

Major Eras in United States History From 1877

The Gilded Age – Post Reconstruction [1877] - 1900

A period of expansion, industrialization, immigration and urbanization with significant effects on Native Americans, workers, immigrants, and the rise of big business in the late 19th century.

Age of Imperialism and Reform – 1898 - 1919

During the early 20th century the U.S. entered a new historical era: an Age of Expansionism beyond our natural borders as the country moved from isolationism. U.S. imperialism led to involvement in the Spanish-American War, changing policies in Latin America and Asia and eventually to World War I. At home, reformers made efforts to correct economic and social abuses of the Gilded Age.

World War I – 1914 – 1918

This was an era in which the global conflict of World War I and its effects had an impact on all Americans.

The Roaring 20s

This was also an era of significant prosperity and social change as Americans became more isolationist and responded to significant change in social norms, consumerism, technological advances and artistic achievement.

Great Depression: 1930s

Beginning with the Stock Market Crash in 1929, this era is marked by severe depression and the increasing role of the Federal government to improve the economy.

Rise of Dictators and World War II – 1930s and 1940s

The rise of totalitarian governments in Europe and East Asia led to World War II and involvement of the United States in that conflict.

Cold War – Post WWII through the 1980s

This post-war era is marked by issues of communism vs. democracy in Europe and America after World War II. It includes the United States and the Soviet Union as competing superpowers in the *balance of power*. The escalation of the Cold War from containment to the outbreak of the Korean War and foreign policies of the Kennedy / Johnson years including the growing conflict in Vietnam as well as the ending of the Cold War in the 1980s.

Civil Rights – 1950s, 1960s and beyond

This era highlights the issues of emerging rights for minorities and the leaders and critical events of the modern 20th century civil rights movement.

Late 20th Contemporary Issues 1980s – 2000

An era of change as the U.S. experienced the end of the Cold War, new conflicts in the Middle East, the impeachment of a President and a controversial election to begin a new century.

21st Century

Early in this century America dealt with a new threat of terrorism at home with the attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11 and a decade of the “War Against Terror”. This era also marked the election of the first African-American President of the United States in 2008.