

U.S. History Since 1877

U.S. History Vocabulary and Content Review

Important vocabulary and concepts

Historic Terms (Reporting Category 1)		Economic/Social Terms (Reporting Category 3)	
Political issues	Issues related to government, conflict resolution and decision-making for a group of people.	Culture [groups]	Way of life and the group(s) that live and represent that way of life
Economic issues	Issues related to money, taxes, and production of goods and services.	Demographic data	Statistics about the numbers and characteristics of people living in an area
Social issues	Issues related to culture, work, lifestyle...	Level(s) of development	Refers to the amount and quality of economic and industrial resources, often related to national income.
Domestic	Having to do with one's own homeland (U.S)	Standard of living	Use indicators such as income, education, birth rate/death rate, \$ spent on food, population density, and so on to determine quality of life.
International	Involving other countries	Nation	Country with borders and an organized government which freely exercises authority within the borders.
Era	A historic period identified by some prominent figure or characteristic	Distribution	Relates to trade and how resources and products are divided and allocated.
13 Colonies	Original east coast areas settled by Great Britain/England beginning in 1607 that became the original 13 states.	Free-enterprise economic system	The system in the U.S. and other free market economies. It includes economic choice, competition, profit motive, and limited government regulation of the economy.
Colonists	People who settle and live in a colony	Command economic system	Central governmental owns most of the means of production in a country and controls most economic decisions.
Taxation	Gov't process of charging a fee on goods products, people and/or activities.	Basic needs	Food, clothing, shelter (water is food).
Grievances	Complaints	Goods and services	Goods (things) are products made for sale/barter and services (actions) are products people provide.
Consent of the governed	Idea that people give government its power through the "...just consent of the governed" as stated in the Declaration	Subsistence agriculture	Growing crops just to support a family and not have any extra (surplus) for sale.
[Naval] blockade	To cut off supplies; a military and economic tool used to force a nation or area to suffer shortages and to give up fighting; called naval when ships are used	Market-oriented agriculture	Growing crops for commercial sale and distribution to domestic and international buyers.
Great Britain (England)	The "mother country" for the 13 colonies; country we fought against for the independence of the United States.	Capital	Goods used to produce other goods
Republic	A government that elects its leaders	Cottage industries	Small-scale production requiring little capital
Representative Democracy	Government that votes for representatives who serve in the government to make and enforce law and in the best interest of the people; the U.S. has a representative democracy; another term used for representative democracy is republic.	Commercial industries	Large-scale production of goods by large companies or corporations.
		Industrialization	The process of creating commercial industry including heavy industry such as steel,
		Trade	Exchange of goods and services
		Technological innovations	The introduction of new technology which often changes lifestyle and production.
		Tariff/Duty	Tax on imports and exports; in the U.S. export tariffs are unconstitutional.
		Protective tariff	A high tariff established to protect a particular industry.
		Export	Goods sold to buyers outside the country.
		Import	Goods bought from sellers in other countries.

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Geographic terms (Reporting Category 2)		Government terms (Reporting Category 4)	
Geographic context	Ways that geography influences a historical or current event.	Representative government	Government where people elect others to speak and act on their behalf.
Cultural diffusion	Spread of ideas, technology, religion, language and other cultural practices over time and across space.	Amendments	An official change to a law or document of government.
Physical features	Geographic features found in nature such as mountains, lakes...	Ratify	To officially approve.
Human features	Features of a place made by humans such as roads, canals, buildings...	Veto	Power of the President to reject a bill passed by Congress
Environment	All things that surround us	Unconstitutional	Actions or laws contrary to the Constitution as determined by the courts.
Migration patterns	Routes of movement for animals or people across or within a given area.	Nullify	To declare something to be without power or effect; to disregard the power of something as in the <i>Nullification Crisis</i> .
Immigration patterns	Routes of human movement from one area/country into another.	Citizens	Member of a country.
Regions	Large area that has common features that set it apart from other areas.	Unalienable rights	Rights that cannot be taken away or surrendered.
Patterns of settlement	Describing similarities in the places and ways people move into and stay in a given area.	Democracy (democratic society)	Form of government in which citizens rule, either directly or by choosing leaders to rule, usually through voting.
Geographic factors	The human and physical characteristics of a place.	Limited governments	Type of government where, through law, some control is placed on leadership's power such as a democracy.
Landforms	Individual feature of the land such as mountain, hill, valley, or prairie...	Unlimited governments	Government in which leaders rule without any restrictions such as a dictatorship or other totalitarian government.
Waterforms	Individual water features such as oceans, gulf, lake, bayou and so on.	Suffrage	The right to vote and the exercise of that right.
Adaptations to the environment	Ways people learn to use and live with their environment. Adaptations might include wearing cooler clothing in hot weather or building adobe houses in a dry climate.	Landmark case	Key decisions by the courts that interpret the law such as <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> which led to integration or <i>Marbury v Madison</i> which led to judicial review.
Modifications to the environment	Changes made by people to their surroundings to improve lifestyle.	Parliament	The law-making assembly in Great Britain (England) and other parliamentary democracies.
Urban	Relating to the city, of or in a city.		
Rural	Relating to the countryside, of or in the countryside.		
Suburban	Smaller community located in the area surrounding a city.		
Process Skills Terms			
Primary source	An original document, artifact, picture, journal, cartoon from the period in which an event occurred or a record from a person who participated in the event.		
Secondary source	Information that comes from other sources (either primary or secondary) such as a textbook, encyclopedia.		
Historical context	The historical setting for an event or a primary source.		
Frame of reference	The perspective from which a person views historical or current issues and events.		
Bias	Slanted coverage or one-sided information about an event; prejudiced information.		
Sequence	Putting things in a logical order; using chronological order to organize events based on dates.		

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Early American History review			
Key Dates		American Revolution	
1776	Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia by delegates to the Second Continental Congress.	Thomas Jefferson	Wrote the Declaration of Independence; colonial leader; 3 rd President
1787	U.S. Constitution written by delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation and decided to draft a new plan of government for the United States (The U.S. Constitution).	George Washington	Leader of the Continental Army during the Revolution; President of the Constitutional Convention and the first President of U.S.
1861 – 1865	American Civil War fought over the issues of slavery, states' rights, and economic and sectional differences between the North and the South.	Issues causing the Revolution	"No taxation without representation"; colonial protests against British policies and taxes; Battles at Lexington/Concord.
		Declaring Independence	Grievances listed against King George III of England declaring the American colonies independent. Written in Philadelphia by Thomas Jefferson, July 4, 1776
Growth of Democratic Government/Key Documents			
Growth of representative institutions	The Virginia House of Burgesses was the first representative government assembly in the colonies (1619); The Mayflower Compact was a document outlining principles of self-government for colonists (1620) The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut is one of the first written constitutions in the colonies. (1639)	Articles of Confederation 1781	A written plan of government for the colonies created a weak league (confederation) of 13 nearly independent states. Some weaknesses included: difficulty in passing laws because a bill required approval by 9 of the 13 states; no chief executive (president); no power to tax to raise money for the government; Congress had no real power, and there was no national court.
Magna Carta 1215	Signed in England, this document provided limits to the power of the king.	U.S. Constitution 1787 ratified 1789	"We the People of the United States" established the Constitution by ratifying (approving) the document written in 1787. It is the same Constitution (amended) that we use as the written plan of government today. The constitution set up a government based on federalism in which power is divided between the state governments and the federal (national) government, with some powers shared (concurrent) by each. The Constitution established a representative democracy with three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
English Bill of Rights 1689	Passed in 1689 in England, this document guaranteed English citizens certain rights and set a procedure for electing representatives to Parliament.	Bill of Rights 1791	The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten (10) amendments (changes) to the Constitution. These amendments protect individual rights such as free speech, freedom of the press, and jury trials. These amendments were added to the Constitution to calm Anti-Federalist fears that the Constitution did not do enough to protect individual rights.
Declaration of Independence 1776	Declared the American colonies separate from England; Includes important ideas: "All men are created equal...and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights [including] life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." "To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" "Whenever any ...government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government."	Federalist Papers	A series of essays written to support ratification (approval) of the Constitution. Leading Federalists included Alexander Hamilton and James Madison. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin also supported the Federalists. The Anti-Federalists argued that the Constitution was taking power away from the states and individuals. Their arguments against ratification led to passage of the Bill of Rights after the Constitution was approved.

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Principles of the Constitution			
Limited Government	The idea that governments are created by the <i>consent of the governed</i> and that the power of government is limited by rule of law.	Popular sovereignty	The idea that the power of government rests with the people who express their ideas through voting; popular sovereignty was used before the Civil War to allow voters in a new territory to decide whether to allow slavery
Federalism	The idea that power is divided by the Constitution between the federal (central or national) government and the state governments. The Constitution, treaties, and federal laws are the "supreme law of the land". Some powers are <i>delegated</i> to the federal government, others are <i>reserved</i> for state governments, and other powers are <i>concurrent (shared)</i> by both state and national government.	Separation of powers	The idea that the power of government is separated into three branches of government: Legislative Branch – elected representatives who make or enact laws; Congress at the federal level. Executive Branch – elected and appointed individuals who enforce laws; at the federal level the President heads this branch. Judicial Branch – justices (judges) who interpret the law (through the courts); at the federal level the U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court of this branch.
Checks and Balances	The idea that abuse of power is controlled by the three branches of government watching each other and having the power to approve or disapprove certain actions of the other branches.	Individual rights	The rights guaranteed to individual citizens by the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution. Freedom of speech and the press are two of these important rights.
Republicanism	The idea that government is controlled by the people who hold power and elect representatives, giving those representatives power to make and enforce laws.		
States' Rights and Reconstruction Amendments + Key 20th Century Amendments			
States' Rights	Based on a broad interpretation of the 10 th Amendment, <i>States' Rights</i> was the idea that states had the right to control all issues/laws in their state not specifically given to the federal government by the specific words of the Constitution. It was used by (mostly) Southern states to argue that they had the right to nullify (ignore) federal laws they did not agree with. States' rights became a leading cause of the Civil War as Southern states <i>seceded</i> (withdrew) from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America in 1861.	Nullification Crisis	In 1832, South Carolina threatened to <i>secede</i> (withdraw) from the United States (Union) if the federal government tried to collect <i>tariff duties</i> (taxes on imports) in their state. South Carolina used the doctrine of <i>states' rights</i> to try and nullify (ignore) the tariff laws. President Andrew Jackson got Congress to pass a law (<i>the Force Bill</i>) saying that he could use the army or navy if necessary to enforce the tariff law. South Carolina "backed down" from their threat to secede and a compromise tariff bill was passed.
13th Amendment	Declares slavery illegal in the United States	15th Amendment	Prohibits the use of race or previous condition of slavery as a barrier to voting. This applied to male citizens over the age of 21.
14th Amendment	Gives citizenship rights to all people born or naturalized in the U.S. (i.e., former slaves) and states that citizens cannot be "deprived of life, liberty, or property without <i>due process of the law</i> " It also said that all citizens will have <i>equal protection under the law</i> .		
16th	Creates the Federal Income Tax provisions. This was an amendment strongly supported by <i>the Progressive Reformers</i> .		
17th	Provides for direct election of Senators, another amendment supported by the <i>Progressives</i> .		
19th	Provides women the right to vote (woman's suffrage)		
24th	Eliminates the <i>poll tax</i> as a requirement to vote in primary elections for federal and state officials. Part of the <i>Civil Rights legislation of 1964</i> .		
26th	Extends the right to vote to 18-year-olds.		

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U.S. History Since Reconstruction Content Review			
Key Dates		Eras and Characteristics	
1898	<p>Spanish – American War between the U.S. and Spain. The incident that began the war was the sinking of the U.S. battleship <i>Maine</i> in the harbor at Havana, Cuba. The U.S. won and got Puerto Rico and Guam and bought the Philippines for \$20 million. The U.S. became a world power as a result of this war.</p>	Gilded Age 1876 - 1900	<p>Era of westward expansion and industrialization. The rise of the rich industrialists called <i>Robber Barons</i> created a gap between the rich, the workers, and farmers who tried to increase their share of the national wealth through the <i>Populist</i> movement. Immigration increased and cities grew (urbanization). Workers began to organize into unions to bargain for better wages and working conditions.</p>
1914 - 1918	<p>World War I was fought between the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire) and the Allied Powers (Britain, France, Russia, and after 1917, the United States). This war ended with the Treaty of Versailles which charged Germany with <i>war guilt</i> and forced Germany to pay <i>reparations</i>. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson prepared his <i>Fourteen Points</i> plan for peace which included an international peacekeeping group called the <i>League of Nations</i>. The U.S. Congress rejected U.S. involvement in the League and set an isolationist policy for the country.</p>	Progressive and Reform Era 1900 - 1919	<p>Progressives wanted to reform American life and improve political, social, and economic conditions for workers, farmers, urban middle class, women, children and minorities. Some reforms were successful. During this period America became more imperialistic and moved into a position of world power, especially after World War I.</p>
		Roaring '20s 1920s	<p>An era of prosperity, technological and social change. America became isolationist and began to limit immigration. This was a time of Prohibition, jazz music, and little interest in social reform.</p>
		Great Depression 1930s	<p>Beginning with the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the United States entered an economic decline called the Great Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt led government reforms of the economy called the "New Deal" to try and bring the U.S. out of depression and put American back to work.</p>
1929	<p>The Stock Market Crash in October of 1929 led the United States (and the world) into the Great Depression of the 1930's.</p>	World War II and Cold War begins 1940s and 1950s	<p>U.S. entry into World War II in 1941 led to a recovery from depression and the US emerged from the war years as a world power. The 1950s were characterized by prosperity, the growth of suburbs, and growth in education through the GI Bill. International relations became complicated by a growing rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This division between the <i>free world</i> and the <i>communist world</i> escalated conflict in the Korean War and later the Cuban Missile Crisis.</p>
1941 - 1945	<p>World War II began in Europe in 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland. The United States entered the war after the Japanese bombing at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The war ended when the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan in August of 1945.</p>	Civil Rights and the Turbulent 60s 1960s	<p>The 1960s was an era of social and political change. The US became more involved in the Vietnam conflict. The assassination of President Kennedy shocked the nation. The Civil Rights movement and President Johnson's <i>Great Society</i> legislation led to major social and political change. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others brought an end to segregation and improved equality for African-Americans and other minorities.</p>
		Modern America 1970s – present	<p>The Vietnam War ended in the 1970s and the U.S. returned to more normalcy. In the 1980s the Cold War was declining and America was moving toward an information and technological age. The U.S. entered the 21st century as a major world leader.</p>

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Gilded Age and Progressive Reforms – 1876 - 1920			
People	<p>Theodore Roosevelt – popular President in the early 1900s who led the US into a position as a world power.</p> <p>Woodrow Wilson – President during World War I who had a role in the peacemaking after WWI</p> <p>Susan B. Anthony – reform leader for women’s rights and prohibition.</p> <p>W.E.B. DuBois – founder of the NAACP and leader of reforms benefiting African-Americans.</p>	Issues	<p>U.S. expansion and imperialism – The U.S. became increasingly interested in foreign affairs and in spreading U.S. influence around the world. The country built the Panama Canal, engaged in the Spanish-American War, got overseas colonial possessions, initiated the <i>Open Door Policy</i> with China, stated intentions to become involved in Latin America through the <i>Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine</i>, and became an active participant in World War I.</p> <p>Labor Unions – As big business increased and individuals such as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, and others gained wealth and power (“robber barons”), U.S. workers began to unite to bargain for better working conditions and wages. Early efforts by leaders such as <i>Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor (AFL)</i>, <i>United Mine Workers</i>, and the <i>Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO)</i> led to strikes, violence, and eventually concessions by factory owners.</p> <p>Farm issues – low prices for agricultural products and a lack of voice in an industrialized nation led farmers to organize in groups such as <i>the Grange</i> and <i>the Populist Party</i>. Increased production and higher prices for crops during World War I led farmers to increase production and land use too quickly. Farmers often borrowed large sums to purchase more land for more production. As a result, farmers were hard hit by the economic downturn of the 1920’s and 1930’s, could not meet loan payments, and many lost their farms.</p> <p>Rise of Big Business – as industrialization occurred and industrial giants grew (Standard Oil, Carnegie Steel, railroads, and tobacco) and created monopolies, small businesses were forced out of competition. Theodore Roosevelt, nicknamed the “trustbuster”, responded to the abuses of big business and trusts pointed out by the <i>muckrakers</i>, and led new laws such as the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to regulate big business.</p> <p>Treatment of minorities (including women) and child labor – the <i>Progressives</i> took on the issues of poor treatment of women and children in the workplace. As a result of reform efforts laws were passed to regulate wages and hours for workers. The treatment of minorities, particularly after World War I were improved through organizations such as the NAACP, LULAC, and other groups. However, not enough was done to address these issues during this period. Through the 19th Amendment, women did get the right to vote.</p>
World War I	<p>Reasons for US involvement – unrestricted submarine warfare by the Germans and support for the Allies led to U.S. involvement in World War I in 1917.</p> <p>Treaty of Versailles –the treaty ending WWI that redrew the map of Europe, blamed Germany for the war.</p> <p>Wilson’s Fourteen Points and provisions for <i>The League of Nations</i> represented President Wilson’s goals for nations to have self-determination and an international peacekeeping forum. The U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Treaty and participate in the League of Nations</p>	Trends	<p>Industrialization – The U.S. became more industrialized and dependent on factory production, increased big business, and export of manufactured products.</p> <p>Migration – movement of people from rural areas to the cities (urban) as well as movement of people to the west after the completion of the transcontinental railroad. During the last part of this period there was also a migration of Blacks from the rural South to the major cities of the North.</p> <p>Immigration – a huge trend during this period which brought hundreds of thousands of immigrants through Ellis Island in New York and Angel Island in San Francisco. Immigration was severely limited by the 1920’s with increasing xenophobia and isolationism.</p> <p>Urbanization – during this period the population of the U.S. shifted to a majority living in large cities and urban areas. Urbanization and industrialization are linked.</p>

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1920s and Great Depression (1930s)			
People	<p>Clarence Darrow – 1925 – a leading criminal lawyer who was the defense attorney in the <i>Scopes Trial</i>, one of the leading trials of the century. The issue was about teaching evolution. Darrow lost the case but the debate continues into the 21st century.</p> <p>William Jennings Bryan – 1925 – a Populist candidate for President three times and a former Secretary of State, Bryan was a lawyer for the prosecution in the <i>Scopes Trial</i> and supported the views of fundamentalists that no teaching of evolution should occur in schools.</p> <p>Henry Ford – leading industrialist and manufacturer of one of the first automobiles. His innovation of assembly-line production and the inexpensive Model A and Model T Ford revolutionized transportation and industry in America.</p> <p>Charles Lindbergh – aviation pioneer, he was the first pilot to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic from the U.S. to France in 1927. His plane was called <i>The Spirit of St. Louis</i>.</p> <p>Franklin Delano Roosevelt – President of the U.S. from 1932 – 1945, Roosevelt was a Democrat elected at the height of the Great Depression who promised to give a “New Deal” to the American people. He led the government in providing programs that did help economic recovery and also led the U.S. during World War II. He died suddenly in April of 1945.</p>	Issues	<p>Red Scare – a period of anticommunist sentiment and hysteria that swept the United States in the 1920’s. It was a reaction to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917 and communist ideas spreading through Europe. The Red Scare and xenophobia fueled the famous Sacco and Vanzetti case.</p> <p>Immigration – was severely limited, particularly to immigrants from Asia, Southern and Eastern Europe, and Africa by the Immigration Acts of 1924 and 1925. These limits were the result of a general distrust of “foreigners” and a sense of growing isolationism.</p> <p>Xenophobia – a growing fear in the U.S. of “foreigners” led to the rise of such organizations as the KKK.</p> <p>Prohibition – the era brought about by the 18th Amendment that made the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverage illegal. This attempt to legislate social norms was largely a failure and resulted in widespread abuse including smuggling, moonshiners, speakeasies (private clubs), and the rise of the Mafia. Prohibition was repealed by the 21st Amendment.</p>
Great Depression	<p>Stock Market Crash (1929) – On what is called <i>Black Tuesday</i>, October 29, 1929 the New York Stock Exchange crashed as stock prices fell drastically. This collapse was followed by a severe banking crisis and the failure of many banks, business failures as investors lost money and people bought less, and huge rates of unemployment as more and more workers lost jobs to a failing economy. The Stock Market Crash is the event that marks the beginning of the Great Depression.</p> <p>New Deal – Franklin D. Roosevelt’s program for helping the U.S. recover from the Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression. This program consisted of many separate programs to provide jobs for people, regulation of banks, and other government regulatory agencies.</p> <p>Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – 1933 - a New Deal agency created to insure bank savings deposits. This program still exists today to protect consumers and savers.</p> <p>Social Security Act – 1935 – this piece of New Deal legislation provides retirement pensions, unemployment insurance, and payments to those disabled workers or the widows and children of male workers who have died. This was a key piece of legislation during the Depression that continues until the 21st century and has become a cornerstone of our national retirement system.</p>		

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World War II , Cold War, 1960s			
People	<p>Franklin D. Roosevelt – President of the United States and a leader of the Allies in World War II. He died in April 1945 just weeks before the Allied victory in Europe on May 7, 1945.</p> <p>Hitler – Political and military leader of Germany in World War II. He had the title <i>Der Führer</i> and was responsible for the Holocaust, German aggression before World War II and Axis policies during the war.</p> <p>Stalin – Communist leader of the Soviet Union during World War II. Stalin used the instability in Europe after World War II to expand Soviet/Communist influence into Eastern Europe. This expanded the Cold War and the rivalry between the U.S. (representing the Western/democratic bloc) and the Soviets (representing the Eastern/communist bloc).</p> <p>Churchill – Prime Minister of Great Britain, he was a major leader for the Allies and for Britain in World War II. He coined the phrase “Iron Curtain” to refer to the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe in a post-World War II speech.</p> <p>Harry Truman – Vice-President under Roosevelt and President of the United States from 1945 – 1952, Truman inherited the terrible responsibility of deciding to drop the first atomic bomb in August of 1945 against Japan. He also had the task of leading the United States after World War II, trying to stabilize conditions in Europe, and deal with escalating conflicts of the Cold War including the Korean Conflict (War).</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. – a Civil Rights leader, Dr. King encouraged non-violence as a way to protest lack of civil rights and liberties. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, and other <i>Great Society</i> legislation resulted in expanded rights for African-Americans and other minorities. Dr. King was assassinated in April 1968 in Memphis.</p>		
World War II events	World War II home front	<p>Rise of dictators – the increased influence of fascist dictators (Hitler/Germany and Mussolini/Italy) was one major cause of WWII.</p> <p>Pearl Harbor – December 7, 1941 – “a day that will live in infamy” – when Japanese planes attacked the U.S. Naval Base in Hawaii. This event brought the United States into WWII.</p> <p>Multiple front war – World War II was fought in two major areas – Europe/North Africa and the Pacific. Each of these fronts was important to the Allied efforts to win the war. In Europe the main targets were Germany and Italy. In the Pacific the main target was Japan.</p> <p>Holocaust – the systematic persecution, relocation, and execution of over 10,000,000 people by the Nazi German government. Jewish people throughout Germany and occupied Europe were a major target of this racism. The concentration camps and death camps of the Nazi’s killed over 6,000,000 Jews. Other victims of the Holocaust were gypsies, homosexuals, disabled persons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, other foreigners, and political enemies of the Nazis. The terrible atrocities of death camps such as Dachau, Buchenwald, and others led to the first war crimes trials (<i>The Nuremberg Trials</i>) after World War II ended.</p> <p>Battle of Midway – a turning point in the Allied war effort in the Pacific. This important naval battle in 1942 stopped Japanese aggression and began a counter-offensive by the United States to defeat the Japanese.</p> <p>D-Day (Invasion of Normandy) – a turning point in the war in Europe. This battle (June 6, 1944) started with an attack by the Allies on the beaches of Normandy (northern France) and launched the Allied plan that caused Germany to surrender in May of 1945.</p> <p>Atomic bomb – In response to Japanese refusal to surrender, the United States authorized the dropping of the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. After Japan still refused surrender, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The Japanese agreed to surrender terms on September 2, 1945 and World War II was over.</p>	
		<p>Rationing – a policy of limiting critical supplies to civilians during World War II. People in the United States were given <i>rationing stamps/books</i> and could only buy limited amounts of such items as gasoline.</p> <p>Female employment – <i>Rosie the Riveter</i> and the popular slogan <i>We Can Do It</i> represented the influence of women in the workforce during World War II. The role of women in employment outside the home changed drastically as women went to work in factories, as truck drivers, in wartime production efforts, and in other jobs traditionally held by men. Over 6 million women entered the workforce. However, most were paid less than men in similar positions.</p> <p>End of the Depression – the increased production brought about by gearing up for war and the employment of millions of men in the military (opening up jobs for women on the home front) improved the U.S. economy and brought an end to the unemployment and reduced production of the Great Depression.</p> <p>GI Bill – this legislation provided money for veterans (of World War II) to go to college. Provisions of the GI Bill are still in effect for military veterans.</p> <p>Internment of Japanese-Americans – during World War II in America, citizens of Japanese descent were relocated and/or arrested and detained in relocation camps located in remote areas of the United States. Most of these Japanese-Americans were from the West Coast. They were held in these camps surrounded by barbed wire from 1942 until the end of World War II. A total of approximately 110,000 Japanese-Americans lost their individual rights and freedoms as citizens during this time. In Hawaii, there were so many Japanese-Americans that there was no way to imprison or relocate them, so the entire island system was put under martial law for the rest of the war. All of these actions were fueled by a fear of the Japanese brought on by the attacks and continued fighting that occurred in the Pacific during WWII.</p>	

U.S. History Since 1877

U.S. History Vocabulary and Content Review

Cold War milestones	<p>Truman Doctrine – 1947 – Harry Truman’s statement that the United States would help countries fighting against communism.</p> <p>Marshall Plan – also called the European Recovery Program, this was a U.S. plan to give economic aid to European countries to rebuild their economies after World War II.</p> <p>NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization – an alliance formed in 1949 between the United States and other countries of Western Europe who pledged to help one another in case of attack.</p> <p>McCarthyism – a fear of communism and communists that spread through the United States in the early 1950’s. Senator Joseph McCarthy began hearings before the U.S. Senate accusing some Americans of being “communists” and questioning the patriotism of hundreds of people. Even after extensive hearings, McCarthy did not find evidence of efforts to support communism against the American government.</p> <p>Korean War – 1950 – 1953 – War began when communist North Korean troops invaded South Korea. Fighting raged for three years over the entire peninsula. Instead of a peace treaty, fighting ended with an <i>armistice</i> that made the 38th parallel (of latitude) a permanent division between North and South Korea. This was the first example of the relatively new <i>United Nations</i> sending an international peacekeeping force to resist aggression.</p> <p>Sputnik I – 1957 – was the world’s first satellite sent up by the Soviet Union. This event led the way for the space race that was part of the Cold War, the eventual manned space program in both America and the Soviet Union, and the current space program.</p> <p>Vietnam War – U.S. involvement in Vietnam began in 1954 and escalated to maximum strength in the 1960’s and early 1970’s. This conflict represented one major aspect of the Cold War – the idea of containment of communism to prevent the <i>domino theory</i> that communism must be stopped before it continued to spread throughout the world. As in Korea, Vietnam was divided into two parts, North and South Vietnam and the fighting that raged there for years resulted in a virtual stalemate and withdrawal of U.S. forces by 1975.</p>	Civil Rights	<p>Civil Rights movement –In the 1950s and 1960s an organized campaign by individuals and groups to extend basic civil and personal rights to minorities.</p> <p>Brown v Board of Education (1954) – the court case that overturned <i>Plessy v Ferguson (1896)</i> and began to change schools and public facilities from racially segregated to integrated. Thurgood Marshall successfully argued the <i>Brown v BOE</i> case before the United States Supreme Court and he later became the first African-American to be nominated and to serve on that court.</p> <p>Civil Rights Act of 1964 – this law was part of the massive civil rights legislation of the 1960s...it specifically banned racial discrimination in all public facilities and as a consideration for employment.</p> <p>Voting Rights Act of 1965 – put the voter registration process under Federal control and banned the use of restrictive practices to prevent people, particularly minorities, from registering and voting.</p> <p>Great Society – the name given to President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s domestic policy and reform program in the 1960s. The Great Society programs included some of the key Civil Rights legislation as well as education programs such as Head Start and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Medical programs such as Medicare and Medicaid were also part of the Great Society program.</p>
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Technological Innovations

Electricity	Thomas Edison (also invented phonograph and a motion picture machine)
Telephone	Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876 and founded the American Telephone and Telegraph Co.
Medical vaccines	Polio vaccine was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk in the 1950s to combat the polio epidemic. This was a success in stopping this disease.
Transportation	Airplanes, cars, space shuttle, and so on.
Improvement in the standard of life	Electricity, telephones, TVs, refrigeration and air-conditioning, \$ and programs for education, computers, increasingly affordable and available technology as well as large numbers of consumer goods at affordable prices.
Telegraph	Patented by Samuel Morse in 1837, this was a way of sending messages using electric current and a special code called <i>Morse Code</i> .
Petroleum-based products	Edwin Drake found oil in Pennsylvania in 1859. At Spindletop (near Beaumont) in 1901, huge deposits of oil were discovered. This led to refining of products such as gasoline, plastics, and chemicals and a boom for Texas.
Computers	Beginning in the 40s with the big main frames through the development of personal computer and into the 21 st century and hand-held technology.
Communication	Telephone, radio, TV, movies, computers, internet, cellular and satellite communication.