

RECONSTRUCTION

1865–1877

1. Lincoln, radical Republicans clash over plans for postwar **Reconstruction**
2. Union establishes **military rule** in former Confederacy to restore order, defend ex-slaves
3. **13th Amendment, 14th Amendment, and Civil Rights Act of 1866** pass
4. **Railroad expansion** facilitates movement between eastern, western United States
5. Steady waves of settlers displace and attack **Native Americans** in the West

1865	13th Amendment abolishes slavery in Union Robert E. Lee surrenders Confederate forces to Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia Abraham Lincoln assassinated; Vice President Andrew Johnson becomes 17th president Johnson announces moderate restoration plan to bring South back into Union; issues pardons to most Confederates, requires states to ratify 13th Amendment Mississippi establishes system of black codes , limiting rights of freed blacks; codes become common throughout Reconstruction-era South Freedmen's Bureau established to help freed blacks find homes and jobs
1866	Civil Rights Act of 1866 grants citizenship to all people born in the United States, grants freed slaves right to own private property, sue, serve as witnesses Congress passes 14th Amendment to enforce constitutionality of Civil Rights Act of 1866; most Southern states reject it, and it is not ratified until 1868 White supremacist group Ku Klux Klan founded in Tennessee; operates throughout South by 1868
1867	Congress passes Military Reconstruction Acts , dividing former Confederacy into five military districts; each Southern state forced to create new government and state constitution before applying for readmission to Union Nebraska admitted to Union as 37th state Tenure of Office Act requires president to get congressional approval before removing any appointees from office United States purchases Alaska from Russia under direction of Secretary of State William H. Seward ; critics deride purchase as "Seward's Folly"
1868	Johnson intentionally violates Tenure of Office Act by firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, provoking anger in Congress; is impeached in House but acquitted in Senate Ulysses S. Grant elected 18th president First railroad pass completed through High Sierras in California Eight-hour workday becomes law for federal employees
1869	First transcontinental railroad completed at Promontory Point, Utah James Fisk and Jay Gould make unsuccessful attempt to corner U.S. gold market, leading to widespread financial panic Wyoming grants women's suffrage
1870	15th Amendment protects voting rights for black males Grant proposes annexation of Dominican Republic, but Senate rejects Last Southern states readmitted to Congress Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi becomes first black senator, assuming seat formerly held by Jefferson Davis Enforcement Act allows for federal intervention against Ku Klux Klan activity White v. Flood ruling in California court establishes precedent for racial segregation in schools <i>Union Pacific Railroad hires influx of Chinese workers at lower pay rates than those commanded by workers of European descent</i>
1871	Indian Appropriations Act labels all Native Americans wards of U.S. government Anti-Chinese riot in Los Angeles results in more than 20 deaths <i>New York Times</i> exposes corrupt New York City political machine run by William Marcy "Boss" Tweed Great Chicago Fire causes extensive damage to city, over 300 deaths Supreme Court upholds constitutionality of federally-issued paper money known as the greenback
1872	Grant reelected president Amnesty Act returns voting rights to most ex-Confederates; signals beginning of end of Reconstruction Congress establishes Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming as first national park
1873	Slaughterhouse Cases acknowledge authority of state governments over individuals; effectively limit application of 14th Amendment to former slaves Panic of 1873 hits United States, caused by rampant railroad speculation ; 25% of nation's railroads shut down
1874	Mennonite immigrants from Russia revolutionize wheat cultivation in Kansas Police on horseback beat scores of unemployed demonstrators in Tompkins Square Riot in New York City
1875	Several of Grant's associates indicted in Whiskey Ring scandal Civil Rights Act of 1875 enacts penalties for racial discrimination at inns, in theaters, on public transit, in other public places; prevents discrimination in employment; establishes right of African Americans to serve on juries

1876	Federal authorities order Lakota Sioux to reservations Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse lead Sioux resistance to crushing defeat of Gen. George Armstrong Custer's forces at Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone Colorado admitted to Union as 38th state Rutherford B. Hayes elected 19th president in contested race against Samuel J. Tilden; Tilden wins popular vote, but electoral college proves inconclusive Mark Twain publishes novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
1877	Hayes-Tilden Compromise awards Hayes presidency in exchange for removal of federal troops from Southern states, effectively ending Reconstruction Munn v. Illinois ruling states that private industries affecting the public interest are subject to state and federal government regulation Widespread anti-Chinese riots take place in San Francisco U.S. government ignores Nez Percé ancestral land claim in Idaho, forcibly removes tribe to Kansas reservation Desert Land Act gives settlers affordable land deals in exchange for self-irrigation

THE GILDED AGE

1878–1900

1. Corporations and trusts begin to accumulate large capital reserves, ushering in **Era of Big Business**
2. Western **frontier** rapidly parceled out and populated; Native Americans forced to assimilate and/or relocate
3. Reconstruction policies leave **African Americans** behind in South as post-Civil War recovery continues
4. Development of cities fueled by **immigration** and rise of business

1878	Timber and Stone Act opens land in California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington to purchase by settlers Exoduster migration of black communities to Kansas to escape Democratic control of South after the end of Reconstruction Bland-Allison Act requires purchase of silver by treasury Women's suffrage amendment introduced in Congress after work by activist Susan B. Anthony ; Senate does not vote on it until 1884
1879	Thomas Edison invents the electric light White settlers begin to descend upon Native American reservations in Oklahoma, clamoring for land
1880	James Garfield elected 20th president British charitable organization Salvation Army starts work in United States
1881	Disappointed office-seeker Charles Guiteau assassinates Garfield ; Vice President Chester A. Arthur becomes 21st president Booker T. Washington becomes principal of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which provides vocational training to blacks Henry James publishes novel <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> Federal trademark laws instituted to protect patentholders, encourage innovation
1882	Chinese Exclusion Act bans Chinese immigration for 10 years John D. Rockefeller forms Standard Oil Trust National time zones established Brooklyn Bridge completed, speeding already rapid growth of New York City Supreme Court declares Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional Northern Pacific Railroad between Chicago and Seattle completed
1883	Pendleton Civil Service Act counters patronage, reforms U.S. government's corrupt hiring practices
1884	Grover Cleveland elected 22nd president Mark Twain publishes novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
1885	Violent anti-Chinese riots occur in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and Tacoma, Washington
1886	Haymarket riot occurs when Chicago police disperse striking union workers demanding 8-hour workday; 7 policemen killed, 4 protesters sentenced to death; union movements nationwide suffer as a result American Federation of Labor (AFL) formed to salvage labor movement; Samuel Gompers acts as leader until 1924 Chiricahua Apache leader Geronimo deported to Florida as prisoner of war Wabash v. Illinois ruling holds that only federal government can regulate trade between states
1887	Interstate Commerce Act establishes federal commission to regulate trade between states Dawes Severalty Act denies tribal rights, advances policy of forced assimilation and integration upon Native Americans; reduces tribal land claims sharply Low rail fares encourage mass relocation of Midwesterners to Los Angeles United States acquires naval rights at Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i
1888	Benjamin Harrison elected 23rd president

U.S. HISTORY 1865–2004

1889	<p>North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington admitted to Union as 39th, 40th, 41st, and 42nd states</p> <p>Oklahoma land rush transfers more than two million acres of native-held land to white settlers</p> <p>Jane Addams founds Hull House to provide relief to Chicago poor</p> <p>Motion-picture camera invented</p>
1890	<p>Idaho and Wyoming admitted to Union as 43rd and 44th states</p> <p>Congress establishes Oklahoma Territory, further stripping Native Americans of land claims in region</p> <p>Federal forces massacre more than 200 Sioux at Wounded Knee</p> <p>Congress establishes Yosemite National Park in California</p> <p>Mississippi Plan levies poll tax, effectively disenfranchising black voters</p> <p>Sherman Antitrust Act outlaws monopolies, price-fixing, other trade restraints</p> <p>Sherman Silver Purchase Act is passed</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau announces frontier officially closed</p> <p>McKinley Tariff raises duties on imports, strengthening U.S. businesses</p>
1891	<p>Forest Reserve Act allows president to set aside western lands for federal control, limiting private claims</p> <p>Populist Party formed; composed primarily of western farmers</p> <p>Electric trolleys begin to replace horses as primary mode of public transportation</p>
1892	<p>Geary Act extends Chinese Exclusion Act by 10 years, requires existing Chinese-American citizens to register with government</p> <p>Steelworkers strike in Homestead strike against Carnegie Steel; Pinkerton Detectives called in to break strike; 10 people killed in riot</p> <p>Dawes Act opens more than two million acres of Crow lands in Montana to white settlement</p> <p>Grover Cleveland elected 24th president</p>
1893	<p>Panic of 1893 leads to a four-year period of financial instability</p> <p>Six million acres of Cherokee land in Oklahoma opened to white settlement</p> <p>Great Northern Railroad completed</p> <p>Sherman Silver Purchase Act repealed</p> <p>World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago celebrates 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage to New World</p>
1894	<p>Carey Act grants more than one million acres of land to western states on condition of irrigation and resale to settlers</p> <p>Pullman Strike, led by labor organizer Eugene V. Debs, cripples railroads nationwide; federal troops called on to restore order</p> <p>Wilson-Gorman Tariff reestablishes high tariff levels after cuts</p> <p>Coxey's Army of 500 unemployed citizens marches on Washington, D.C., demanding relief for destitute and unemployed</p>
1895	<p>Booker T. Washington gives Atlanta Compromise speech at Cotton States Exposition, urging African Americans to accept second-class-citizen status in exchange for civil rights and equal education</p> <p>Publishers William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer compete for readership through practice of sensationalistic yellow journalism</p> <p>U.S. v. E.C. Knight Co. ruling effectively disables Sherman Antitrust Act</p>
1896	<p>Utah admitted to Union as 45th state</p> <p>Plessy v. Ferguson ruling repeals Civil Rights Act of 1875, upholding constitutionality of separate but equal services</p> <p>William Jennings Bryan makes "Cross of Gold" speech at Democratic National Convention in Chicago, urging free coinage of silver and other Populist reforms</p> <p>William McKinley elected 25th president</p>
1898	<p>Louisiana establishes grandfather clause for voting rights, placing literacy and property requirements on blacks but excusing whites from similar standards</p> <p>Holden v. Hardy ruling upholds work hour limits for miners</p> <p>USS Maine sinks in Havana Harbor, Cuba; U.S. press and public blame Spain</p> <p>Spanish-American War takes place; Teddy Roosevelt leads Rough Riders in Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba; United States crushes Spain in naval battles</p> <p>Treaty of Paris ends Spanish-American War; United States annexes Guam, Philippines, and Puerto Rico</p> <p>United States annexes Hawai'i</p> <p>Teller Amendment declares Cuba independent from Spain by U.S. authority</p>
1899	<p>United States announces Open Door Policy to gain foothold in Chinese markets</p> <p>Cumming v. County Board of Education ruling declares laws establishing separate schools for white students constitutional even if comparable schools are not available for black students</p>
1900	<p>International forces quell Boxer Rebellion against Western imperialism in China</p> <p>Criminalization of lynching proposed in Congress but fails in committee</p> <p>McKinley reelected president</p> <p>Foraker Act grants Puerto Rico limited degree of self-government</p> <p>Gold Standard Act declares paper money backed by gold reserves</p>

PROGRESSIVE ERA

1901–1914

1. Progressives agitate for far-reaching reform in politics, business, poverty relief, and conservation
2. United States implements aggressive foreign policy through both military actions and corporate investment

1901	<p>Anarchist Leon Czolgosz assassinates McKinley; Vice President Teddy Roosevelt becomes 26th president</p> <p>Platt Amendment effectively turns Cuba into U.S. dependency</p> <p>Spindletop oil field discovered in Beaumont, Texas; oil exploration rush begins</p> <p>J. P. Morgan buys out Andrew Carnegie's steel holdings, creating virtual monopoly in U.S. steel industry and leading to establishment of U.S. Steel, world's first billion-dollar company</p>
1902	<p>Newlands Reclamation Act allots proceeds from public land sales toward construction of dams and reservoirs in arid West</p>
1903	<p>Elkins Act outlaws railroad favoritism and price-gouging</p> <p>Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan</p> <p>Panama declares independence from Colombia at urging of United States</p> <p>W. E. B. Du Bois publishes social treatise <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i></p>
1904	<p>Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine increases U.S. military presence in Latin America</p> <p>Supreme Court orders dissolution of J. P. Morgan's Northern Securities Company; first in series of trust-busting cases brought against corporations</p>
1905	<p>U.S. Forest Service takes possession of federal forest reserves</p> <p>Roosevelt helps negotiate end to Russo-Japanese War, wins Nobel Peace Prize</p> <p>In Taft-Katsura Agreement, U.S. grants Japan dominion over Korea in order to secure U.S. dominion in Philippines</p> <p>U.S. begins financial supervision of the Dominican Republic</p>
1906	<p>San Francisco begins to segregate Asian-American schoolchildren</p> <p>San Francisco earthquake causes catastrophic damage, leaves 250,000 homeless</p> <p>Roosevelt coins word muckraker to describe writers, such as Ida Tarbell, whose investigative pieces expose corporate immorality and political corruption</p> <p>Upton Sinclair publishes novel The Jungle</p> <p>Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act set food quality standards</p> <p>Hepburn Act strengthens Interstate Commerce Commission</p> <p>Construction on Panama Canal begins, made possible by Panama's revolt from Colombia; United States gains unlimited lease on canal</p> <p>United States invades Cuba to quash rebellion</p>
1907	<p>Oklahoma admitted to Union as 46th state</p> <p>Agreement with Japan puts unofficial restrictions on Japanese, Korean immigration</p> <p>United States' Great White Fleet embarks on a world tour in order to assert U.S. supremacy over Japanese navy</p>
1908	<p>Root-Takahira Agreement firms up U.S., Japanese spheres of influence in Pacific</p> <p>Roosevelt creates National Conservation Commission</p> <p>William Howard Taft elected 27th president</p> <p>Henry Ford introduces Model T automobile and installs first assembly line</p>
1909	<p>W. E. B. Du Bois, other black leaders, and concerned whites found National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)</p> <p>Payne-Aldrich Tariff maintains status quo on import duties</p> <p>Dawes Act opens 700,000 acres of native land in Idaho, Montana, and Washington to white settlement</p>
1910	<p>Mann Act and Mann-Elkins Act regulate employment and commerce practices</p>
1912	<p>Woodrow Wilson elected 28th president; third-party candidate Teddy Roosevelt (from Progressive Party, nicknamed Bull Moose Party) becomes most successful third-party candidate ever, with 27% of popular vote</p> <p>New Mexico and Arizona admitted to Union as 47th and 48th states, completing admission of 48 contiguous states</p> <p>United States occupies Nicaragua in support of conservative government</p>
1913	<p>16th Amendment allows for establishment of income tax</p> <p>17th Amendment allows for direct elections of senators</p> <p>California's Alien Land Law constricts right of Japanese to own U.S. land</p> <p>Underwood Tariff sharply reduces duties on foreign trade</p> <p>Federal Reserve Act creates central banking system and Federal Reserve Board to regulate interbank interest rates</p>
1914	<p>Panama Canal opens</p> <p>Clayton Antitrust Act extends parameters of Sherman Antitrust Act</p> <p>Women's activist Margaret Sanger found guilty of obscenity for sending mailings promoting use of contraception; guilty dropped in 1916</p> <p>Federal Trade Commission created to regulate commerce</p> <p>World War I begins in Europe</p>

Writers: Jim Cocchi, Margaret Welles
 Editor: Andrew Litell
 Designer: Dan O. Williams
 Series Editor: Matt Blanchard

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U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR I

1915-1919

1. **Wilson** wins reelection on campaign promise of maintaining **neutrality**, but United States is soon drawn into war raging across Europe
2. **World War I** proves to be bloodiest war in world history, often referred to as "The Great War" or "The War to End All Wars"
3. After World War I, disagreements arise regarding proper **U.S. role as regulator** of world affairs

1915	Germans announce U-boat blockade of Britain German submarine torpedoes British ocean liner Lusitania off southern coast of Ireland, resulting in deaths of 128 Americans Ku Klux Klan revival occurs in Georgia D. W. Griffith releases Ku Klux Klan-sympathetic film The Birth of a Nation
1916	In Sussex Pledge , Germany agrees to end unrestricted Atlantic submarine warfare National Defense Act calls for U.S. "military preparedness" William E. Boeing establishes Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle Adamson Act gives U.S. government power to take over nation's railroads if needed to avert strike during wartime; government takeover occurs in December 1917, but Esch-Cummins Act restores private railroad ownership in 1920 Margaret Sanger organizes New York Birth Control League Wilson reelected on slogan "He kept us out of war" Marcus Garvey moves to United States from Jamaica, inaugurates Back to Africa movement and United Negro Improvement Association
1917	United States grants citizenship to Puerto Ricans Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare British intelligence intercepts German Zimmermann Telegram , which proposes German-Mexican alliance and encourages Mexico to invade American southwest United States enters World War I Congress passes Selective Service Act War Industries Board and War Revenue Act give war effort economic support Congress passes Espionage Act ; revised by Sedition Amendment in 1918 NAACP leads silent march in New York City to protest racial violence Start of Russian Revolution prompts Russia to leave World War I
1918	Wilson announces Fourteen Points plan promoting self-determination, liberalism, democracy, free trade, and establishment of League of Nations Overman Act grants Wilson unprecedented, wide-reaching wartime powers U.S. forces suffer heavy losses at Battle of Belleau Wood but break German entrenchment on Western Front Armistice ends World War I combat Eugene V. Debs imprisoned for denouncing U.S. government actions under Espionage Act and Sedition Amendment; released in 1921 Fuel administration launches daylight saving time as energy-saving method
1919	Treaty of Versailles calls for heavy reparations, German disarmament, and creation of a League of Nations 18th Amendment (Prohibition) outlaws purchase, sale, and transport of alcohol Race riots erupt in 25 cities, most notably Chicago where 13-day riot results in nearly 40 deaths, hundreds of injuries

CAUSES AND EFFECTS: THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD WAR I

1. Outbreak of war in Europe catches most Americans (many of whom are European immigrants or have immigrant parents) by surprise
2. Munitions orders from Western allies quickly improve U.S. economy, but both Britain and German ignore **U.S. shipping rights** as a neutral country
3. In May 1915, Germany declares that any ship off British coast will be attacked; German submarines then torpedo and sink British ocean liner **Lusitania**, killing 1,200, including 128 Americans
4. In March 1916, Germany sinks French ocean liner **Sussex**; Woodrow Wilson declares that United States will sever relations with Germany if it continues to engage in unrestricted submarine warfare; Germany acquiesces and makes **Sussex Pledge**; Wilson wins reelection
5. In January 1917, Germany announces it will resume **unrestricted submarine warfare**; after five U.S. ships are sunk, United States declares war on Germany; by October 1918, 1.75 million U.S. troops are deployed in France
6. In January 1918, Wilson issues basis for peace with his **Fourteen Points**, calling for democracy, free trade, and establishment of **League of Nations**
7. War ends with signing of armistice on November 11, 1918; war costs over 110,000 American lives; total military deaths on both sides estimated at 8.5 million; civilian deaths estimated at 13 million
8. **Treaty of Versailles** does establish League of Nations but ignores most other Fourteen Points proposals; treaty requires Germany to pay heavy reparations that result in widespread economic depression, rise of Adolf Hitler and German militarism, and ultimately World War II
9. Postwar **economic boom** in United States is short-lived; many American workers **strike** as cost of living rises without increases in wages
10. After war, United States pulls away from international engagement, into isolationist stance; **Senate rejects U.S. entry** into League of Nations in 1919; Warren G. Harding elected president in 1920 on "return to normalcy" platform

THE ROARING TWENTIES

1920-1929

1. Postwar U.S. economy prospers, thanks to pro-business administrations and boom in **automobile industry**
2. **Intolerance** thrives in both society and big business as African Americans and immigrants are pushed to margins of society
3. Harding, Coolidge lead United States toward **isolationism** in reaction to World War I
4. Freewheeling culture of **Jazz Age** conflicts with previous generations' notions of right and wrong
5. Severe economic **depression** brings prosperity to screeching halt in 1929

1920	In reaction to Russian Revolution, Palmer Raids arrest or deport thousands of U.S. residents on suspicion of Communist affiliations First commercial radio broadcast airs Warren G. Harding elected 29th president, promising "return to normalcy" 19th Amendment grants women's suffrage
1921	Congress sets quotas on immigration Federal Highway Act allots aid for construction and maintenance of state roads
1922	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union or USSR) established with Vladimir I. Lenin as leader
1923	Harding dies; Vice President Calvin Coolidge becomes 30th president
1924	Lenin dies; Joseph Stalin becomes leader of USSR Teapot Dome scandal exposes massive corruption in Harding administration Dawes Plan eases war reparations against Germany National Origins Act limits immigrants from Asia, eastern and southern Europe Coolidge elected president
1925	Scopes Monkey Trial popularizes debate over teaching evolution in schools F. Scott Fitzgerald publishes novel <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
1926	More than 60 nations sign Kellogg-Briand Pact condemning war in any form Ernest Hemingway publishes novel <i>The Sun Also Rises</i>
1927	Charles Lindbergh completes world's first solo flight across Atlantic Anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti executed for murder; controversial verdict leads to charges that executions were politically motivated and unjustified Film <i>The Jazz Singer</i> popularizes "talkies" and signals end of silent era Babe Ruth hits 60 home runs for New York Yankees
1928	Herbert Hoover elected 31st president
1929	Young Plan further reduces Germany's war reparations William Faulkner publishes novel <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> Stock market crash ("Black Thursday" on October 24, "Black Tuesday" on October 29) launches Great Depression

DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL 1930-1939

1. **Roosevelt** administration implements **economic safeguards** to revive U.S. economy
2. **U.S. government expands role** as employer of and provider for U.S. citizens
3. Tensions begin to rise in Europe as **Germany** once again asserts itself

1930	Smoot-Hawley Tariff raises taxes on almost 20,000 items; some economists argue that tariff worsened Great Depression or that stock market crash of 1929 was in part caused by anticipation of this act becoming law
1932	Reconstruction Finance Corporation provides loans to struggling businesses and state and local government Bonus Army of World War I veterans marches on Washington, D.C., demanding compensation but are rebuffed by force Franklin Delano Roosevelt elected 32nd president
1933	U.S. unemployment rate reaches 25%; Roosevelt proclaims five-day bank holiday Glass-Steagall Act separates activity between commercial banks and investment banks FDR appoints first-ever female cabinet member, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins FDR gives first " fireside chat " on radio; tradition continues until 1944 FDR's first 100 days in office see creation of countless jobs designed to pull nation out of Depression; seen as perhaps most productive 100 days of any presidency Unemployment Relief Act creates Civilian Conservation Corps to employ destitute Americans in conservation and other public works projects Agricultural Adjustment Act controls production of crops, compensates farmers for cooperation Tennessee Valley Authority established to construct series of dams on tributaries of Tennessee River to generate electricity for region Federal Securities Act passed; precursor to Securities and Exchange Commission National Industrial Recovery Act sets nationwide business practices; establishes National Recovery Administration to manage industry recovery, Public Works Administration to employ jobless 20th Amendment shifts presidential inaugurations from March to January 21st Amendment repeals 18th Amendment (Prohibition) Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany, promotes policies of Nazi Party United States recognizes USSR, establishes diplomatic relations FDR's Good Neighbor policy seeks to improve relations with Latin America

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MAJOR NEW DEAL POLICIES

- Emergency Banking Act** (1933): Permits Reconstruction Finance Corporation to buy stocks of banks in trouble, infusing new capital; validates "bank holiday"
- Glass-Steagall Banking Act** (1933): Establishes **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation** to secure bank deposits
- Federal Emergency Relief Administration** (1933): Provides work on building projects
- Civilian Conservation Corps** (1933): Provides jobs related to conservation of natural resources
- Agricultural Adjustment Act** (1933): Pays subsidies to farmers to limit production, which drives prices higher
- National Industrial Recovery Act** (1933): Administers fair practice codes to businesses; creates **Public Works Administration**; declared unconstitutional 1935
- Securities Act** (1933): Requires corporations to make public disclosure of financial information before issuing new stock
- Tennessee Valley Authority** (1933): Builds and operates dams on Tennessee River, sells electric power generated by dams; important step in modernizing region
- Farm Credit Administration** (1933): Provides easily accessible farm mortgages
- Home Owners Loan Corporation** (1933): Provides easily accessible home mortgages
- Securities and Exchange Act** (1934): Places securities exchanges under federal regulation and oversight; creates **Securities and Exchange Commission**
- Banking Act of 1935**: Reorganizes Federal Reserve system
- National Youth Administration** (1935): Provides jobs for Americans age 16–25
- Works Progress Administration** (1935): Creates jobs related to infrastructure projects; also provides jobs for artists, actors, writers
- Social Security Act** (1935): Creates unemployment and old-age funds, state grants to care for elderly, needy, and physically disabled; excludes approximately 80% of African Americans, however
- National Labor Relations Act** or **Wagner Act** (1935): Creates **National Labor Relations Board** to regulate union elections and labor practices
- Fair Labor Standards Act** (1938): Sets minimum wage, 44-hour work week

WORLD WAR II

1940–1945

- United States attempts to **isolate** itself from war in Europe, offering only limited support to Allied powers
- Japan bombs **Pearl Harbor** in 1941, launching United States fully into World War II in both European and Pacific theaters
- U.S. industry**, powered in part by **women** entering workforce for first time, creates unprecedented numbers of planes, tanks, and supplies for soldiers overseas
- Allies negotiate terms of victory and lay foundation for **postwar world order**

1934	Securities and Exchange Commission established Wheeler-Howard Act (Indian Reorganization Act), partly repeals Dawes Act, restores some Native American tribal rights Senator Huey Long organizes "Share Our Wealth" program that proposes large tax burden for wealthiest U.S. citizens
1935	Schechter Poultry v. U.S. ruling invalidates National Industrial Recovery Act, barring nationwide business standards Emergency Relief Appropriation Act allows president to fund relief programs of his choosing; FDR allocates funds to Works Progress Administration National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) supports union rights, protects collective bargaining Social Security Act establishes funds for unemployed and elderly Revenue Act raises personal income taxes on wealthy First Neutrality Act prohibits arms shipments to wartime belligerents George and Ira Gershwin opera <i>Porgy and Bess</i> debuts on Broadway Italy invades Ethiopia
1936	Butler v. U.S. ruling finds Agricultural Adjustment Act unconstitutional Margaret Mitchell publishes novel <i>Gone With the Wind</i> Spanish Civil War begins; ends with Francisco Franco's rise to power in 1939 Black sprinter Jesse Owens wins four track-and-field gold medals at Summer Olympic Games hosted by Hitler in Berlin Germany reoccupies Rhineland Rome-Berlin Axis formed between Hitler and Italian ruler Benito Mussolini FDR reelected president John Dos Passos completes final novel in U.S.A. trilogy Second Neutrality Act prohibits U.S. from making loans to wartime belligerents
1937	United Auto Workers stages sit-down strikes FDR gives foreign policy speech urging collective security and "quarantining" of aggressor nations Zora Neale Hurston publishes novel <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Japan attacks Nanking, China, killing more than 250,000 people, mostly civilians Japan sinks gunboat USS <i>Panay</i> in China, formally apologizes afterward
1938	Congress of Industrial Organizations becomes independent union Germany launches Anschluss with annexation of Austria Thornton Wilder publishes play <i>Our Town</i> Irving Berlin song "God Bless America" becomes national hit in rendition sung by Kate Smith In Munich Pact , British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain agrees to policy of appeasement , grants Czech territory of Sudetenland to Germany
1939	Germans and Soviets sign Nonaggression Pact Germany invades Poland, starting World War II United States repeals policy of military embargo toward wartime belligerents Fourth Neutrality Act requires cash-on-delivery for trade with wartime belligerents John Steinbeck publishes novel <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> Nathanael West publishes novel <i>The Day of the Locust</i> USSR invades Baltic states

1940	USSR invades Finland Germany's blitzkrieg war conquers most of Western Europe Germany, Italy, and Japan sign Tripartite Agreement Government of Vichy France established in collaboration with Germany Germany firebombs London in Battle of Britain Isolationist group America First Committee founded; led by Charles Lindbergh Richard Wright publishes novel <i>Native Son</i> FDR reelected president for unprecedented third term United States and Britain sign destroyers-for-bases deal Selective Training and Service Act requires peacetime conscription
1941	Fair Employment Practices Committee established to guard against discrimination in government and war-industry hiring Lend-Lease Act provides U.S. loan aid to Britain, USSR, other Allied powers Germany invades USSR FDR and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill sign Atlantic Charter Japan occupies Indochina Japan attacks U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor , Hawaii (December 7), killing nearly 2,400 Americans; United States declares war on Japan (December 8) Germany and Italy declare war on United States (December 11) "Rosie the Riveter" image becomes symbol of working women during World War II; integral to war propaganda effort on home front
1942	Japan captures Philippines, lead American and Filipino prisoners-of-war on Bataan Death March U.S. naval forces surprise superior Japanese force at Battle of Midway , sinks three Japanese aircraft carriers; Japanese navy never recovers North Africa campaign begins War Production Board, War Labor Board, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of Central Intelligence Agency) created FDR's Executive Order 9066 authorizes internment of Japanese Americans in California and other Pacific coast states United States launches Manhattan Project effort to build atomic bomb Edward Hopper paints <i>Nighthawks</i> University of Chicago students found Congress of Racial Equality
1943	Soviets defeat Germans at Stalingrad, Russia Allies invade Italy Allied leaders FDR, Churchill, and Stalin meet at Tehran Conference Operation Overlord launches, planning invasion of Normandy coast of France Zoot Suit Riots see clash between U.S. military forces and Mexican-American community in Los Angeles Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Act limits workers' right to strike in certain key industries during wartime
1944	Allies invade Normandy, France, on D-Day (June 6) FDR reelected president for unprecedented fourth term United States recaptures Philippines Dumbarton Oaks Conference lays groundwork for founding of United Nations Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (also known as G.I. Bill of Rights) establishes free college education for World War II veterans Battle of the Bulge begins to break down Axis position on Western Front Korematsu v. U.S. ruling upholds FDR's executive order authorizing internment of Japanese-Americans
1945	Allied troops liberate Nazi concentration camps in Eastern Europe At Yalta Conference , Stalin agrees to declare war on Japan once Germany surrenders; approves plan for United Nations conference Allies firebomb Dresden, Germany, and Tokyo, Japan FDR dies; Vice President Harry S Truman becomes 33rd president Hitler commits suicide Soviets capture Berlin; Germany surrenders on V-E Day (May 8) At Potsdam Conference , Allies agree to demilitarize Germany, divide it into four zones; accept war crimes trial in theory American capture Okinawa from Japan United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9), Japan, killing approximately 110,000, mostly civilians Japan surrenders on August 14; V-J day proclaimed on August 15 Soviet troops occupy North Korea; U.S. troops occupy South Korea Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh takes power United Nations established with 51 founding member nations Nuremberg trials begin to prosecute Nazi war criminals; last until 1946

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Written by Emily Marginal Wells
Editor Andrew Lloyd
Designer Tom O. Williams
Book Editor Adam Blumenthal

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THE BABY BOOM, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, AND THE COLD WAR 1946-1960

1. United States enjoys unprecedented period of **internal growth and prosperity** as Americans return to normal life after World War II
2. **Soviet Union** emerges as only major U.S. rival, creating intense, prolonged standoff between superpowers; known as **Cold War**

1946	USSR establishes dominance of liberated nations in Eastern Europe, sets up Communist governments; Churchill uses term " iron curtain " to describe division of Communist Eastern Europe from free Western Europe USSR refuses to abandon occupation of Iran until United States grants oil concessions Baruch Plan concedes sharing of nuclear information with international agency United States fights Communist incursion in Eastern Europe by providing aid to capitalists during Greek Civil War Atomic Energy Commission established
1947	Truman Doctrine states U.S. intent to fight Communism by helping free nations resist "attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures" Truman orders loyalty investigations and security purges of government workers United States announces Marshall Plan to help stabilize Western European governments and accelerate postwar economic recovery in Europe House Un-American Activities Committee investigates suspected Communist sympathizers working in motion picture industry; leads to Hollywood blacklist Presidential Committee on Civil Rights calls for end to segregation in report entitled "To Secure These Rights"; Truman endorses findings Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn Dodgers breaks color barrier in major-league baseball First Levittown planned housing community built on Long Island, New York Taft-Hartley Act prohibits closed-shop, union-only workplace negotiations
1948	Communists occupy Czechoslovakia United States reinstates military draft USSR blocks all outside access to West Berlin in Berlin blockade ; United States and allies respond with Berlin airlift of food and supplies Truman elected president after narrow victory over Thomas Dewey Israel established as a nation Truman orders desegregation of military
1949	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established USSR detonates atomic bomb, beginning arms race with United States Communists assume power in China
1950	Korean War begins as Soviet-backed North Korean forces invade South Korea U.S. troops invade North Korea as part of U.N. police action China enters Korean War in support of North Korea Sweatt v. Painter and McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents rulings ban segregation at state-college level Suspected Communist sympathizer Alger Hiss convicted of perjury McCarran Act requires Communist Party members to register with U.S. government Senator Joseph McCarthy begins rabid anti-Communist campaign, claiming to have list of 205 Communists active in U.S. State Department U.S. begins hydrogen bomb program
1951	Truman relieves Gen. Douglas MacArthur of command in Korea Peace negotiations begin in Korea United States begins military boycott of China J. D. Salinger publishes novel <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> Dennis et al. v. U.S. ruling upholds conviction, imprisonment of Communist leaders Julius and Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage; executed in 1953
1952	United States detonates first hydrogen bomb Dwight D. Eisenhower elected 34th president Ralph Ellison publishes novel <i>Invisible Man</i>
1953	Peace treaty ends Korean War, restores partition of North Korea and South Korea U.S.-supported coup in Iran deposes prime minister in favor of shah Stalin dies; Nikita Khrushchev becomes leader of USSR
1954	Army-McCarthy hearings featured live on television; Senate later censures McCarthy and his power fades Hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll yields more radioactive fallout than expected Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling finds "separate but equal" doctrine inherently unconstitutional, overturning <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> United States supports coup in Guatemala that deposes elected government Eisenhower invokes " domino theory " in insistence that Indochina must not fall to Communist control; continues to pursue Truman's goal of containment French surrender claim in Vietnam after defeat at Dien Bien Phu Geneva Peace Accords partition Vietnam, schedule elections for 1956
1955	Supreme Court orders states to desegregate schools "with all deliberate speed" Black teenager Emmett Till brutally murdered in Mississippi by several whites; all-white jury finds perpetrators not guilty, sparking national outrage Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give up bus seat to whites in Montgomery, Alabama; sparks Montgomery bus boycott West Germany joins NATO Warsaw Pact , Communist bloc's counterpart to NATO, signed Jonas Salk creates polio vaccine

1956	Egypt nationalizes Suez Canal after American and British governments refuse to finance construction of Aswan High Dam Supreme Court rules public bus segregation unconstitutional Elvis Presley becomes national music sensation
1957	USSR launches satellite Sputnik , beating United States into space 25,000 blacks join Martin Luther King Jr. in prayer pilgrimage at Lincoln Memorial Civil Rights Act of 1957 protects black suffrage; first civil rights legislation since 1875 Federal troops sent to enforce integration at Little Rock, Arkansas, high school King and other black ministers create Southern Christian Leadership Conference Jack Kerouac publishes novel <i>On the Road</i> ; major prose work of Beat Generation
1958	Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus evades federal integration order by closing Little Rock public schools and reopening as private, segregated schools National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) founded
1959	Fidel Castro overthrows Cuban government, establishes Communist state Lorraine Hansberry play <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> debuts on Broadway Alaska and Hawai'i admitted to Union as 49th and 50th states
1960	Presidential debates (between Kennedy and Nixon) televised live for first time John F. Kennedy elected 35th president Greensboro, North Carolina, lunch counter sit-ins spark waves of student protest in favor of civil rights Civil Rights Act of 1960 strengthens existing civil rights legislation

CIVIL RIGHTS, NIXON, AND VIETNAM

1961-1973

1. **African Americans** lead push for **civil rights equality** for U.S. minorities
2. United States plays aggressor in **Cuba** and **Vietnam**, hoping to forestall advance of Communism
3. **Student protests** and **counterculture** of 1960s push U.S. society in radical turn away from conservative style of the 1950s
4. **Watergate scandal** rocks U.S. government and forces Nixon from office

1961	Freedom rides begin as riders test integration standards on buses in Alabama; lead to violence, followed by intervention by federal marshals United States-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba fails completely Berlin Wall built, dividing Communist East Berlin from free West Berlin Alliance for Progress renews U.S. pledge to form alliances with Latin America W. E. B. Du Bois renounces U.S. citizenship, becomes citizen of Ghana
1962	James Meredith, first black student at University of Mississippi, enrolls with aid of federal marshals Albany Movement begins with sit-ins, marches in favor of civil rights reform Cuban Missile Crisis , standoff between United States and USSR over Soviet missiles placed in Cuba, nearly results in war Engel v. Vitale ruling finds school prayer unconstitutional
1963	Martin Luther King Jr. begins Birmingham, Alabama, desegregation crusade Federal marshals integrate University of Alabama by force, despite physical interference by Alabama Governor George Wallace More than 200,000 people participate in March on Washington for civil rights, featuring landmark " I have a dream " speech by Martin Luther King Jr. NAACP leader Medgar Evers assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi U.S. and USSR sign Limited Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons Lee Harvey Oswald assassinates Kennedy in Dallas; Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson becomes 36th president
1964	Johnson announces domestic Great Society program calling for "end to poverty and racial injustice" Voter registration campaign launched in Mississippi Civil Rights Act of 1964 bans discrimination in education, employment, and public accommodations Martin Luther King Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize African-American leader Malcolm X breaks with Nation of Islam , founds Organization for Afro-American Unity Heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay converts to Islam, takes name Muhammad Ali 24th Amendment outlaws poll taxes Gulf of Tonkin Resolution broadens Johnson's military powers in Vietnam United States escalates conflict in Vietnam by bombing North Vietnam Johnson elected president
1965	Medicare program begins to provide health insurance for disabled and elderly Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlaws literacy tests for voting Watts Riots in Los Angeles leave 34 dead after beating of black motorist Malcolm X assassinated in New York City United States initiates Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam Public protests against war grow with teach-ins on U.S. college campuses
1966	Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale found Black Panther Party in Oakland, California Betty Friedan and others found National Organization for Women (NOW) Miranda v. Arizona ruling states that police must read suspects their rights

1967	<p>"Long, hot summer" of race riots across United States</p> <p>Antiwar rally in New York City draws 100,000 protesters</p> <p>Thurgood Marshall, NAACP lawyer for <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>, becomes first black justice on U.S. Supreme Court</p> <p>Loving v. Virginia ruling declares laws prohibiting interracial marriage unconstitutional</p>
1968	<p>North Vietnamese Army launches Tet Offensive</p> <p>Johnson withdraws from presidential race</p> <p>James Earl Ray assassinates Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee</p> <p>Sirhan Sirhan assassinates Robert F. Kennedy, brother of John F. Kennedy and Democratic presidential candidate, on night of California primary</p> <p>U.S. military calls off Operation Rolling Thunder</p> <p>Richard Nixon elected 37th president</p>
1969	<p>Operation Menu begins covert bombing of North Vietnamese forces in Cambodia</p> <p>Apollo 11 astronauts walk on moon</p> <p>Woodstock Music and Art Festival in upstate New York draws crowd of 400,000</p> <p>My Lai massacre of Vietnamese villagers by U.S. soldiers in 1968 exposed in U.S. news outlets; reports increase public disillusionment over war</p> <p>FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover declares Black Panther Party "public enemy number one"; police raid group's headquarters</p>
1970	<p>National Guardsmen shoot and kill several student antiwar protesters at Kent State University (Ohio) and Jackson State University (Mississippi)</p> <p>Governors of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana vow to fight school integration</p>
1971	<p><i>New York Times</i> publishes Pentagon Papers detailing U.S. involvement in Vietnam</p>
1972	<p>Nixon normalizes relations with China; visits China and meets leader Mao Zedong</p> <p>Nixon pursues policy of détente with USSR, attempting to ease tensions and limit threat of nuclear weapons proliferation</p> <p>U.S. forces begin bombing Hanoi</p> <p>Nixon authorizes break-in and wiretapping of Democratic National Committee headquarters at Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Nixon reelected president in landslide over George McGovern</p> <p><i>Washington Post</i> reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein expose Watergate break-in and cover-up; Senate initiates Watergate committee hearings in 1973</p> <p>U.S. forces mine harbor at major North Vietnamese port city of Halphong</p>
1973	<p>Vietnam Peace Accords signed; United States withdraws from Vietnam</p> <p>Roe v. Wade ruling legalizes abortion</p> <p>Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns; Gerald Ford appointed new vice president</p> <p>Arab oil embargo, in retaliation for U.S. support of Israel during Yom Kippur War, contributes to persistent U.S. inflation</p> <p>Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel raises price of oil sharply, leading to U.S. energy crisis and fuel shortages that persist through 1974</p>

NEOCONSERVATISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND TERRORISM 1974-PRESENT

1. Neoconservatives and "New Right" help elect **Reagan** and Republican legislators
2. **Cold War ends** as USSR succumbs to internal and external pressures
3. **Globalization** increases as trade agreements internationalize scope of business
4. New era of protest and **terrorism** arises, largely in response to increasing U.S. cultural and political influence across the world

1974	<p>Congress initiates impeachment proceedings against Nixon for role in Watergate cover-up, but Nixon resigns before proceedings can take place; Vice President Gerald Ford becomes 38th president</p> <p>Ford pardons Nixon, ending Watergate inquiries</p>
1975	<p>Helsinki Accords solidify European boundaries</p> <p>South Vietnam falls to North Vietnam, ending Vietnam War as U.S. defeat</p>
1976	<p>Jimmy Carter elected 39th president</p>
1977	<p>Panama Canal Treaties provide for control of canal to revert to Panama in 1999</p>
1978	<p>Bakke v. University of California ruling upholds affirmative action policies</p> <p>Signing of Camp David Accords brings peace between Egypt and Israel</p> <p>Fundamentalist Ayatollah Khomeini deposes U.S.-backed shah in Iranian Revolution</p>
1979	<p>United States officially recognizes People's Republic of China under new leader Deng Xiaoping, establishes full diplomatic relations</p> <p>Near-disastrous accident at Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania raises public concern about nuclear power safety</p> <p>Islamic militants take 52 Americans hostage at U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran</p> <p>Sandinistas overthrow U.S.-backed Somoza dynasty in Nicaragua</p> <p>USSR invades Afghanistan</p>
1980	<p>United States begins deregulation of oil prices</p> <p>United States boycotts 1980 Summer Olympic Games in Moscow, USSR; imposes grain embargo on USSR</p> <p>Ronald Reagan elected 40th president</p>
1981	<p>Embassy hostages in Iran released after 444 days in captivity</p> <p>United States increases intervention in El Salvador</p> <p>CIA begins training Contras in effort to overthrow Sandinistas in Nicaragua</p>
1982	<p>Strategic Arms Reduction Talks begin between United States and USSR</p> <p>United States invades Grenada to upend military coup, restore old government</p>

1983	<p>Reagan proposes Strategic Defense Initiative space-based missile defense program popularly known as "Star Wars"</p> <p>United States invades Grenada</p>
1984	<p>Reagan reelected president</p>
1985	<p>United States begins secret arms negotiations with Iran, selling arms to Iran in attempt to free hostages, then using profits from sales to fund Contras in Nicaragua</p>
1986	<p>Space Shuttle Challenger explodes on takeoff, killing crew</p> <p>United States bombs Libya in retaliation for Libya's support of Palestinian terrorists</p> <p>U.S. Senate ratifies existing U.N. treaty outlawing genocide</p> <p>Exposure of Iran-Contra scandal causes public uproar</p>
1987	<p>Stock market crashes nearly 23% on "Black Monday" (October 19)</p> <p>Free Trade Agreement established between Canada and United States</p>
1988	<p>USS <i>Vincennes</i> shoots down Iran Air Flight 655 in apparent accident, killing 290</p> <p>George H. W. Bush elected 41st president</p> <p>Terrorists bomb Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, killing 281</p> <p>Saudi militant Osama Bin Laden founds Islamist Al Qaeda network in Afghanistan</p>
1989	<p>Berlin Wall falls shortly after resignation of East German leader Erich Honecker</p> <p>United States invades Panama to capture leader Manuel Noriega</p> <p>Catastrophic Exxon Valdez oil spill occurs in Alaska</p>
1990	<p>NASA launches Hubble Space Telescope</p> <p>Nelson Mandela freed in South Africa, signaling beginning of end of apartheid</p> <p>Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein orders invasion of Kuwait</p>
1991	<p>United States and coalition forces launch Operation Desert Storm against Iraq</p> <p>Failed coup leads to dissolution of USSR; Boris Yeltsin becomes leader of Russia</p> <p>Commonwealth of Independent States formed from 11 former Soviet republics</p>
1992	<p>Not-guilty verdict in Rodney King police-brutality case sparks Los Angeles riots</p> <p>Bill Clinton elected 42nd president</p>
1993	<p>North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) opens unimpeded commerce among Canada, United States, and Mexico</p> <p>Clinton appoints Janet Reno first female attorney general</p> <p>Members of Al Qaeda bomb World Trade Center in New York City, killing six</p> <p>80 Branch Davidian sect members killed in bungled government raid in Waco, Texas</p> <p>18 U.S. soldiers killed in firefight during U.S. intervention in Mogadishu, Somalia</p>
1994	<p>U.S. troops invade Haiti to restore deposed President Aristide to power</p>
1995	<p>Whitewater hearings investigate allegations of Clinton financial misconduct</p> <p>Bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City kills 168</p> <p>World Trade Organization established to facilitate operations between multinational corporations and capital brokers</p>
1996	<p>Clinton reelected president</p> <p>Members of Al Qaeda bomb U.S. barracks in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, killing 19</p> <p>U.S. authorities apprehend "Unabomber" Theodore Kaczynski</p>
1997	<p>Major tobacco settlement reached between U.S. tobacco companies and several states and smokers; companies agree to pay billions of dollars</p>
1998	<p>Members of Al Qaeda bomb U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 268</p> <p>United States retaliates for embassy bombings with missile strikes against Afghanistan and Sudan; launches additional air strikes against Iraq</p> <p>Clinton announces first balanced budget in 20 years</p> <p>Clinton faces perjury charges in inquiry over White House intern Monica Lewinsky</p> <p>Clinton impeached in House over perjury; acquitted by Senate in 1999</p>
1999	<p>Senate rejects international Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty</p> <p>Control of Panama Canal reverts to Panama; United States maintains joint authority</p> <p>Columbine High School shootings raise concern about school safety, gun control</p>
2000	<p>Software giant Microsoft Corporation found guilty of violating Sherman Antitrust Act</p> <p>Members of Al Qaeda bomb warship USS Cole in Yemen, killing 17</p> <p>George W. Bush becomes 43rd president after intensely disputed election against Vice President Al Gore; Supreme Court forced to resolve disputed vote counts after voting and ballot irregularities reported in Florida</p>
2001	<p>Members of Al Qaeda destroy World Trade Center in New York, damage Pentagon near Washington, D.C., by crashing four hijacked commercial airliners</p> <p>Bush orders sustained war on terror; U.S. forces launch invasion of Afghanistan in pursuit of Al Qaeda head Osama bin Laden and fundamentalist Taliban regime</p> <p>USA Patriot Act gives U.S. law enforcement agencies unprecedented surveillance, search, and detention powers; critics contend it threatens civil liberties</p>
2002	<p>Widespread Roman Catholic Church sex abuse scandal exposed, leading to resignations of many U.S. bishops and priests</p> <p>Enron Corporation bankruptcy dissolves millions in employee pension plans; scandal prompts inquiries that expose accounting fraud at other large U.S. corporations</p>
2003	<p>Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates during reentry, killing crew</p> <p>Coalition of mainly U.S. and British forces launch invasion of Iraq; Baghdad falls quickly under "shock and awe" bombing campaign, but insurgency and unrest persist</p> <p>U.S. forces in Iraq capture Saddam Hussein</p>
2004	<p>State of Massachusetts, city of San Francisco spark national debate by allowing first legally recognized same-sex marriage</p> <p>Independent 9/11 Commission Report identifies U.S. intelligence and policy failures that allowed September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to take place</p> <p>Bush reelected president</p>

Writers: Jim Cocca, Margaret Welles
 Editor: Andrew Lihell
 Designer: Dan O. Williams
 Series Editor: Matt Blanchard

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