



CHRONOLOGY

Subjects marked in **bold** can be found within *Americans at War*, either in the main body or in the Primary Source Documents in the appendix.

Date	President	Event
1434		Beginning of African Slave Trade by Portuguese.
1494		Line of Demarcation dividing North and South America between Spain and Portugal.
1500–1542		Spanish and Portuguese exploration and conquests in North and South America. Few Spanish and Portuguese migrate to America. Their officials, soldiers, and priests rule native tribes. Plantations established. Beginning of the decline of the native population from 20 million to about 2 million due largely to disease.
1517		Beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther posts his ninety-five theses challenging the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.
1519–1522		Hernando Cortez conquers the Aztecs in Mexico.
1529		Henry VIII of England separates from the Roman Catholic Church to create the Church of England.
1520s		Slaves imported from Africa in large numbers to work on sugar plantations in the West Indies.
1530–1533		Francisco Pizarro and <i>Conquistadores</i> defeat Inca civilization on the Western coast of South America, now the countries of Peru and Chile.
1539–1542		Hernando de Soto expedition from Florida to the Mississippi.
1540		Silver deposits discovered in Peru and Mexico. Mined by Indians. The Society of Jesus, Jesuits, formed by Ignatius of Loyola. Missioners sent throughout the world to convert people to Christianity, including many sent among the Indian tribes of North America.

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1540–1542		Francisco Vázquez de Coronado explores the Southwest of what would become the United States.
1541		John Calvin and his Protestant followers take control of Geneva, Switzerland.
1542		Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo explores what would become the California coast.
1555		Peace of Augsburg ends religious wars in the Habsburg Empire and divides the land between Protestants and Catholics.
1564		French Calvinists known as Huguenots establish settlement at Fort Caroline in Florida. The fort is destroyed by Spanish in 1564 and most settlers killed.
1565		Queen Elizabeth I of England encourages colonization of Ireland by English Protestants.
August 24, 1572		St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris, which began a killing spree of Huguenots by Catholic mobs. Massacres and religious warfare in France follows, leaving 70,000 to 100,000 Huguenots dead.
1584		Richard Haklute publishes <i>A Discourse Concerning Western Planting</i> , a report on his voyage to America with Sir Walter Raleigh. Report encouraged English settlement to claim land for Protestantism, expand English trade, and to find productive work for the unemployed.
1588		Founding of the English colony at Roanoke, Virginia by Sir Walter Raleigh. When the supply ship returns three years later the colony is found mysteriously abandoned and the whereabouts of the settlers unknown. All that is left is the message "Croatoan" on a post, the meaning of which is unclear.
		Defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English. End of Spanish effort to conquer England and restore the Catholic Church.
1598		Edict of Nantes ends religious persecution in France; Huguenots are granted religious rights, which are revoked in 1685.
1603		James I becomes King of England. Favors colonization in America.
1605		French colony established at Port Royal in what is now Nova Scotia, Canada.
1606		Virginia Company of Jamestown and Virginia Company of Plymouth created as joint-stock companies to finance and promote English colonization of America.
1607		Jamestown founded—first permanent English colony in North America.

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1608		Quebec founded by Samuel de Champlain for fur trading. Becomes the capital of New France or Canada.
1608–1609		John Smith becomes head of Jamestown colony. Colony suffers from disease, starvation and attacks by Indians.
1609		Henry Hudson explores what is now the New York region and Hudson valley on behalf of the Dutch.
1610		Decision made to abandon Jamestown ; colonists return when relief ships arrive bringing supplies and settlers.
1614		Lutheran refugees from Amsterdam, Holland, establish a trading post in what is now Albany, New York.
1616		John Rolf and Pocahontas visit England to promote tobacco sales and settlement.
1619		First African slaves arrive at Jamestown .
1620		Pilgrims land at Plymouth. The day before landing they sign the Mayflower Compact, often described as America's first constitution.
1622		Massacre of 350 settlers at Jamestown led by Opechancanough.
1624		Jamestown company disbanded. Virginia becomes a Royal Colony.
1626		Dutch purchase Manhattan Island from Indians; establish New Amsterdam.
1630		Puritans led by John Winthrop settle in what becomes Boston, Massachusetts.
1632		Maryland chartered by Charles I to be refuge for English Catholics.
1635		Roger Williams banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, establishes Rhode Island.
1636–1637		Pequot War, the first serious armed conflict between Native Americans and settlers, takes place in New England.
1637		Anne Hutchinson excommunicated.
1642		Beginning of English Civil War between supporters of Charles I and Parliament led by Oliver Cromwell.
1649		Charles I beheaded; England becomes a republic under Oliver Cromwell.
1660		Monarchy restored under Charles II. Navigation Act demands colonial tobacco shipped to England for tax.
1660–1688		England establishes six colonies, including Pennsylvania by Quakers and Carolina by Barbadian planters who receive charter in 1663.

Date	President	Event
1664		Dutch colony surrenders to English. New Amsterdam becomes New York.
1675–1676		King Philip’s War in New England; 10,000 Indians die.
1676		Bacon’s rebellion. Uprising in Virginia by settlers to overthrow government that prevents them from seizing Indian land.
1688		Glorious Revolution in England. James II deposed and Parliament’s power increased.
1688–1689		John Locke produces his <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> professing that individuals have inalienable rights of life, liberty and property.
1692		Salem Witch Trials. By the end, nineteen accused witches had been hung, one was crushed to death, and seventeen more died in prison.
1702–1713		Queen Anne’s War—A series of raids by the French and their Indian allies upon New Englanders, including the raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts.
1711–1713		The Tuscarora War—War between Carolina settlers and Tuscarora Indians.
1715–1716		Yamasee War—War between Carolina settlers and Yamasee Indians and their allies in Florida.
1730s–1740s		The religious revival led by Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, called the Great Awakening, sweeps through the colonies.
1739		Stono Rebellion, slave uprising in Stono, South Carolina.
1739–1743		The War of Jenkins Ear—War between England and Spain on the Georgia-Florida border. Named after Robert Jenkins who lost his ear.
1744–1748		King George’s War—War between England and France on American soil. Louisburg on Cape Breton is captured by New England troops, stiking a blow to the French.
1754–1763		French and Indian War—Conflict for empire. France is defeated and its lands, especially Canada, become part of the British empire.
1763		Pontiac’s War—Indian attacks on English posts and settlers in the Great Lakes region.
1765		Stamp Act Passed by Parliament; American protest and resistance to the Stamp Act; “Sons of Liberty” formed in Boston.
October 1765		Stamp Act Congress approves Resolutions upholding rights as Englishmen.

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1766		Protest against the Stamp Act is successful and the act is repealed. Parliament passes the Declaratory Act proclaiming full authority over the American colonies.
1767		Townshend duties passed by Parliament; protests result.
1768		Riots in Boston against the Townshend Duties; British Troops sent to Boston.
1770		Boston Massacre.
December 16, 1773		Boston Tea Party. English tea is destroyed in Boston harbor by the “Sons of Liberty” in reaction to Britain’s Tea Act of 1773.
1774		Britain places Massachusetts under military rule—Parliament approves four laws to quell the Massachusetts rebellion. Laws branded by colonists as the Intolerable Acts.
September 5, 1774		First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to organize colonial protest and resistance.
October 25, 1774		Edenton, North Carolina tea party by local women protesting British imports. Fifty-one local women met and openly declared “We, the aforesaid Ladys will not promote ye wear of any manufacturer from England until such time that all acts which tend to enslave our Native country shall be repealed.”
April 19, 1775		Battles of Lexington and Concord. Beginning of the War for Independence.
January 1776		Thomas Paine publishes <i>Common Sense</i> . Argues for American independence and formation of a republican form of government; rejected European style monarchy and aristocracy.
July 4, 1776		Declaration of Independence.
1776		Virginia creates the first state constitution. It includes a Bill of Rights. Other states follow by making their own constitutions.
1777		Vermont outlaws slavery .
November 15, 1777		Articles of Confederation agreed to by the Continental Congress . Creates the United States as an alliance of independent states.
1778		France allies with the United States after the Americans defeat the British at Saratoga in 1777.
1779		Spain declares war on Great Britain.
October 19, 1781		Cornwallis defeated at Yorktown; last major battle of the Revolutionary War and peace negotiations begin.
1783		Peace of Paris. American Independence recognized.

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1787		Shays's rebellion in Massachusetts. National government under the Articles of Confederation shaken.
May 14, 1787		Constitutional convention gathers in Philadelphia. Proposes to replace the Articles of Confederation with a new constitution.
1788		Constitution adopted.
1789	George Washington, 1789–1797	French Revolution begins.
		French Assembly adopts the <i>Rights of Man</i> declaration written by Thomas Paine .
April 30, 1789		George Washington inaugurated as first president of the United States.
1790		First federal census undertaken.
1791		Bill of Rights—First Ten Amendments added to the Constitution .
1792		French Republic proclaimed.
1793		Eli Whitney invents cotton gin.
January 21, 1793		French King, Louis XVI tried and executed; French Revolution takes radical turn.
1794		United States and Great Britain agree to blockade France. Beginning of American quasi-war with France.
		Whiskey rebellion in western Pennsylvania. George Washington and Alexander Hamilton send the militia to put down the protesters against the tax on whiskey.
		“Mad” Anthony Wayne defeats Indians at “Fallen Timbers” near Detroit.
September 26, 1796		Washington's Farewell Address.
1797	John Adams, 1797–1801	
1798–1800		Quasi-War with England and France. Military mobilization proposed. Alien and Sedition laws passed to curtail freedom of speech because of threat of war and subversion. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson respond with the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions proclaiming the right of states to void federal laws that violate individual or states' rights.
1801		Thomas Jefferson, 1801–1809
1801		John Marshall appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801–1835). Generally considered one of the principal architects of American government and cultural values.
1801		Thomas Jefferson inaugurated. Peaceful transfer of power between two opposing political parties, Federalists and Democratic Republicans. Beginning of wars with Barbary pirates (1801–1805; 1815).

Date	President	Event
		Great Revival begins, Cane Ridge, Kentucky.
1803–1815		Napoleonic Wars. War between France and England in Europe and the Western Hemisphere. American ships and men seized by both countries.
April 30, 1803		American purchase of Louisiana territory from France.
1804–1806		Lewis and Clark Expedition to Pacific.
1808		African Slave traded to the United States prohibited.
1809	James Madison, 1809–1817	
1812–1815		War with England. Washington, D.C. occupied by the British and burned.
September 14, 1814		Francis Scott Key composes poem, “Star-Spangled Banner.”
1815		Andrew Jackson’s victory at New Orleans.
		Hartford Convention. New England protest against the war with England. Demands changes in the Constitution to weaken Congress’s power to declare war. Some New England states threaten to secede from the Union if federal power is not reduced.
1816–1826		Outburst of American nationalism and patriotism .
1817	James Monroe, 1817–1825	Monroe’s tour of New England and beginning of Bunker Hill monument .
1818		Passage of the Revolutionary War Pension Act to honor and reward veterans.
1820s		Expansion of factory towns and creation of new mill cities in New England.
1820		Missouri Compromise.
1820–1861		Expansion of the market economy in the North and South. Northern manufacturing, commerce, and farming; Southern farming, plantations, and export of cotton. Wage labor in the North; Wage and slave labor in the South.
1822		Discovery of Denmark Vesey’s slave conspiracy for a rebellion in Charleston, South Carolina.
1823		Monroe Doctrine proclaimed in 1823.
1824–1825		Lafayette’s tour of the United States.
1825	John Adams, 1825–1829	Completion of the Erie Canal connecting Buffalo with New York City. Part of the “Transportation Revolution” that binds the nation by roads, canals, and later railroads .
1826		Second Bank chartered. National Road completed.

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July 4, 1826		James Fenimore Cooper publishes <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> , a tale about the French and Indian War, 1754–1763. Beginning of an American literature.
1828		Death of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Viewed as a time of reflection on the Revolution.
1829	Andrew Jackson, 1829–1837	First railroad completed, the Baltimore and Ohio.
1830		Religious revival, “Second Great Awakening,” begins in western New York.
1831		Indian Removal Act; relocate Indians in Georgia. <i>Cherokee Nation v. Georgia Supreme Court</i> decision. Nat Turner slave uprising in Virginia.
1832		William Lloyd Garrison founds the abolitionist newspaper, <i>The Liberator</i> .
1833		Garrison and Abolitionists create the American Anti-Slavery society to end the institution of slavery. Nullification Crisis in South Carolina; South Carolina votes to nullify federal law on tariffs.
1834		Mobs attack abolitionists in New York City. Race riot in Philadelphia. Female mill workers at Lowell, Massachusetts strike and again in 1836.
1836		Ralph Waldo Emerson publishes <i>Nature</i> , first major work on transcendentalism. Part of the effort to create an American literature.
March 6, 1836		Defeat of Americans at Alamo by General Santa Anna.
1837	Martin Van Buren, 1837–1841	
1838		Cherokee Indians forcibly removed from Georgia to Oklahoma; thousands die along the “trail of tears” before arriving.
1840s		Famine in Ireland and failed revolution in Germany in 1848 result in surge of Irish and German immigrants to the United States.
1840		Liberty Party formed. Opposes the spread of slavery to the territories. Receives less than one percent of the popular vote.
1841	William Henry Harrison, 1841; John Tyler, 1841–1845	
1844		Margaret Fuller publishes <i>Woman in the Nineteenth Century</i> , which examines the role of women and argues for equal rights for women.

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1845	James Polk, 1845–1849	<p>Proclamation of Manifest Destiny by the United States. Americans feel it is their mission and part of God’s plan to spread democracy throughout the continent.</p> <p>United States annexes Texas, which permits slavery.</p> <p>Frederick Douglass publishes <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>, a powerful autobiography that further inspires the Abolitionist movement.</p>
1846		<p>United States declares war with Mexico. Anti-war protests divide the nation.</p> <p>Wilmot Proviso. Proposal for popular sovereignty to prohibit slavery in territories won from Mexico approved by the House of Representatives but defeated in the Senate.</p>
June 10, 1846		<p>Bear Flag Revolt in California. “Bear Flaggers” raise the grizzly bear flag and officially declare the territory free from Mexican rule. The bear flag becomes the official flag of California.</p>
June 15, 1846		<p>U.S. and Great Britain settle Oregon border. The 49th parallel is determined to be the border between Great Britain and the United States, with the exception of Vancouver Island.</p>
1847		<p>Brigham Young leads Mormons to Great Salt Lake, Utah.</p>
1848		<p>Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends war with Mexico and results in the United States acquiring California and what is now the U.S. southwest.</p> <p>Free Soil Party formed; opposes the spread of the slave institution. Absorbs the Liberty Party.</p> <p>Gold discovered in California, leading to California gold rush of 1849.</p>
July 19, 1848		<p>Women’s Rights Movement convenes in Seneca Falls, New York. Demands equal rights under the law, including the right to vote.</p>
1849	Zachary Taylor, 1849–1850	<p>Henry David Thoreau publishes <i>Walden</i>, an account of man and nature and part of the new American literary genre.</p>
1850	Millard Fillmore, 1850–1853	<p>Compromise of 1850. Intended to resolve the conflict over the spread of slavery; California admitted as a free state (prohibited slavery). Fugitive slave law strengthens recovery of runaway slaves in the North.</p>
1851		<p>Herman Melville publishes <i>Moby-Dick</i>, a novel that has become an American classic.</p>

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1852		Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> . The novel attacks the institution of slavery and increases tension between the North and South.
1853	Franklin Pierce, 1853–1857	American or “Know Nothing” party formed. The party is composed of nativists, people who oppose immigration, Catholics, and citizenship for blacks. Members, when asked about their organizations were suppose to reply they knew nothing, hence the name of the party. Gadsden Purchase adds territory in Southwest.
1854		Kansas-Nebraska Act opens the west to the possibility of slavery. Republican Party formed to oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act . Absorbs the Free Soil Party.
1856		“Bleeding Kansas” erupts as northerners and southerners fight over future of slavery in territory.
1857	James Buchanan, 1857–1861	Dred Scott case. Supreme court declares that the Constitution does not apply to free blacks and that it allows slave owners to take their property (slaves) to any state or territory.
1858		Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois for Senate seat.
October 16, 1859		John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His intent is to arm slaves and to lead a slave uprising. He is captured and later hanged.
1860		Abraham Lincoln elected president with 40 percent of the popular vote. South Carolina votes to secede from the Union.
1861	Abraham Lincoln, 1861–1865	Confederacy formed by seceded states. Fort Sumter attacked and Abraham Lincoln calls out militia to end rebellion. Civil War begins. Harriet Jacob publishes <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> , describing the life of a female under slavery .
1862		Bloody battles at Shiloh and Antietam. Homestead Act passed by Congress.
January 1, 1863		Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, ending slavery in territory conquered by northern troops.
July 1863		Battles at Gettysburg and Vicksburg turn the tide toward the Union.
September 2, 1864		Atlanta falls. After several weeks of preparation General Sherman begins his march to the sea .
1865	Andrew Johnson, 1865–1869	Congress establishes Freedmen’s Bureau to assist former slaves. South enacts Black Codes to suppress blacks. Thirteenth Amendment to Constitution ratified, abolishing slavery .

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April 9, 1865		End of Civil War at Appomattox Courthouse. Six days later Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
1866		Founding of Equal Rights Association to seek woman's suffrage. Formation of the Grand Army of the Republic composed of veterans of the Union Army. To become an organization for veterans' benefits .
1868		Ku Klux Klan organized as the "Invisible Empire of the South." Fourteenth Amendment added to Constitution , ensuring all male citizens equal protection of the laws and due process of law.
1869	Ulysses S. Grant, 1869–1877	Woman's suffrage groups split in two over tactics and issue of black male suffrage; will reunite in 1890. Territory of Wyoming allows women to vote.
May 10, 1869		Completion of transcontinental railroad in Promontory, Utah.
1870		Fifteenth Amendment added to Constitution , guaranteeing the right to vote to males regardless of race or color.
1870–1871		Franco-Prussian War.
1876		Westward migration increases conflicts with Indians. Custer defeated at Little Bighorn.
1877	Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877–1881	Troops withdrawn from the South. Disputed election of 1876 resolved and Rutherford B. Hayes was determined to have won 185 electoral votes to Samuel Tilden's 184. Reconstruction ended.
1881	James Garfield, 1881; Chester Arthur, 1881–1885	Helen Hunt Jackson publishes <i>A Century of Dishonor</i> —documents the mistreatment of American Indians.
1882		Chinese Exclusion Act passed by Congress.
1885	Grover Cleveland, 1885–1889	
1887		Dawes Severalty Act , which dissolves Indian tribes and turns tribal lands into private property for Indians—an effort to Americanize Indians.
1888		Edward Bellamy publishes <i>Looking Backward</i> —a critical assessment of American capitalism and endorsement of more cooperative society.
1889	Benjamin Harris, 1889–1893	
1890		Formation of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, uniting the two groups working for woman's suffrage.

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1890–1904		Jacob Riis publishes <i>How the Other Half Lives</i> , an exposé aided by photographs of squalor and exploitation of New York's immigrants and poor.
December 29, 1890		Ex-confederate states pass laws prohibiting Blacks from voting. “Jim Crow” laws enforce racial segregation.
1893	Grover Cleveland, 1893–1897	Battle of Wounded Knee marking last major conflict between Native Americans and federal troops in West.
1895		Booker T. Washington’s “Atlanta Compromise.”
1896		Stephen Crane published <i>Red Badge of Courage</i> , a novel giving psychological insights into combat during the Civil War.
1897	William McKinley, 1897–1901	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> ruling by the Supreme Court that segregation—“separate but equal”—is constitutional.
1898		Spanish-American War.
1899–1902		American-Filipino War. Insurrection against American rule.
1900		United States becoming one of the world’s leading industrial powers.
1900–1914		Immigration averages one million people a year. Many from Eastern and Southern Europe, including Jews and Catholics.
1901	Theodore Roosevelt, 1901–1909	
1903		United States acquires the Panama Canal Zone. Construction on canal begins.
December 17, 1903		First powered flight. The age of air transportation and warfare begins.
1904		President Theodore Roosevelt issues his “corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine.
1904–1917		Progressives expand the regulatory powers of the national government.
1905		The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) founded.
1908		Henry Ford produces the Model T.
		Race riot in Springfield, Illinois.
1909	William H. Taft, 1909–1913	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded to fight racial discrimination and to secure civil rights.

Date	President	Event	
1913	Woodrow Wilson, 1913–1921		
1914–1918		World War I in Europe.	
1914–1917		United States remains neutral about the war in Europe.	
1917		Russian Revolution begins. Communists under Lenin seize power.	
April 6, 1917		United States declares war on Germany in April. Draft begins. Security Espionage Act. President Wilson creates the Committee on Public Information (CPI). Over 400,000 blacks serve in armed forces.	
1918		Sedition Act. Eugene V. Debs, head of the IWW, jailed.	
November 11, 1918		World War I concludes. A total of 112,000 American soldiers killed.	
1919		Peace of Paris. Congress rejects American membership in the League of Nations. Widespread labor strikes. Race riot in Chicago.	
1919–1920		Red Scare. Campaign to suppress communists, radicals and socialists. Federal raids to round up aliens.	
1920s		Rise of a consumer society; mass marketing and advertising; expansion of highways and automobile travel, and entertainment industry, particularly movies .	
1920		Marcus Garvey, a Black Nationalist, calls for blacks to create a separate nation within the United States. Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution ratified giving women the right to vote. Election of Warren G. Harding on the pledge to return America to “normalcy,” meaning returning to the pre-World War I society. Census reports a majority of Americans live in cities.	
1921		Warren Harding, 1921–1923	
1922			Benito Mussolini becomes Fascist dictator of Italy. United States along with four other great powers agree to limit the size of their navies.
1923	Calvin Coolidge, 1923–1929	Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party attempt to overthrow the government in Bavaria. Hitler imprisoned and writes <i>Mein Kampf</i>	
April 18, 1923		Yankee Stadium opens. Part of era of mass public sports in baseball and college football.	
1924		Ku Klux Klan achieves a membership of nearly 4 million people.	

Date	President	Event
1924–1926		America aids European recovery with the Dawes Plan. Joseph Stalin rises to power in the Soviet Union.
1925		Hitler rebuilds Nazi party.
		Scopes trial in Tennessee.
1926		Ernest Hemingway publishes <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> about the “Lost Generation.”
1928		Kellogg-Briand Pact. International agreement not to use war as means to fulfill national policies.
1929	Herbert Hoover, 1929–1933	Eric Maria Remarque publishes <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , a powerful anti-war novel. Made into a popular film in 1930.
		Ernest Hemingway publishes <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> , another anti-war novel.
October 29, 1929		Stock Market crash.
1929–1932		Economic depression spreads through United States and Europe. Unemployment in the United States rises to 25 percent of the work force.
1931		Japan invades Manchuria.
1932		World War I veterans march on Washington. “Bonus Army” dispersed by troops.
		Franklin Roosevelt elected president.
1933	Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933–1945	Roosevelt’s inaugural address declares that Americans have “nothing to fear but fear itself.”
		Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
1933–1935		First New Deal . Prohibition repealed. “Alphabet” measures implemented such as the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) , and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Banking and stock market regulated.
1935		Italy invades Ethiopia.
		Congress passes first of Neutrality Acts aimed at keeping the United States out of war.
1935–1937		Second New Deal . Social Security Act passed. National Labor Relations Acts (Wagner Act) strengthens unions. Rural Electrification Act brings power to rural America. Works Progress Administration (WPA) provides employment for workers, artists, and performers.
1936		Civil war in Spain. Germany and the Soviet Union aid combatants.
		Germany and Italy agree to form an alliance as “Axis Powers.”
1937		Japan invades China.

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1937–1938		<p>Neutrality Acts strengthened.</p> <p>Recovery of the American economy halted. Unemployment approaches 1932 levels.</p>
October 5, 1937		<p>Roosevelt gives his “Quarantine Speech” urging peace-loving countries to unite against aggressors.</p>
1938		<p>Germany occupies part of Czechoslovakia following Munich agreement.</p>
1939		<p>Congress rejects Wagner-Rogers bill to increase immigration quotas to allow 20,000 Jewish children in Germany to enter the United States.</p>
September 1, 1939		<p>Germany invades Poland. World War II begins in Europe.</p>
1940		<p>Congress passes the first peace-time draft. American rearmament begins.</p>
June 1940		<p>Germany defeats France. Battle of Britain begins.</p>
1941		<p>Franklin D. Roosevelt announces the “Four Freedoms.”</p>
		<p>Roosevelt proposes that America become the “arsenal for democracy.” Congress passes “Lend-Lease” legislation to provide arms to Britain.</p>
		<p>Roosevelt creates the Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC) to ensure nondiscrimination in industries receiving federal contracts.</p>
		<p>Roosevelt and Winston Churchill agree on the “Atlantic Charter” to create a new world organization to ensure collective security.</p>
December 7, 1941		<p>Japans attacks Pearl Harbor. United States declares war. Germany and Italy, allies of Japan, declare war on the United States.</p>
1942–1945		<p>Economic depression begun in 1929 ends. About 15,000,000 people in the armed services. Military remains racially segregated.</p>
1942		<p>Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 authorizing internment of Japanese on the west coast for reasons of national security.</p>
		<p>Roosevelt creates the Office of War Information (OWI) to oversee propaganda and censorship affecting the war.</p>
		<p>Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) formed to secure civil rights for blacks.</p>
1943		<p>Many blacks move north. Black employment in defense industries increases. Race riot in Detroit.</p>
1944		<p>Gunnar Myrdal publishes <i>The American Dilemma</i> analyzing the depth of racism in America.</p>

Date	President	Event
		Bretton Woods agreement creates a new economic organization for the world.
June 6, 1944		GI Bill passed. D-Day. Allied forces land in Normandy.
December 18, 1944		Supreme Court declares internment of Japanese constitutional in <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> .
1945	Harry Truman, 1945–1953	Yalta and Potsdam agreements by allies to divide Germany and reestablish governments in Easter Europe. A source of conflict during the Cold War .
May 7, 1945		Germany surrenders unconditionally. One day later is V-E Day, Victory in Europe.
August 6 and 9, 1945		United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders within days.
September 2, 1945		V-J Day, Victory over Japan.
November 1945		Nuremberg trial of Nazi leaders.
December 1945		United Nations established.
1946		Baruch plan for international control of atomic power approved by the United Nations . Atomic Energy Commission created. RAND (Research and Development) “think tank” established.
		Winston Churchill delivers his “iron curtain” speech in Fulton, Missouri.
1947		Beginning of “ Cold War .” Truman Doctrine National Security Act passes creating the Defense Department, National Security Council, and CIA . George Kennan outlines the policy of “containment.” President Truman issues Executive Order 9835 to remove “security risks” from government. Marshall Plan approved.
		British colonialism ends in India. Pakistan created. New countries emerge as decolonization occurs elsewhere in the world.
		House Un-American Activities Committee conducts hearings to reveal communist influence in the movie and entertainment industry.
		Postwar baby boom peaks at nearly 27 million births. Suburbs expand. Levittown , the beginning of mass housing developments.
1948		Soviet Union blockades West Berlin. Berlin airlift begins. State of Israel created. Israel repels attacks. Truman issues Executive Order 9981 desegregating the armed forces.

Date	President	Event
1949		<p>Communists under Mao Zedong take control of China.</p> <p>Soviet Union detonates its first atomic bomb.</p> <p>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed for mutual security against a Soviet invasion of Western Europe.</p> <p>George Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>—prophesizes the triumph of totalitarianism.</p> <p>Major League Baseball integrated.</p>
1950s		<p>Beginning in the late 1940s the “new look” return to women’s fashion. Television replaces radio as the principal source of home entertainment.</p> <p>Employment of married mothers outside of the home increases.</p>
1950		<p>NSC #68, a top secret policy approved by the National Security Council, which approves use of covert force and encouraging “captive nations” to revolt against Soviet rule. Places the United States on a quasi-war footing.</p> <p>Julius and Ethel Rosenberg arrested for treason. Both executed in 1953.</p> <p>Passage of the McCarran Internal Security Act.</p>
1950–1953		Korean War.
1950–1954		“ McCarthyism .” Civil liberties challenged. 1954 Senate censures Senator Joseph McCarthy.
1951		European Coal and Steel Community formed. Beginning of what would become the European Economic Community (known as the Common Market, and later the European Union).
April 1951		Truman removes General McArthur from command in Korea.
1952		Election of Dwight D. Eisenhower as president. First Republican in 20 years.
1953	Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953–1961	East Germans rise up against Soviet rule. Suppressed by force.
March 5, 1953		Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, dies.
1954		<p>French defeated at Dien Bien Phu. French Indochina divided into Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.</p> <p>Historian David Potter publishes <i>People of Plenty</i>, describing the rise of American consumer economy and expansion of the middle class.</p> <p>Congress adds “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Elvis Presley tops the music charts.</p>

Date	President	Event
May 17, 1954		<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> . Supreme Court rules that segregation in schools is unconstitutional.
1955		Movie <i>The Blackboard Jungle</i> warns of social decay caused by youth gangs and rock 'n roll music.
December 1, 1955		Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. Boycott begins to end segregation on the city buses. Civil rights movement intensifies. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference emerge as leaders.
1956		<p>Passage of the Highway Act authorizing construction of the interstate highway system to improve American defense and promote commerce.</p> <p>Congress approves adding “In God We Trust” to the nation’s motto.</p> <p>Supreme Court declares segregation on public buses unconstitutional.</p> <p>Hungarian uprising against Communist regime suppressed.</p>
September 1957		Federal troops enforce integration of Little Rock, Arkansas, high school.
October 4, 1957		Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first space satellite . Soviet leadership in missile technology and delivery of atomic weapons feared. Sales of bomb shelters increase in United States.
1958		National Defense Education Act passed to improve the teaching of mathematics and science.
1959		Fidel Castro leads revolution in Cuba. Establishes a communist regime.
1960		Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) formed—College activists favoring aggressive American actions to defeat communism and to reduce “big government” at home.
1960–1963		Increased civil rights activism—sit ins and “freedom rides.”
1961	John F. Kennedy, 1961–1963	<p>President John F. Kennedy increases American aid to South Vietnam against communist insurgents.</p> <p>Construction of the Berlin Wall.</p>
January 7, 1961		President Eisenhower’s farewell speech. Warns of the dangers of a “ military-industrial complex ” dominating American economy and society.
April 17, 1961		CIA supports attack on Cuba by exiles defeated at the “Bay of Pigs.”

Date	President	Event
1962		Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) formed in response to YAF. Young activists against racial discrimination and social injustices. Becomes part of the “New Left.” Beliefs expressed in its “ Port Huron Statement. ”
October 1962		Cuban missile crisis.
1963	Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963–1969	Betty Friedan publishes <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> expressing women’s dissatisfaction with limitations of domestic life and wish for careers and more active public life.
August 28, 1963		March on Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr. gives his “I have a dream” speech.
September 15, 1963		Bombing of Birmingham, Alabama, church killing four children.
November 22, 1963		Assassination of President Kennedy.
1964		Congress approves Tonkin Gulf Resolution authorizing increased military force in South Vietnam. Movie, <i>Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb</i> presents a critical parody of cold war fears and American policy of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). Passage of the Civil Rights Act. Prohibits racial discrimination in public facilities and discrimination against women.
1965		President Lyndon Johnson announces his “ Great Society ” program—Medicare, Medicaid, and a “war on poverty.” Voting Rights Act removes barriers used to restrict Blacks from voting. President Johnson orders operation “Rolling Thunder,” the limited bombing of North Vietnam. 50,000 more troops sent to South Vietnam.
1965–1970s		Counterculture. Associated with “hippies,” “yippies,” the anti-war movement. Woodstock Festival in New York.
February 21, 1965		Malcolm X murdered by enemies within his own movement.
1967		Anti-war march on the Pentagon.
1968		Civil Rights Act ending racial discrimination in housing. Tet Offensive in Vietnam. A majority of Americans turn against the Vietnam war.
April 4, 1968		Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
June 6, 1968		Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.
August 1968		Riots at the Chicago convention of the Democratic Party.

Date	President	Event
1969	Richard Nixon, 1969–1974	President Richard Nixon begins negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce nuclear missiles. Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT) formalized two years later.
July 20, 1969		American withdrawal from Vietnam begins.
1970		Americans land on the moon.
1970		American incursion in Cambodia sets off campus riots and protests. Students killed at Kent State University in Ohio.
June 1971		Daniel Ellsberg leaks the so-called “ Pentagon Papers. ”
1972		President Nixon opens relations with Communist China.
1973		Paris Peace Agreement. American troops withdrawn from Vietnam. POWs returned.
1973		<i>Roe v. Wade.</i>
August 8, 1974	Gerald Ford, 1974–1977	President Nixon resigns from office as a result of the Watergate scandal.
1975		South Vietnam falls to the communists.
1977	Jimmy Carter, 1977–1981	Feminist movement becomes international. First meeting in Houston, Texas.
1980		Microsoft licenses its computer software, MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System).
1980s		Legal immigration of Asians and Hispanics increases social diversity.
		America becoming a “knowledge and service” economy.
		AIDs epidemic begins.
1980–1988		The so-called “Reagan Revolution.” A massive build-up of the American military, a more aggressive policy to combat Soviet influence, efforts to restore more political power to the states, and federal tax cuts.
1981	Ronald Reagan, 1981–1989	
1985		Mikhail Gorbachev becomes head of the Soviet Union. Begins programs of reform <i>glasnost</i> (openness), and <i>perestroika</i> (restructuring) to revitalize the Soviet economy.
April 25–26, 1986		Nuclear power plant at Chernobyl explodes. World’s worst nuclear accident.
June 3–4, 1989	George H. W. Bush, 1989–1993	Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square for more freedoms. Suppressed by military force.
November 19, 1989		Destruction of the Berlin Wall.
1990s		Internet moves from college and military use to public use. Contributes to the worldwide computer and digital information revolution.

Date	President	Event
1991		<p>First Gulf War. Iraqi forces defeated. Sovereignty restored in Kuwait.</p>
December 21, 1991		<p>Ethnic wars and ethnic cleansing begins in the former Yugoslavia.</p>
February 26, 1993	<p>William J. Clinton, 1993–2001</p>	<p>The Soviet Union officially ceases to exist. Cold War ends.</p>
1995		<p>Al-Qaida detonates a truck bomb under the World Trade Center.</p>
2001	<p>George W. Bush, 2001—</p>	<p>The Dayton Accords. NATO forces enforce the peace in the Balkans.</p>
September 11, 2001		<p>American-led forces defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan and destroy al-Qaida training bases.</p>
October 26, 2001		<p>Al-Qaida Terrorists destroy the two World Trade Center towers and damage the Pentagon. Nearly 3,000 people killed. President George W. Bush declares War on Terror.</p>
2002		<p>USA PATRIOT Act passed.</p>
March 19, 2003		<p>The Euro becomes the currency for many countries in the European Union.</p>
2004		<p>United States-led forces invade Iraq.</p>
		<p>The European Union expands from fifteen to twenty-five members.</p>
		<p>An interim regime established in Iraq.</p>
		<p>American policy in Iraq and conduct of the War on Terror become key issues in the election campaign for president of the United States.</p>