakening—revival of religious feeling in the American colonies during the 1730s and 1750s

Great Depression—period lasting from 1929–1940 in which the U.S. economy was in severe decline and millions of Americans were unemployed

Great Migration—movement of African Americans to northern cities, early 20th century

Great Plains—grasslands extending through west-central U.S.

Great Society—President Johnson's program to end poverty and racial injustice, 1964–1968

gross domestic product (GDP)—market value of all goods and services produced in a country in a certain time period

Harlem Renaissance—flowering of African-American artistic creativity in the 1920s, centered in Harlem, New York City

hawk—supporter of U.S. participation in the Vietnam War

Holocaust—systematic murder of 11 million Jews and other people by the Nazis before and during World War II

HUAC—House Un-American Activities Committee; investigated alleged Communist influence in U.S. after World War II

immigration—movement of foreigners into a country

impeach—accuse a government official of serious offenses

imperialism—policy of extending national influence over other countries by political, economic, or military means

income tax—tax on individuals' earnings

Indian Removal Act—1830 law requiring Native Americans east of the Mississippi River to move to the West

Industrial Revolution—the change in society that occurred through replacing hand tools with machines and developing large-scale industry, late 19th–early 20th century

inflation—increase in prices or decline in purchasing power caused by an increase in the supply of money

initiative—a way for people rather than legislatures to originate laws

installment plan—buying over time with regular, periodic payments

Internet—worldwide computer network that allows almost instant communication of words, pictures, and sounds

internment—confinement or restriction of movement, especially under wartime conditions; used against Japanese Americans during World War II

isolationist—in opposition to political entanglements with other countries

Jim Crow laws—Southern laws that separated whites and blacks

judicial branch—interprets the laws and Constitution

Korean War—war between North (supported by China) and South (supported by U.S. and UN) Korea, 1950–1953

Kristallnacht—Nazi troops attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues in Germany November 9, 1938

Ku Klux Klan—secret white supremacist organization that terrorized African Americans during Reconstruction

legislative branch—makes laws

Linotype machine—keyboard-operated typesetting device

literacy test—reading test formerly used in the South to keep African Americans from voting

Loyalist—a colonist who supported the British government during the American Revolution

Manhattan Project—secret U.S. program to develop the atomic bomb during World War II

manifest destiny—19th-century belief that U.S. would inevitably spread to the Pacific Ocean and into Mexican territory

mass media—means of communication that reach large audiences, such as radio, television, newspapers

McCarthyism—making or threatening to make public accusations of disloyalty without offering evidence, as done by Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s

migration—movement from one place to another within a country

monopoly—complete control of an industry by a single company

moral diplomacy—U.S. foreign policy used by Pres. Wilson to withhold support for any Latin American country which was oppressive, undemocratic, or hostile to U.S. interests

NAACP—National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in 1909 to promote racial equality

nationalism—devotion to the interests and culture of one's nation

nativism—favoring the interests of native-born people over those of immigrants

Nazism—Hitler's political philosophy based on nationalism, racism, and military expansionism in 1930s Germany

neutrality—refusal to take sides in conflicts between other nations

New Deal—President Franklin Roosevelt's program to alleviate problems of the Great Depression

New Frontier—President John Kennedy's legislative program

Nisei—U.S. citizen born of immigrant Japanese parents

nuclear freeze movement—U.S. and international movement in 1980s to stop all testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons

nullification—a state's refusal to recognize an act of Congress it considers unconstitutional

Open Door Policy—U.S. request that China be open to trade with all countries

Key Terms in American History *continued*

Panama Canal—artificial waterway built to facilitate travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, opened 1914

Parliament—England's legislative body

Patriot—colonist who supported American independence from Britain

plantation—large farm where a single crop such as cotton is grown by slaves or other workers

poll tax—an annual tax formerly required of voters in some Southern states

progressive movement—early 20th-century reform movement focused on quality of life as well as business and government corruption

prohibition—banning of the manufacture, sale, and possession of alcoholic beverages

Puritan—committed to removing all trace of Roman Catholic ritual from the Church of England

Radical Republican—Reconstruction congressmen who favored full rights for African Americans and decreased power for former slave owners

rationing—limitation on the amount of certain goods people may buy, usually in wartime to insure enough for the military

recall—a way for people to remove public officials from office

Reconstruction—period of rebuilding after the Civil War, former Confederate states readmitted to the Union

Red Scare—fear of communist takeover of America in the 1920s

referendum—a way for a proposed law to be voted on by the people

republic—government in which citizens rule through elected representatives

salutary neglect—English policy of relaxed enforcement of laws in return for colonies' continued loyalty

Scopes trial—1925 trial over the teaching of evolution in Tennessee

Securities and Exchange Commission—created in 1934 to monitor and regulate the stock and bond markets

secession—formal withdrawal of a state from the Union

sectionalism—placing regional interests above national interests

segregation—separation of people based on race

settlement house—community center providing assistance to residents, especially immigrants, of slum neighborhood

sharecropping—landowners give farmers land, seed, and tools in exchange for part of the crops raised

sit-in—civil rights protest demonstration, sitting down in a business and refusing to leave until served

states' rights—belief that rights of individual states take priority over laws of the national government

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee—formed in 1960 to give younger blacks a greater role in the civil rights movement

Social Darwinism—application of Charles Darwin's natural philosophy of survival of the fittest to support unlimited business competition

Social Gospel movement—19th-century reform movement based on the belief that Christians have a responsibility to help improve working conditions and alleviate poverty

Social Security Act—1935, provided aid to retirees, unemployed, disabled, and dependent mothers and children

socialism—economic and political system of limited government ownership of business and property and equal distribution of wealth

Southern Christian Leadership Conference—formed in 1957 by Martin Luther King, Jr., and others to achieve racial equality through nonviolence

speakeasy—covert tavern in which alcoholic beverages were sold and drunk illegally during Prohibition

speculation—risky business practices in the hope of making a quick or large profit

standard of living—overall economic situation in which people live

stock market—where stocks and bonds are bought and sold

suburb—a residential community near a city

suffrage—the right to vote

tariff—a fee charged on goods brought into one place from another

temperance movement—organized effort to prevent drinking of alcohol

Trail of Tears—route of forced Cherokee evacuation from Georgia, 1838

trust—consolidation of competing companies into one large corporation

unalienable rights—natural rights which cannot be taken away by any government; Declaration of Independence lists them as "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"

urban flight—migration of people from cities to suburbs

urbanization—growth of cities

urban sprawl—unplanned and uncontrolled spreading of cities into surrounding regions

USS Maine—warship that exploded and sank in Havana harbor, February, 1898

Vietcong—South Vietnamese communists who fought against the government of South Vietnam, aided by North Vietnam, 1957–1975

Vietnamization—process of replacing U.S. troops in Vietnam with South Vietnamese troops; Nixon's strategy for ending U.S. involvement

Watergate—scandal involving the Nixon administration's attempt to cover up the 1972 break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters

Woodstock—free music festival attracting 400,000 young people to upstate New York, 1969

Important Treaties in American History

Treaty of Paris (1763) ended the French and Indian War between England and France

Treaty of Paris (1783) ended the American Revolution with England

Jay's Treaty (1794) British agreed to leave the forts they occupied on the U.S. frontier

Pinckney's Treaty (1795) Spain allowed Americans to travel freely along the Mississippi River and settled boundary disputes between U.S. and Spain

Treaty of Greenville (1795) ended the Battle of Fallen Timbers; 12 Indian tribes agreed to give up their land that consisted of most of present-day Ohio and Indiana to the U.S. government

Louisiana Purchase (1803) America acquired Louisiana territory from France; doubled the size of the country

Treaty of Ghent (1814) ended the War of 1812 with England

Adams-Onís Treaty (1819) Spain gave Florida to the United States

Oregon Treaty (1846) divided Oregon Country between the United States and Canada

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ended the war with Mexico; U.S. acquired the Mexican Cession

Treaty of Paris (1898) ended Spanish-American War; Cuban independence; U.S. acquires Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines

Platt Amendment (1902) made Cuba a U.S. protectorate

Hay-Bunau-Varilla (1903) Panama became independent; U.S. acquired control over canal zone, can intervene in Panama

Treaty of Versailles (1918) ended World War I; German reparations and war-guilt clause; League of Nations, U.S. does not sign

Potsdam Treaty (1945) ended World War II in Europe; split and disarmed Germany; eliminated Nazis; punished war criminals

GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) (1948–1995) lowered barriers to international trade; 1994, created World Trade Organization

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) (1949) mutual defense pact among U.S., Canada, and ten Western European allies

Korean War settlement (1953) stalemate—Korea remained split with demilitarized zone between North and South

Geneva Accords (1954) temporarily divided Vietnam into communist North and anticommunist South

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963) barred atmospheric testing

SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty) (1972) halted growth in the number of two types of nuclear missiles; SALT II (1979) limited number of strategic weapons and nuclear-missile launchers

Vietnam War agreement (1973) ended American involvement; country remained divided with North Vietnamese troops in the South

Camp David Accords (1978) President Carter helped negotiate Middle East peace agreements between Jordan and Egypt and Israel

INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty (1987) eliminated two classes of weapons; allowed inspection of military installations

START I (1991) and START II (1993) continued nuclear arms reduction up to 75 percent

NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) (1993) U.S., Canada, and Mexico drop all trade barriers

Kyoto Accords (1997) international climate treaty; 2001, U.S. does not sign