

Chronology

So that the events in this volume may be placed in a larger historical context, the following is a general chronology of important historical and social events along with specific events related to the subject of this volume.

1700s

- 1773:** Boston Tea Party.
- 1774:** First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.
- 1775:** British and American forces clash at the battles of Lexington and Concord, igniting the American Revolution.
- 1775:** James Watt invents the steam engine. The invention marks the start of the Industrial Revolution.
- 1776:** Declaration of Independence asserts American colonies' independence from the British Empire and proclaims that "all men are created equal."
- 1781:** The thirteenth state ratifies the Articles of Confederation, creating the United States.
- 1783:** American Revolutionary War ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris.
- 1785:** The Daily Universal Register, later known as The Times (London), publishes its first issue.
- 1786:** Britain establishes its first colony in Southeast Asia, beginning an age of European colonial expansion in Asia.
- 1787:** The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia adopts the U.S. Constitution.
- 1787:** The "Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade" is established in Britain.
- 1789:** First nationwide election in the United States.
- 1789:** Citizens of Paris storm the Bastille prison. The event ignites the French Revolution.
- 1789:** Declaration of the Rights of Man is issued in France.
- 1790:** First U.S. census is taken.

- 1791:** The states ratify the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- 1793:** Louis XVI, King of France, is guillotined by revolutionaries.
- 1793:** "Reign of Terror" begins in France. Almost 40,000 people face execution.
- 1794:** The French Republic abolishes slavery.
- 1796:** Edward Jenner administers the first vaccination for smallpox.
- 1798:** Irish tenant farmers rebel against British landowners in the Irish Rebellion of 1798.
- 1798:** The United States enacts the Alien and Sedition Acts making it a federal crime to "write, publish, or utter false or malicious statements" about the United States government.

1800–1849

- 1800:** World population reaches 1 billion.
- 1801:** Union of Great Britain and Ireland.
- 1803:** Napoleonic Wars begin. Napoleon's army conquers much of Europe before Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo in 1815.
- 1803:** The United States pays France \$15 million for the Louisiana Territory extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.
- 1807:** The importation of slaves is outlawed in the United States, but the institution of African slavery continues until 1864.
- 1812:** The North American War of 1812 between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Ireland. The war lasted until the beginning of 1815.

- 1814:** The Congress of Vienna redraws the map of Europe after the defeat of Napoleon.
- 1819:** South American colonial revolutions begin when Columbia declares its independence from Spain in 1819.
- 1820:** Temperance movement begins in United States.
- 1822:** American Colonization Society advocates the repatriation of freed African slaves to the Colony of Liberia.
- 1829:** Lambert-Adolphe-Jacques Quetelet (1796–1874), Belgian statistician and astronomer, gives the first statistical breakdown of a national census. He correlates death with age, sex, occupation, and economic status in the Belgian census.
- 1830:** Indian Removal Act forces the removal of Native Americans living in the eastern part of the United States.
- 1838:** More than 15,000 Cherokee Indians are forced to march from Georgia to present-day Oklahoma on the “Trail of Tears.”
- 1838:** Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791–1872) and Alfred Vail (1807–1859) unveil their telegraph system.
- 1840:** John William Draper (1811–1882), American chemist, takes a daguerreotype portrait of his sister, Dorothy. This is the oldest surviving photograph of a person.
- 1840:** Pierre-Charles-Alexandre Louis (1787–1872), French physician, pioneers medical statistics, being the first to compile systematically records of diseases and treatments.
- 1841:** Horace Greeley (1811–1872), American editor and publisher, founds the *New York Tribune* which eventually becomes the *Herald Tribune* after a merger in 1924.
- 1842:** The first shipment of milk by rail in the U. S. is successfully accomplished.
- 1845:** The potato famine begins in Ireland. Crop failures and high rents on tenant farms cause a three-year famine. Millions of Irish immigrate to flee starvation.
- 1846:** Mexican War begins as U.S. attempts to expand its territory in the Southwest.
- 1847:** John Collins Warren (1778–1856), American surgeon, introduces ether anesthesia for general surgery. It is soon taken up worldwide as an essential part of surgery.
- 1847:** Richard March Hoe (1812–1886), American inventor and manufacturer, patents what proves

to be the first successful rotary printing press. He discards the old flatbed press and places the type on a revolving cylinder. This revolutionary system is first used by the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* this same year, and it produces 8,000 sheets per hour printed on one side.

- 1848:** Karl Marx publishes *The Communist Manifesto*.
- 1848:** Delegates at the Seneca Falls Convention on Woman Rights advocate equal property and voting rights for women.
- 1848:** Series of political conflicts and violent revolts erupt in several European nations. The conflicts are collectively known as the Revolution of 1848.
- 1848:** A group of six New York newspapers form an association or news agency to share telegraph costs. It is later called the Associated Press.
- 1848:** The first large-scale department store opens in the U.S. The Marble Dry Goods Palace in New York occupies an entire city block.
- 1849:** John Snow (1813–1858), English physician, first states the theory that cholera is a water-borne disease and that it is usually contracted by drinking. During a cholera epidemic in London in 1854, Snow breaks the handle of the Broad Street Pump, thereby shutting down what he considered to be the main public source of the epidemic.

1850–1899

- 1852:** Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is published. It becomes one of the most influential works to stir anti-slavery sentiments.
- 1854:** Crimean War begins between Russia and allied forces of Great Britain, Sardinia, France, and the Ottoman Empire.
- 1854:** Violent conflicts erupt between pro-and anti-slavery settlers in Kansas Territory. The “Bleeding Kansas” violence lasts five years.
- 1854:** Florence Nightingale (1823–1910), English nurse, takes charge of a barracks hospital when the Crimean War breaks out. Through dedication and hard work, she goes on to create a female nursing service and a nursing school at St. Thomas’ Hospital (1860). Her compassion and common sense approach to nursing set new standards and create a new era in the history of the sick and wounded.
- 1854:** Cyrus West Field (1819–1892), American financier, forms the New York, Newfoundland and

- London telegraph Company and proposes to lay a transatlantic telegraph cable.
- 1856:** *Illustrated London News* becomes the first periodical to include regular color plates.
- 1857:** Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Dred Scott v. Sanford* holds that slaves are not citizens and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery in the individual states.
- 1857:** The Indian Mutiny revolt against British colonial rule in India begins.
- 1859:** Charles Robert Darwin (1809–1882), English naturalist, publishes his landmark work *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. This classic of science establishes the mechanism of natural selection of favorable, inherited traits or variations as the mechanism of his theory of evolution.
- 1860:** The U. S. Congress institutes the U. S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D. C.
- 1861:** The Civil War begins in the United States.
- 1861:** The popular press begins in England with the publication of the *Daily Telegraph*.
- 1864:** U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves in Union-occupied lands.
- 1865:** The Civil War ends with the surrender of the secession states. The United States is reunified.
- 1865:** President Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.
- 1865:** The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are ratified. The Thirteenth Amendment outlaws slavery; the Fourteenth Amendment establishes that all persons born or naturalized in the United States as U.S. citizens and extends equal protection under the law.
- 1867:** Britain grants Canada home rule.
- 1869:** The first transcontinental railroad across the United States is completed.
- 1870:** The Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871) begins.
- 1871:** The era of New Imperialism, or “empire for empire’s sake,” starts a multinational competition for colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
- 1876:** Alexander Bell files for a patent for the telephone.
- 1876:** The American Library Association is founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by American librarian, Melvil Dewey (1851–1931), the founder of the decimal system of library classification.
- 1877:** Reconstruction, the period of rebuilding and reunification following the U.S. Civil War, ends.
- 1884:** International conference is held at Washington, D. C., at which Greenwich, England, is chosen as the common prime meridian for the entire world.
- 1885:** Karl Benz invents the automobile in Germany.
- 1885:** Louis Pasteur (1822–1895), French chemist, inoculates a boy, Joseph Meister, against rabies. He had been bitten by a mad dog and the treatment saves his life. This is the first case of Pasteur’s use of an attenuated germ on a human being.
- 1886:** Richard von Krafft-Ebing (1840–1902), German neurologist, publishes his landmark case history study of sexual abnormalities, *Psychopathia Sexualis*, and helps found the scientific consideration of human sexuality.
- 1890:** The U.S. Census Bureau announces that the American frontier is closed.
- 1890:** Herman Hollerith (1860–1929), American inventor, puts his electric sorting and tabulating machines to work on the U. S. Census. He wins this contract after a trial “run-off” with two other rival systems and his system performs in one year what would have taken eight years of hand tabulating. This marks the beginning of modern data processing.
- 1892:** Ellis Island becomes chief immigration station of the eastern U.S.
- 1893:** Panic of 1893 triggers a three-year economic depression in the United States.
- 1893:** Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), Austrian psychiatrist, describes paralysis originating from purely mental conditions and distinguishes it from that of organic origin.
- 1894:** Thomas Alva Edison (1847–1931), American inventor, first displays his peep-show Kinetoscopes in New York. These demonstrations serve to stimulate research on the screen projection of motion pictures as well as entertain.
- 1896:** Landmark Supreme Court of the United States decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, upholds racial segregation laws.
- 1897:** Havelock Ellis (1859–1939), English physician, publishes the first of his seven-volume work *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*. This contributes to the more open discussion of human sexuality and supports sex education.
- 1898:** USS *Maine* sinks in harbor in Havana, Cuba; Spanish-American War begins.

1900–1949

- 1901:** Guglielmo Marconi (1874–1937), Italian electrical engineer, successfully sends a radio signal from England to Newfoundland. This is the first transatlantic telegraphic radio transmission.
- 1903:** Wright brothers make first successful flight of a controlled, powered airplane that is heavier than air.
- 1903:** The Great Train Robbery, the first modern movie, debuts.
- 1904:** Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905): Japan gains territory on the Asian mainland and becomes a world power.
- 1905:** Albert Einstein (1879–1955), German-Swiss-American physicist, submits his first paper on the special theory of relativity titled “Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Korpen.” It states that the speed of light is constant for all conditions and that time is relative or passes at different rates for objects in constant relative motion. This is a fundamentally new and revolutionary way to look at the universe and it soon replaces the old Newtonian system.
- 1908:** A. A. Campbell-Swinton of England first suggests the use of a cathode ray tube as both the transmitter (camera) and receiver. This is the first description of the modern, all-electronic television system.
- 1914:** Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and his wife Sophie; World War I begins.
- 1914:** Panama Canal is completed.
- 1914:** The beginning of the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians by the Turkish government, later known as the Armenian Genocide.
- 1915:** German U-boats sink the British passenger steamer RMS Lusitania.
- 1916:** Easter Rising in Ireland begins fight for Irish independence.
- 1917:** U.S. enters World War I, declaring war on Germany.
- 1917:** The Russian Revolution begins as Bolsheviks overthrow the Russian monarchy.
- 1918:** World War I ends.
- 1918:** The Great Flu; nearly 20 million perish during the two-year pandemic.
- 1918:** The Red Terror in Russia: Thousands of political dissidents are tried and imprisoned; 5 million die of famine as Communists collectivize agriculture and transform the Soviet economy.
- 1919:** The ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. constitution gives women the right to vote.
- 1919:** Mahatma Gandhi initiates satyagraha (truth force) campaigns, beginning his nonviolent resistance movement against British rule in India.
- 1920:** Red Scare (1920–1922) in the United States leads to the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of suspected communist, socialist, and anarchist “radicals.”
- 1920:** KDKA, a Pittsburgh Westinghouse station, transmits the first commercial radio broadcast.
- 1922:** 26 of Ireland’s counties gain independence, the remaining six become Northern Ireland and remain under British rule.
- 1922:** Mussolini forms Fascist government in Italy.
- 1925:** Geneva Protocol, signed by sixteen nations, outlaws the use of poisonous gas as an agent of warfare.
- 1925:** The Scopes Monkey Trial (July 10–25) in Tennessee debates the state’s ban on the teaching of evolution.
- 1927:** Charles Lindbergh makes the first solo nonstop transatlantic flight.
- 1928:** Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.
- 1929:** Black Tuesday. The U.S. stock market crashes, beginning the Great Depression.
- 1930:** Rubber condoms made of a thin latex are introduced.
- 1932:** Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1932:** The Nazi party capture 230 seats in the German Reichstag during national elections.
- 1932:** RCA (Radio Corporation of America) makes experimental television broadcasts from the Empire State Building in New York.
- 1933:** Adolf Hitler named German chancellor.
- 1933:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt announces the New Deal, a plan to revitalize the U.S. economy and provide relief in during the Great Depression. The U.S. unemployment rate reaches twenty-five percent.
- 1933:** U. S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945) makes the first of his “fireside chats” to the American people. He is the first national leader to use the radio medium comfortably and regularly to explain his programs and to garner popular support.
- 1935:** Germany’s Nuremberg Laws codify discrimination and denaturalization of the nation’s Jews.
- 1938:** Anti-Jewish riots across Germany. The destruction and looting of Jewish-owned businesses is know as *Kristalnacht*, “Night of the Broken Glass.”

- 1938:** Hitler marches into Austria; political and geographical union of Germany and Austria proclaimed. Munich Pact—Britain, France, and Italy agree to let Germany partition Czechoslovakia.
- 1939:** Germany invades Poland. Britain and France go to war against Germany in response, beginning World War II.
- 1939:** U.S. declares its neutrality in World War II.
- 1939:** The Holocaust (Shoah) begins in German-occupied Europe. Jews are removed from their homes and relocated to ghettos or concentration camps. The *Einsatzgruppen*, or mobile killing squads, begin the execution of one million Jews, Poles, Russians, Gypsies, and others.
- 1939:** Television debuts to the public at the World's Fair.
- 1941:** The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is bombed by Japanese Air Force. Soon after, the United States enters World War II, declaring war on Germany and Japan.
- 1941:** The first Nazi death camp, Chelmno, opens. Victims, mainly Jews, are executed by carbon monoxide poisoning in specially designed killing vans.
- 1942:** Executive Order 9066 orders the internment of Japanese immigrants and Japanese-American citizens for the duration of World War II.
- 1942:** Enrico Fermi (1901–1954), Italian-American physicist, heads a Manhattan Project team at the University of Chicago that produces the first controlled chain reaction in an atomic pile of uranium and graphite. With this first self-sustaining chain reaction, the atomic age begins.
- 1943:** Penicillin is first used on a large scale by the U. S. Army in the North African campaigns. Data obtained from these studies show that early expectations for the new drug are correct, and the groundwork is laid for the massive introduction of penicillin into civilian medical practice after the war.
- 1945:** Auschwitz death camp is liberated by allied forces.
- 1945:** World War II and the Holocaust end in Europe.
- 1945:** Trials of Nazi War criminals begin in Nuremberg, Germany.
- 1945:** United Nations is established.
- 1945:** Displaced Persons (DP) camps established throughout Europe to aid Holocaust survivors. In the three years following the end of World War II, many DPs immigrate to Israel and the United States.
- 1945:** United States destroys the Japanese city of Hiroshima with a nuclear fission bomb based on uranium-235. Three days later a plutonium-based bomb destroys the city of Nagasaki. Japan surrenders on August 14 and World War II ends. This is the first use of nuclear power as a weapon.
- 1948:** Gandhi assassinated in New Delhi.
- 1948:** Soviets blockade of Berlin. U.S. and Great Britain begin airlift of fuel, food and necessities to West Berlin. The event, the first conflict of the Cold War, became known as the Berlin Airlift (June 26–Sept 30, 1949).
- 1948:** United Nations issues the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 1948:** Israel is established as an independent nation.
- 1948:** American zoologist and student of sexual behavior, Alfred C. Kinsey (1894–1956) first publishes his *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*.
- 1949:** South Africa codifies apartheid.
- 1949:** Soviets test their first atomic device.

1950–1999

- 1950:** President Truman commits U.S. troops to aid anti-Communist forces on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean War lasts from 1950–1953.
- 1951:** First successful oral contraceptive drug is introduced. Gregory Pincus (1903–1967), American biologist, discovers a synthetic hormone that renders a woman infertile without altering her capacity for sexual pleasure. It soon is marketed in pill form and effects a social revolution with its ability to divorce the sex act from the consequences of impregnation.
- 1952:** First hydrogen bomb is detonated by the U.S. on an atoll in the Marshall Islands.
- 1954:** Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy begins hearings of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, publicly accusing military officials, politicians, media, and others of Communist involvement.
- 1954:** Landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court, *Brown v. Board of Education*, end of segregation of schools in the United States.
- 1955:** Emmett Till, age 14, is brutally murdered for allegedly whistling at a white woman. The event galvanizes the civil rights movement.
- 1955:** Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white passenger, defying segregation.

- 1955:** Warsaw Pact solidifies relationship between the Soviet Union and its communist satellite nations in Eastern Europe.
- 1957:** President Eisenhower sends federal troops to Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., to enforce integration.
- 1957:** Soviet Union launches the first satellite, Sputnik, into space. The Space Race between the USSR and the United States begins.
- 1958:** Explorer I, first American satellite, is launched.
- 1960:** African-American students in North Carolina begin a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter; the sit-in spread throughout the South.
- 1961:** Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes first human in space.
- 1961:** Berlin Wall is built.
- 1961:** Bay of Pigs Invasion: the United States sponsors an attempt to overthrow Cuba's socialist government but fails.
- 1962:** *Silent Spring* published; environmental movement begins.
- 1962:** Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963:** Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech at a civil rights march on Washington, D.C.
- 1963:** The U. S. and the Soviet Union establish a direct telephone link called the "hot line" between the White House and the Kremlin. It is intended to permit the leaders of both countries to be able to speak directly and immediately to each other in times of crisis.
- 1964:** U.S. President Lyndon Johnson announces ambitious social reform programs known as the Great Society.
- 1964:** President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 1965:** March from Selma: state troopers and local police fight a crowd of peaceful civil rights demonstrators, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the group attempted to cross a bridge into the city of Selma.
- 1965:** First U.S. combat troops arrive in South Vietnam.
- 1965:** Voting Rights Act prohibits discriminatory voting practices in the United States.
- 1965:** Watts Riots: 35 people are killed and 883 injured in six days of riots in Los Angeles.
- 1966:** Betty Friedan and other leaders of the feminist movement found the National Organization for Women (NOW).
- 1968:** Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 1968:** Cesar Chavez leads a national boycott of California table grape growers, which becomes known as "La Causa."
- 1969:** Stonewall Riots in New York City spark the gay rights movement.
- 1969:** U.S. successfully lands a manned mission, Apollo 11, on the moon.
- 1972:** Arab terrorists massacre Israeli athletes at Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.
- 1973:** *Roe v. Wade*: Landmark Supreme Court decision legalizes abortion on demand during the first trimester of pregnancy.
- 1973:** The American Psychiatric Association removes the classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder.
- 1976:** Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak invent personal computer.
- 1977:** International human rights advocacy group Amnesty International awarded the Noble Peace Prize.
- 1978:** The Camp David Accord ends a three-decade long conflict between Israel and Egypt.
- 1979:** Iran hostage crisis begins when Iranian students storm the U.S. embassy in Teheran. They hold 66 people hostage who are not released until 1981, after 444 days in captivity.
- 1980:** President Carter announces that U.S. athletes will boycott Summer Olympics in Moscow to protest Soviet involvement in Afghanistan (Jan. 20).
- 1981:** Urban riots breakout in several British cities, protesting lack of opportunity for minorities and police brutality.
- 1981:** AIDS identified.
- 1986:** U.S. space shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff.
- 1987:** U.S. President Ronald Reagan challenges Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to open Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to political and economic reform.
- 1989:** Fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 1989:** Tiananmen Square protest in Beijing, China.
- 1989:** The Internet revolution begins with the invention of the World Wide Web.
- 1991:** Soviet Union dissolves.
- 1991:** Persian Gulf War (January 16 -February 28): U.S. leads "Operation Desert Storm" to push Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait.

- 1992:** U.S. and Russian leaders formally declare an end to the Cold War.
- 1992:** L.A. Riots: The acquittal of four white police officers charged with police brutality in the beating of black motorist Rodney King sparks days of widespread rioting in Los Angeles.
- 1992:** WHO (World Health Organization) predicts that by the year 2000, 30 to 40 million people will be infected with the AIDS-causing HIV. A Harvard University group argues that the number could reach more than 100 million.
- 1993:** A terrorist bomb explodes in basement parking garage of World Trade Center, killing six.
- 1994:** First all-race elections in South Africa; Nelson Mandela elected President.
- 1998:** Torture and murder of gay college student Matthew Shepherd.
- 1999:** NATO forces in former Yugoslavia attempt to end mass killings of ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces in Kosovo.
- 2000–**
- 2001:** Terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. kill 2,752.
- 2001:** Controversial Patriot Act passed in the United States.
- 2001:** United States and coalition forces begin War on Terror by invading Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), overthrowing the nation's Islamist Taliban regime in December of 2001.
- 2002:** Slobodan Milosevic begins his war crimes trial at the UN International Criminal Tribunal on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. He is the first head of state to stand trial in an international war-crimes court, but died before the trial concluded.
- 2002:** After United States and coalition forces depose Islamist Taliban regime in Afghanistan, girls are allowed to return to school and women's rights are partially restored in areas controlled by U.S. and coalition forces.
- 2003:** U.S. space shuttle Columbia breaks apart upon re-entry, killing all seven crew members.
- 2003:** United States and coalition forces invade Iraq.
- 2003:** The U.S. declares an end to major combat operations in Iraq. As of June 2006, U.S. fighting forces remain engaged in Iraq.
- 2003:** November 18, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial court rules denying same-sex couples marriage rights violates the state constitution, legalizing same-sex marriages.
- 2004:** Islamist terrorist bombing of commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain.
- 2005:** Islamist terrorist bombings in London. Bombs simultaneously detonate in on the Underground and city busses.