

# **HISTORY OF USA**



A CENTER OF INDIVIDUAL TEACHING FOR

**CSS - PMS**  
**PREPARATION**

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# History of United States

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## *Timeline of Events*

5000 - Small tribal peoples develop across the United States.

1000 - The Woodland period begins including the Adena culture and the Hopewell peoples.

1000 - The Mississippian culture develops along the Mississippi River and the Ohio River. These people are known for building large mounds which can still be seen today.

1400s - The United States is inhabited by various historic tribes across the land such as the Apache, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Navajo, and Sioux.

1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers the Americas.

1513 - Juan Ponce de Leon visits Florida.

1540 - Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto explores the Southeast.

1565 - St. Augustine is established as the first permanent settlement in the United States.

1607 - The Jamestown settlement is founded by John Smith.

1620 - The Mayflower lands with the pilgrims at Plymouth.

1629 - The Massachusetts Bay Colony is founded.

1692 - The Salem witch trials take place in Massachusetts.

1754 - The French and Indian war begins between Great Britain and France. Both ally with different Native American tribes.

1763 - The British win the French and Indian War gaining most of France's territory in North American.

1765 - The British government imposes the Stamp Act on the colonies. The colonies protest with the Stamp Act Congress.

1770 - The Boston Massacre occurs.

1773 - Bostonians protest the Tea Act with the Boston Tea Party dumping tea into the Boston Harbor.

1774 - The First Continental Congress is held. The British government imposes the Intolerable Acts on the colonies.

1775 - The Revolutionary War begins with the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The Second Continental Congress is held. The Battle of Bunker Hill occurs.

1776 - The American colonies declare their independence as the United States of America.

1777 - The Continental Army stays at Valley Forge for the winter.

1781 - The British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia. The Articles of the Confederation were ratified by the colonies.

1783 - The Revolutionary War officially ends with the Treaty of Paris.

1787 - The Constitution is adopted by the Constitutional Convention.

1789 - George Washington becomes the first President of the United States.

1791 - The Bill of Rights is added to the Constitution as the first ten amendments.

1793 - The cotton gin is invented by Eli Whitney.

1803 - The size of the United States is nearly doubled with the Louisiana Purchase from France.

1804 - Explorers Lewis and Clark set out on their journey to the Pacific Ocean.

1812 - The War of 1812 begins against Great Britain.

1815 - U.S. troops led by Andrew Jackson defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

1823 - The Monroe Doctrine is declared by President James Monroe.

1836 - The Battle of the Alamo takes place in Texas.

1838 - The Cherokee Nation is forced to march from the Southeast to Oklahoma in what is known as the Trail of Tears.

1846 - The Mexican-American War begins.

1849 - Prospectors travel to California in the California Gold Rush.

1859 - Abolitionist John Brown leads a raid on Harper's Ferry.

1860 - Abraham Lincoln is elected president.

1861 - The American Civil War begins.

1863 - The Union Army wins the Battle of Gettysburg. Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in the South.

1864 - Union General Sherman makes his famous "march to the sea."

1865 - The American Civil War comes to an end with General Robert E. Lee surrendering at the Appomattox Court House. President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.

1865 - Slavery is outlawed by the Thirteenth Amendment.

1867 - Alaska is purchased from Russia.

1869 - The First Transcontinental Railroad is completed.

1876 - The telephone is invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

1881 - The American Red Cross is founded by Clara Barton.

1891 - Basketball is invented by James Naismith.

1903 - The airplane is invented by the Wright Brothers. They make their first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1910 - The Boy Scouts of America is founded.

1917 - The United States joins World War I on the side of the Allies declaring war on Germany.

1918 - President Woodrow Wilson issues his Fourteen Points on World War I.

1920 - Women gain the right to vote through the Nineteenth Amendment.

1927 - The first trans-Atlantic flight is made by Charles Lindbergh.

1929 - Wall Street crashes and the Great Depression begins.

1934 - Severe drought in the Midwest causes the Dust Bowl.

1935 - The Social Security Act is signed into law.

1939 - Walt Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is released as the first full length animated movie.

1939 - World War II begins. The U.S. is initially neutral.

1941 - The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. The U.S. joins World War II on the side of the Allies.

1944 - The U.S. takes part in the Invasion of Normandy.

1945 - Germany surrenders and the U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. World War II comes to an end.

1950 - The Korean War begins.

1955 - Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for not giving up her seat on the bus.

1961 - The Bay of Pigs Invasion takes place in Cuba.

1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis occurs. The Soviet Union ends up removing its missiles from Cuba.

1963 - Martin Luther King, Jr. gives his "I have a dream" speech at the March on Washington.

1963 - President John F. Kennedy is assassinated.

1964 - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is passed.

1967 - The first Super Bowl is held.

1968 - Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated.

1969 - Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon.

1974 - President Richard Nixon resigns over the Watergate Scandal.

1986 - The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after takeoff.

1990 - The Gulf War begins as Iraq invades Kuwait.

2001 - The 9-11 terrorist attacks occur when hijacked passenger planes crash into the World Trade Center towers and The Pentagon.

2003 - The Iraq War begins as the U.S. and other countries invade Iraq.

2009 - Barack Obama becomes the first African-American President of the United States.

2016 – Donald Trump becomes President of the US.

## ***Topic 1 - Colonial America***

The English tried to settle at Roanoke Island in 1585. The settlement did not last, and no one knows what happened to the people. In 1607, the first lasting English settlement was made at Jamestown, Virginia, by John Smith, John Rolfe and other Englishmen interested in gold and adventure. In its early years, many people in Virginia died of disease and starvation. The colony in Virginia lasted because it made money by planting tobacco.

In 1621, a group of Englishmen called the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts. A bigger colony was built at Massachusetts Bay by the Puritans in 1630. The Pilgrims and the Puritans were interested in making a better society, not looking for gold. They called this ideal society a "city on a hill". A man named Roger Williams left Massachusetts after disagreeing with the Puritans, and started the colony of Rhode Island in 1636.

Great Britain was not the only country to settle what would become the United States. In the 1500s, Spain built a fort at Saint Augustine, Florida. France settled Louisiana, and the area around the Great Lakes. The Dutch settled New York, which they called New Netherland. Other areas were settled by Scotch-Irish, Germans, and Swedes. However, in time Britain controlled all of the colonies, and most American colonists adopted the British way of life. The growth of the colonies was not good for Native Americans. Many of them died of smallpox, a disease brought to America by the Europeans. The ones who lived lost their lands to the colonists.

### ***The Thirteen Colonies before the American Revolution***

In the early 1700s, there was a religious movement in the colonies called the Great Awakening. Preachers such as Jonathan Edwards preached sermons. One of them was called "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God". The Great Awakening may have led to the thinking used in the American Revolution.

By 1733, there were thirteen colonies. New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and Charleston were the largest cities and main ports at that time.

From 1754 to 1763, England and France fought a war over their land in America called the Seven Years' War or the French and Indian War, which the British won. After the war, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 said that the colonists could not live west of the Appalachian Mountains. Many colonists who wanted to move to the frontier did not like the Proclamation.



## ***Topic 2 - American Revolutionary War***

The **American Revolutionary War** was a war fought between Great Britain and the original 13 British colonies in North America. The war took place from 1775 to 1783 with fighting in North America and other places. The Continental Army (army of the colonies), led by George Washington and helped by France and other powers, defeated the armies of the British Empire.

After the war ended, the Thirteen Colonies became independent, which meant that the British Empire was no longer in charge of them. They together became the first 13 states of a new country called the United States of America.

### ***Backgrounds and reasons***

The war started after years of problems between the British Empire and the colonists of North America after the French and Indian War (The seven years war). People in the Thirteen Colonies disliked many of the actions of the British Government, such as the Intolerable Acts. For many years the British government decided which countries could trade with the colonies, instead of the colonies deciding it themselves. Many colonists wanted free trade.

In 1765, the British Parliament needed money to pay back the debt for the French and Indian War. They passed a Law called the Stamp Act. This law said that colonists had to buy stamps for legal papers, newspapers, and even playing cards, as other British people did. The money from the stamps went to the King. The colonies did not follow this law. The colonies kept refusing to do what the King wanted. The Boston Tea Party and Boston Massacre caused people to become more angry about the situation. The British sent more soldiers (Red Coats) to keep control of the colonies and they sometimes had to fight. In 1774, the British passed the Intolerable Acts.

Not all colonists wanted to leave the British Empire. The *Loyalists*, or Tories, stayed loyal to Great Britain. They were not going to change their views. The *Patriots*, or Whigs, wanted independence. Before the Revolutionary War, most people in America were Loyalists; but after it, most people were Patriots.

Many colonists wrote letters showing how they felt. Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense*, a famous pamphlet about independence from Britain. Other colonial leaders, such as Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson wanted independence.

### ***Northern Battles***

The first battles of the American Revolutionary War were Lexington and Concord. One of the first major battles was the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. After that, the British controlled Boston. Around that time, the Second Continental Congress sent an Olive Branch Petition to King George III (which he rejected) and named George Washington head of the army. Early in 1776, Washington's army drove the British out of Boston.

A few months later the Continental Army and British troops under William Howe fought the New York and New Jersey Campaign. During the New York battles, the British started using Hessian troops, who were from Germany. Though the colonists lost New York (the British would hold it for the rest of the war), Washington was able to hold onto most of his army. Over Christmas, 1776-77, Washington crossed the Delaware River and defeated the Hessians at Trenton and the British at Princeton.

In 1777, the British attacked the city of Philadelphia, then the American capital. Two battles were fought over Philadelphia: Brandywine and Germantown. Again, the Americans lost a major city, but Washington was able to keep most of his army. Around this time, the Frenchman Lafayette joined the American Army. In 1778, the British left Philadelphia. Between 1778 and 1781, most battles between Washington and the British were inconclusive (they did not have any major effect militarily).

One of the most important battles was the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. American soldiers under Horatio Gates forced a British surrender under John Burgoyne. This led to France and Spain joining the war on the side of Americans. These powerful countries fought the British around the world. From 1778 to 1780, there was fighting in the West.

The American commerce raider John Paul Jones also won several naval battles over the British, but the French navy did most of the fighting at sea. The Americans tried to capture Canada several times.

### ***Southern Battles***

In 1779 major fighting shifted to Georgia and South Carolina. As fighting spread northward, General Nathanael Greene led the Rebel campaign. He caused many people in the South to be Patriots instead of Loyalists, and won several battles against the British.

In 1781, Washington and French general Jean Rochambeau led an offensive against British troops in Yorktown, Virginia. This was called the Battle of Yorktown. When their soldiers lost this battle, the British surrendered.

The British continued to fight the French and Spanish for two years, winning in India, Gibraltar and elsewhere.

### ***End of War***

The American Revolution came to an end in 1783 when a peace treaty was signed in Paris, France. In the Treaty of Paris, the British King, George III accepted the independence of the colonies and recognized the newly created nation as the United States of America.

The treaty also gave all the land Britain said it owned which was west of the Appalachians as far as the Mississippi River to the new country. This land would eventually become part of the US, and lead to the creation of 35 new states (some of which later rebelled as part of the Confederate States of America) that now make up the contiguous United States. Many Loyalists fled to Canada.

### ***Topic 3 - Industrial Revolution***

The Industrial Revolution was a time when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops and homes to large factories. This shift brought about changes in culture as people moved from rural areas to big cities in order to work. It also introduced new technologies, new types of transportation, and a different way of life for many.

#### ***Where did the Industrial Revolution begin?***

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the late 1700s. Many of the first innovations that enabled the Industrial Revolution began in the textile industry. Making cloth moved from homes to large factories. Britain also had plenty of coal and iron which was important to power and make machines for the factories.

#### ***How long did it last?***

The Industrial Revolution lasted for over 100 years. After beginning in Britain in the late 1700s it spread to Europe and the United States. The Industrial Revolution can be divided into two phases:

- **First Industrial Revolution** - The first wave of the Industrial Revolution lasted from the late 1700s to the mid-1800s. It industrialized the manufacture of textiles and began the move of production from homes to factories. Steam power and the cotton gin played an important role in this period.
- **Second Industrial Revolution** - The next wave took place from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. During this phase large factories and companies began to use more technologies to mass produce goods. Important innovations during this period include the use of electricity, the production line, and the Bessemer steel process.

#### ***When did it start in the United States?***

The early part of the Industrial Revolution in the United States took place in the northeast in the New England region. Many historians place the start of the Industrial Revolution with the opening of Slater's Mill in 1793 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Samuel Slater had learned about textile mills growing up in England and brought his knowledge to the United States. By the end of the 1800s, the United States had become the most industrialized nation in the world.

#### ***Cultural Changes***

The Industrial Revolution brought about many cultural changes. Before the revolution, most

people lived in the country and worked on farms. During the revolution, people moved to the cities to work in factories. Cities grew and became overcrowded, unsanitary, and polluted. In many cities, poor workers lived in crowded and unsafe buildings. This was a dramatic shift in the way of life for the average person.

### ***Transportation***

Transportation changed dramatically throughout the Industrial Revolution. Where before people traveled by horse, walking, or boat; new ways of travel were introduced including railroads, steam boats, and automobiles. This changed the way people and products were able to travel around the country and the world.

### ***Working Conditions***

One drawback of the Industrial Revolution was poor working conditions for people in factories. There were few laws to protect workers at the time and working conditions were often dangerous. People often had to work long hours and child labor was a common practice. By the end of the 1900s, labor unions and new laws began to create a safer working environment.

## ***Topic 4 - Westward Expansion***

The original thirteen colonies of the United States were settled along the east coast of North America. For many years, few colonists went beyond the Appalachian Mountains. However, as the country gained independence and continued to grow, more land was needed. The country began to expand into the western frontier.

### ***Early Expansion***

In 1700 there were around 250,000 colonists living in the American colonies. By 1775, this number had grown to 2.5 million. Many people wanted new land to farm and hunt. They began to move west of the Appalachians.

One of the first areas settled was the Northwest Territory. This area today makes up the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Daniel Boone led settlers across the Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky.

### ***Louisiana Purchase***

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from the French for \$15 million. This was a huge area of land west of the Mississippi River. It nearly doubled the land size of the United States. President Jefferson sent explorers Lewis and Clark to learn more about this vast frontier.

### ***Manifest Destiny***

Many people in the United States believed it was the country's destiny to expand westward all the way to the Pacific Ocean. This belief became known as the Manifest Destiny.

### ***Continued Expansion***

The United States continued to expand westward and gain land. After a war with Mexico over the rights to Texas, the country gained much of the southwest including the land of California. They also gained the Oregon Territory in a treaty from Great Britain.

### ***Settling the West***

Pioneers and settlers moved out west for different reasons. Some of them wanted to claim free

land for ranching and farming from the government through the Homestead Act. Others came to California during the gold rush to strike it rich. Even others, such as the Mormons, moved west to avoid persecution.

### ***Wild West***

As the first settlers and pioneers moved into the west, there was little government. The law was the local sheriff and people had to look to protect themselves against bandits and outlaws. During this time, gunslingers of the west such as Wild Bill Hickok and Jesse James became famous.

### ***End of the Frontier***

In 1890, the US government announced that the west had been explored. The country now had 44 states. Only Utah, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arizona had not been admitted as states from today's contiguous 48 states.

### ***Interesting Facts about Westward Expansion and the Old West***

- The population of the United States grew from 5.2 million people in 1800 to 76.2 million in 1900.
- President James K. Polk played a major role in expanding west. During his presidency much of the land west of the Louisiana Purchase was added to the country including Texas, the Mexican Cession, and the Oregon Territory.
- The Transcontinental Railroad and Transcontinental Telegraph were both important in keeping the large country together in the early days.
- Westward Expansion had a large impact on the Civil War. The South wanted western states to be slave states while the North wanted slavery to be illegal in the new states.

### ***Timeline of Westward Expansion***

**1767: Daniel Boone** explores Kentucky for the first time.

**1803: Louisiana Purchase** - President Thomas Jefferson buys the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. This doubles the size of the United States and provides a large area to the west of the country for expansion.

**1805: Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean** - Explorers Lewis and Clark map out areas of the Louisiana Purchase and eventually reach the Pacific Ocean.

**1830: Indian Removal Act** - Congress passes a law to move Native Americans from the Southeast to the west of the Mississippi River.

**1836: Battle of the Alamo** - Mexican troops attack the Alamo Mission killing all but two Texans. This spurs the Texans on in the Texas Revolution.

**1838: Trail of Tears** - The Cherokee Nation is forced to march from the east coast to Oklahoma. Many thousands die along the way.

**1841: Oregon Trail** - People begin to travel west in wagon trains on the Oregon Trail. Around 300,000 people would take the trail over the next 20 years.

**1845: Manifest Destiny** - Journalist John O'Sullivan first uses the term "Manifest Destiny" to describe the westward expansion of the United States.

**1845: Texas becomes a U.S. State** - The United States officially claims Texas as a state, eventually leading to the Mexican-American War.

**1846: Brigham Young leads 5,000 Mormons to Utah** - After experiencing religious persecution, the Mormons move to Salt Lake City, Utah.

**1846-1848: The Mexican-American War** - A war fought over the rights to Texas. After the war, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million for land that would later become California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and parts of several other states.

**1846: Oregon Treaty** - England signs the Oregon Treaty handing over the Oregon Territory to the United States.

**1848: Gold Rush begins** - James Marshall discovers gold at Sutter's Mill. Soon word is out and people rush to California to strike it rich.

**1849: Around 90,000 "Forty-niners"** move to California to find gold.

**1860: The Pony Express** begins to deliver mail.

**1861: The First Transcontinental Telegraph** line is finished. The Pony Express shuts down.

**1862: Pacific Railroad Act** - The United States government agrees to help fund a railroad from California to Missouri.

**1862: Homestead Act** - The U.S. government offers up free land to farmers who agree to

live on the land for five years and make improvements to the land. Many people rush to places like Oklahoma to claim their land.

**1869: The Transcontinental Railroad is completed** - The Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroads meet at Promontory, Utah and the railroad is completed.

**1872: Yellowstone National Park** is dedicated as the nation's first national park by President Ulysses S. Grant.

**1874: Black Hills Gold** - Gold is discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

**1874: Barbed wire invented** - Ranchers can now use barbed wire fences to keep their cattle from ranging free.

**1876: Wild Bill Hickok is shot** and killed while playing poker in Deadwood, South Dakota.

**1876: Battle of Little Bighorn** - An American Indian army composed of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapahoe defeat General Custer and the 7th Cavalry.

**1890: The U.S. Government** announces that the Western lands have been explored.



## ***Topic 5 - American Civil War***

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was a civil war in the United States of America. It is sometimes called "The War Between the States." Thirteen Southern states where slavery was legal wanted to leave the United States of America. They formed the Confederate States of America, also called "the Confederacy". They wanted the Confederate States of America to be its own country, separate and independent from the United States. Jefferson Davis was chosen as president of the Confederacy. The U.S government and the states that remained loyal to it were called the Union. The Union is sometimes called "the North". Every state where slavery was illegal supported the Union. Most of these states were in the North. Five states where slavery was legal also supported the Union. These were called the "border states".

The war began on April 12, 1861 when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter held by a Union garrison. It lasted four years and devastated the South. Up until 1862 the war was fought mostly in the Northern states, but afterwards it was mostly fought in the Southern states. After four years of fighting, the Union won the war. After the Union won, slavery was made illegal everywhere in the United States.

Two of the most important battles were the Battle of Antietam in 1862 (also called the Battle of Sharpsburg) and the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

### ***Background***

Slave and free states had long been growing more angry at each other, due in part to Abolitionism and Free Soil agitation in the North. The Republican Party, led by Abraham Lincoln, won the United States presidential election, 1860. The Republican Party was against spreading slavery to places where it was not already legal.

After the election, seven Southern states declared their independence from the Union. They formed the Confederate States of America, even before Lincoln became president on March 4, 1861. The outgoing U.S. president, James Buchanan, said this was against the law, but did nothing to stop them. Lincoln and his Republican party treated this secession as a rebellion. No country ever recognized the Confederacy as its own, separate nation. This was because of diplomacy on the part of the Union, anti-slavery feelings in Europe, and the northern blockade of southern ports.

### ***Fighting Begins***

Fighting started when the Confederates bombarded Fort Sumter, a Union Army fort. Lincoln then asked the Union states to raise soldiers to fight the Confederates.

The Confederate States claimed that they owned all forts and other federal buildings in the South. Fort Sumter was in South Carolina - one of the Confederate States. However, the fort was controlled by the Union. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces attacked the fort. They forced the Union soldiers inside the fort to surrender. After this, President Lincoln asked every Union state for volunteers to join the Union Army. Quickly, four more southern slave states joined with the Confederates instead of supplying forces to fight them.

The blockade by the United States Navy stopped the Confederacy from selling its cotton and other goods. It also made it harder for them to buy weapons and military supplies.

### ***The War***

The American Civil War was fought in three important land areas, or "theaters". The *Eastern theater* included all land east of the Appalachian Mountains. The *Western theater* included everything between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River and along the river. The *Trans-Mississippi theater* included territory west of the Mississippi river.

Both the United States and the Confederacy had their capital cities in the Eastern theater. Washington D.C. had been the capital of the U.S. since 1800. When the South seceded, it first named Montgomery, Alabama but soon changed to Richmond, Virginia as the capital of the Confederate States. Richmond and Washington are only about 90 miles (145 km) apart. One of the first battles of the war was fought in Virginia. This First Battle of Bull Run happened on July 21st, 1861. The Confederates won the battle. The Union Army of the Potomac then tried to capture Richmond in the Peninsula Campaign during the spring of 1862. At this time, Robert E. Lee took command of the Army of Northern Virginia and defeated the Union army. He then won the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862. Lee tried to win the war by invading Maryland. When he lost the Battle of Antietam, he retreated back to Virginia.

There was much naval warfare in the American Civil War but the Union navy was much stronger. Lincoln put the Confederates under a *blockade*, which meant the Union navy would not let any ships into or out of southern ports. The Confederates used ships called *blockade runners* to bring things from Europe. The things the Confederates brought included weapons. The navies of each side also fought on the rivers. The ships included ironclads, which were protected by iron on their sides, and cottonclads, which used cotton along its sides. During the Battle of Hampton Roads, the Confederate ironclad *Virginia* fought against the Union ironclad *Monitor*. This was the first time in world history that two ironclads fought each other.

In the Western theater, much of the fighting happened along the Mississippi River. Ulysses S. Grant was an important Union general in the west. The Confederates tried to send their soldiers into the state of Kentucky during the summer of 1861. During the early months of 1862, the Union army made the Confederates retreat from Kentucky and from western Tennessee. The Confederates tried to recapture western Tennessee by attacking Grant's army at the Battle of

Shiloh. Grant won the battle. The Confederates then tried to send their soldiers into eastern Kentucky during the fall of 1862. They left Kentucky after losing the Battle of Perryville.

The North won control of almost all of the Mississippi River. This was by capturing the cities along the river during the fall of 1862 and spring of 1863. However, the Confederacy still held Vicksburg, an important city and fort. If they held the city, the Confederates could move soldiers and supplies from one side of the river to the other. Grant started the Siege of Vicksburg during the month of May 1863. The siege continued for a long time. On the 4th of July, 1863, the Confederates in Vicksburg surrendered to Grant. This was one of the turning points in the war, because it divided the Confederacy into two parts.

There were also battles west of the Mississippi river valley, in the Trans-Mississippi theatre. For example, two important battles were the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the Battle of Pea Ridge. The Confederates tried to invade New Mexico during February and March 1862 but they were defeated at the Battle of Glorieta Pass. After the Union captured Vicksburg, this area became separated from the rest of the Confederate states. Other battles happened in this area after the capture of Vicksburg.

During the siege of Vicksburg in the west, another turning point came in the east. After winning some battles, Lee decided to invade the North again. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia went into Pennsylvania. The Confederate Army met the Union Army near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The two armies fought the Battle of Gettysburg. This battle lasted for three days: July 1 to 3, 1863. More soldiers died at Gettysburg than in any other Civil War battle. The Union won the battle. This stopped the Confederate Army's invasion into the North. Lee and his troops were pushed back into the South.

After this, President Lincoln decided that Grant was his best general. He put Grant in control of all the Union armies. Lincoln also made William T. Sherman the general in charge of the Union troops in Georgia. Grant led many attacks on Lee's army. These battles were made up the Overland Campaign. Meanwhile, Sherman burned Atlanta and Savannah. He did this to try to make the South weaker and to make it harder for Southern people to supply the Confederate Army with food and other necessities. Sherman then marched north through South Carolina and North Carolina. Confederate general Joseph E. Johnston attacked Sherman at the Battle of Bentonville. Sherman won the battle.

Lee held out as long as he could in Virginia. Eventually he decided that he had too few soldiers to keep on fighting the Union, which had more soldiers and supplies. Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865, near Appomattox Court House. After Lee surrendered, many other Confederate armies surrendered also. The last Confederate general to surrender was Brigadier General Stand Watie. He surrendered on June 23, 1865, in Oklahoma.

After the war ended, President Lincoln pardoned all of the Confederate soldiers. This meant the Confederate soldiers would not be arrested or punished for fighting against the Union. The

southern states would be allowed to rejoin the United States again. However, some Confederates did not want to return to the United States. Some of these people moved to México or Brazil.

### *Inflation*

During the war, inflation was a problem in the Union and a bigger problem in the Confederacy whose government paid for the war by printing a large amount of paper money. Prices went up and everything became more expensive. Many people could not afford the higher prices and went hungry because of this. This was one thing that helped lead to the Confederacy's surrender.

### *After the War*

Many soldiers on both sides died during the war. Most of the war was fought in the South. Many railroads, farms, houses, and other things were destroyed and most people there became very poor.

The period after the war, called Reconstruction, lasted from the end of the war until 1877. The Union Army stayed in some Southern states, making them occupied territory. Three important amendments were added on to the United States Constitution. The amendments were proposed (or suggested) by the U.S. government. Although not every American supported them, the amendments got enough support to pass:

- The 13th Amendment says that slavery is not allowed anywhere in the United States. This completed the work of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- The 14th Amendment makes it clear that all people born in the United States are citizens with equal rights.
- The 15th Amendment says that people in the United States cannot be kept from voting because of their race.

After the war, some of the Union Army's leaders went into politics. Generals Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison, and McKinley became presidents. Other veterans were elected to other offices.

The Amnesty Act of 1872 restored the rights to vote and to hold political office for most of the former members of the Confederacy. Some of them also became politicians.

## ***Topic 6 - Progressive Movement***

In the United States, progressivism is the belief that the government should have a larger role in the economy to provide good living standards for people, especially workers. Imperialism was the belief that the U.S. should build a stronger navy and conquer land.

In the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries, the U.S. started being more active in foreign affairs. In 1898, the United States fought a war with Spain called the Spanish-American War. The United States won, and gained Puerto Rico, Guam, Guantanamo and the Philippines. Combined with the purchase of Alaska and the taking-over of Hawaii, the United States had gained all the territory it has today, plus some it would later lose after World War II. Around this time, the U.S. and European nations opened up trade with China. This was because they had beaten China in the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion. The U.S. and Europe were able to trade with China through the Open Door Policy.

In 1901, **Theodore Roosevelt** became President. He had been a soldier in the Spanish-American War. He called for a foreign policy known as the “Big Stick”. This meant having a large navy and exercising control over Latin America. Between 1901 and 1930, the United States sent soldiers into Latin America several times. When Roosevelt was president, work was begun on the Panama Canal, a link between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans that made travel around the world much faster.

During this time, people started to notice the poor condition of American cities. A group of people called the “muckrakers” wrote books and newspaper articles about subjects like the power of big business, unclean practices in factories, and the condition of poor people. Roosevelt and Congress answered their concerns with laws such as the Pure Food and Drug Act. The Act controlled the way food was made to make sure it was safe. Another response to the muckrakers was something called “trust-busting”, where big businesses were broken up into smaller ones. The biggest business broken up this way was the Standard Oil Company in 1911.

In 1912, **Woodrow Wilson** became President. He was a Progressive, but not quite the same as Roosevelt. He fought the “triple wall of privilege”, which was big business, taxes, and fees on goods coming into the United States. During this time, the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were passed. They allowed for a federal income tax and direct election of U.S. Senators.

### ***Topic 7 - World War 1***

The United States did not want to enter World War I but wanted to sell weapons to both sides. In 1915 a German submarine sank a ship carrying Americans called the *Lusitania*. This angered Americans, and Germany stopped attacking passenger ships. In January 1917 Germany started attacking them again, and sent the Zimmerman Telegram to Mexico about invading the U.S. The United States joined the war against Germany, and it ended a year later. Wilson worked to create an international organization called the League of Nations. The main goal of the League was preventing war. However, the United States did not join because isolationists rejected the peace treaty. At the end of World War I, a flu pandemic killed millions of people in the U.S. and Europe. After the war, the United States was one of the richest and most powerful nations in the world

### ***Topic 8 - Boom and Bust (1919-1939)***

The 1920s were an era of growth and increased wealth for the United States. Many Americans began buying consumer products, such as Model T Fords and appliances. Advertising became very important to American life. During this time, many black people moved out of the South and into large cities such as New York City, Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles. They brought with them jazz music, which is why the 1920s are called the "Jazz Age". The 1920s were also the Prohibition Era after the Eighteenth Amendment passed. During the 1920s, drinking alcohol was illegal, but many Americans drank it anyway. This led to much rum-running and violent crime.

Racism was strong in the 1920s. The Ku Klux Klan was powerful once again, and attacked black people, Catholics, Jews and immigrants. People blamed the war and problems in business on immigrants and labor leaders, whom they said were Bolsheviks (Russian communists). Many people also thought that the United States had lost touch with religion. They handled that by changing religion, and some of them by attacking science.

After World War I, the United States had an isolationist foreign policy. That meant it did not want to enter into another global war. It passed laws and treaties that supposedly would end war forever, and refused to sell weapons to its former allies.

In 1921, Warren G. Harding became President. He believed that the best way to make the economy good was for the government to be friendly to big business by cutting taxes and regulating less. While the economy was doing very well under these policies, America had the largest difference between how much money the rich had and how much money the poor had. Harding's presidency had several problems. The biggest one was Teapot Dome over oil

drilling in the Navy Oil Reserve. Harding died in 1923, and Calvin Coolidge became President. Coolidge believed that the government should keep out of business, just like Harding, and continued many of Harding's policies. Coolidge chose not to seek the presidency in 1928 and Herbert Hoover became president.

### ***The Great Depression***

In 1929, a Great Depression hit the United States. The stock market crashed (lost much of its value). Many banks ran out of money and closed. By 1932, over a quarter of the nation had no jobs, and much of the nation was poor or unemployed. Many people were driven off farms, not only because of the Depression, but also because of a storm known as the "Dust Bowl" and because farmers had not been doing well during the 1920s.

**President Hoover** tried to do something about the Depression, but it did not work. In 1932, he was defeated and **Franklin D. Roosevelt became President**. He created the New Deal. It was a series of government programs which would give relief (to the people who were hurt by the bad economy), recovery (to make the economy better), and reform (to make sure a depression never happens again).

**The New Deal** had many programs such as Social Security, the National Recovery Administration (regulated wages), Works Progress Administration (built thousands of roads, schools, government buildings and works of art), the Civilian Conservation Corps (gave young people jobs to help the environment), and Tennessee Valley Authority (built dams and electric lines in the South). These programs put millions of Americans to work, though often at low pay. Many of these programs were started early in Roosevelt's term in a time called the "Hundred Days" or in 1935 in a time called the "Second New Deal". Programs like Social Security grew out of populist movements by people such as Huey Long that were called "Share Our Wealth" and "Ham and Eggs". The New Deal also led to the rise of worker's unions such as the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The New Deal is often called the period that "saved capitalism", and stopped America from becoming a Communist or Fascist state. Although the New Deal improved the economy, it did not end the Great Depression. The Great Depression was ended by World War II.

## ***Topic 9 - World War II***

As World War II was beginning, the United States said they would not get involved in it. Most Americans thought the United States should remain neutral, and some people thought the United States should enter the war on the side of the Germans. Eventually, the U.S. did try to help the Allied Powers (Soviet Union, Britain, and France) with the Lend Lease Act. It gave the Allies a lot of money and guns in trade for use of air bases throughout the world.

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, a U.S. Naval base in Hawaii. The U.S. was no longer neutral, and it declared war on the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan, Italy). The U.S. entering World War II ended the Great Depression because the war created many jobs. While some of the battles the U.S. fought in were air and naval battles with Japan, the U.S. mainly fought in Europe and Africa. The U.S. opened up several fronts, including in North Africa and Italy. The U.S. also bombed Germany from airplanes, blowing up German cities and factories. On June 6, 1944 (D-Day), American and British forces invaded Normandy. A year later, the Allies had freed France and taken Berlin. In 1945, Roosevelt died, and Harry Truman became president. The U.S. decided to drop two atomic bombs on Japan. Japan gave up soon afterwards, and the war ended.

The war meant different things for women and minorities. During the war, many women worked in weapons factories. They were symbolized by a character called "Rosie the Riveter". Many African-Americans served in the army, but often in segregated units with white officers. Japanese-Americans on the West Coast were forced to live in internment camps, though a few also served in the Army.

## ***Topic 10 - Cold War***

The Cold War (1947–1991) was the tense relationship between the United States (and its allies), and the Soviet Union (the USSR and its allies) between the end of World War II and the fall of the Soviet Union.

Most of the countries on one side were allied in NATO whose most powerful country was the United States. Most of the countries on the other side were allied in the Warsaw Pact whose most powerful country was the Soviet Union.

The Western-Capitalist group of countries includes Western Europe, the Americas, Turkey, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Iran (1945-1979), Pakistan, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The Eastern-Socialist group includes Eastern Europe, Soviet Union, Angola, Ethiopia, Cuba (1959-1991), Mongolia, North Korea, China and Vietnam.



## ***Background***

The start of the Cold War in 1947 was due to a belief that all governments would become either communist or capitalist. The Western allies feared that the Soviet Union would use force to expand its influence in Europe, and was especially concerned that Soviet agents had obtained information on making the Atom Bomb after the war.

Both groups of nations had opposed Nazi Germany. The Soviet Union had sporadically co-operated with Germany and shared in the division of Poland in 1939, but Germany turned against the Soviet Union in June 1941 with Operation Barbarossa.

## ***After WWII***

After WWII, Germany was left in ruins. The victorious Allies that occupied it split it into four parts. One part was given to the United Kingdom, one part to France, one part to the United States, and the eastern part was occupied by the USSR. The city of Berlin was also partitioned among the four parties even though the USSR had conquered it.

The Federal Republic of Germany (*Bundesrepublik Deutschland* or BRD) was recognized by the Western allies in June 1949. From April 1948 to May 1949, the Soviets blockaded West Berlin, which led to the Berlin Airlift. The USSR named their section of Germany the German Democratic Republic (*Deutsche Demokratische Republik* or DDR) later in 1949.

## ***The 1950s***

Espionage, "spying" has been around for a long time, and was very important during the Cold War. After its successful nuclear espionage in the Manhattan Project the USSR built up its spy organs, especially the KGB. The Central Intelligence Agency led US efforts abroad, while the FBI did counterespionage. Catching foreign spies was among KGB functions, as well as fighting domestic subversion.

In the USSR, the dictator Joseph Stalin died and Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev (1953) took his place. Khrushchev later took sole control of the USSR. Khrushchev's Secret Speech marked a period of de-Stalinization and Khrushchev tried to undo many of the things Stalin did (such as the Gulag prison camps and 'cult of personality').

In the United States, there was a "Red Scare", and when the USSR detonated its own atom bomb, there was a great deal of political fallout. Famous people, in many fields who had been Communist sympathizers in the past lost their positions. Many actors were 'blacklisted' and were not hired to act in movies, ruining their careers. Senator Joseph McCarthy accused some important Americans of being communists, including some high government officials.

The 1950s were the beginning of the space race between the United States and USSR. It began with the USSR putting the Sputnik satellite into orbit around the Earth, making the Soviet Union the first country in space. The United States responded by starting NASA, and soon sent up its own satellites. The Soviet Union also sent the first man (Yuri Gagarin) into Earth orbit, claiming that this proved communism was the better ideology.

In the 1950s, the United States (under president Dwight Eisenhower) created a policy called "New Look," cutting defense spending and increasing the number of nuclear weapons as a deterrent in order to prevent the Soviet Union from attacking the USA. The USSR also increased their nuclear force, resulting in mutual assured destruction.

In the Suez Crisis of 1956, the Cold War alliances were broken for the first time with the Soviet Union and United States favouring one side, and Britain and France the other. Later that year, the Western allies did not interfere when Soviet troops suppressed an anti-communist revolution in Hungary.

United States Vice-President Richard Nixon engaged in several talks with Nikita Khrushchev during the 1950s. One of these was the 1959 "Kitchen Debate" in a model kitchen in Moscow. These debates highlighted the political and economic differences between the USA and the USSR. The following year, the United States U-2 spy plane crashed in the Soviet Union. Tensions between the two countries increased.

### ***Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)***

After the United States tried to invade Cuba and failed (Bay of Pigs), the Soviet Union attempted to supply Cuba with nuclear missiles. These missiles in Cuba would have allowed the Soviet Union to effectively target almost the entire United States. In response the United States sent a large number of ships to blockade Cuba thus preventing the Soviet Union from delivering these weapons. The United States and Soviet Union came to agreement that the Soviet Union would no longer give nuclear weapons to Cuba as long as the United States does not invade Cuba again. This was the highest period of tension during the Cold War and it was the closest the world came to a nuclear war, with possible global conflict to follow.

### ***Détente (1962-1981)***

After the agreement that ended the Cuban Missile Crisis, relations between the two sides eased up. Several treaties, designed to reduce the number of nuclear weapons, were signed. During this period of Détente, the United States began building a good relationship with China, a previous ally of Russia.

### ***The End of Cold War (1981-1991)***

The policy of détente ended in 1981, when the U.S. president Ronald Reagan ordered a massive military massing to challenge the Soviet Union's influence around the world. The United States began to support anti-communists all over the world with money and weapons. The idea was to help them overthrow their communist governments.

The Soviet Union had a slow economy during this decade because military spending was at an all-time high. They tried to keep up with the United States in military spending, but could not. In the Soviet war in Afghanistan starting in 1979, the Soviet Union had a difficult time fighting resistance groups, some of them armed and trained by the United States. The Soviet Union's

failed invasion of Afghanistan is often compared to the United States' failure during the Vietnam War.

In the late 1980s the new Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made an effort to make an ally of the United States to fix world problems caused by the war, with the ultimate aim of eliminating nuclear weapons completely. However, this did not take place because the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, insisted on having a nuclear missile defense system. The people of the Soviet Union were divided on their feelings about this. Some wanted President Gorbachev to fight harder to eliminate nuclear weapons, while others did not want him to be talking to the United States at all. These mixed feelings created an atmosphere of political infighting, and the people were no longer united behind one goal. Because of this, the Communist Party started to crumble.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and without Communist rule holding together the countries that comprised the Soviet Union, the USSR broke into smaller countries, like Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Georgia. The nations of Eastern Europe returned to capitalism, and the period of the Cold War was over. The Soviet Union ended in December 1991.

Not all historians agree on when the Cold War ended. Some think it ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Others think it ended when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

### ***Topic 11 - Post Cold War***

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Cold War came to an end. This was due to the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev starting a policy called perestroika, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Soviet Union breaking into different countries. Around this time, the United States cut down on its production of cheap goods, and had many people working in service jobs. Part of these service jobs were in computers and the internet, which came into wide use in the 1990s. By this time, the United States had a very large trade deficit, meaning it received more goods from other countries, such as China, than it sent to other countries.

The Middle East became the main focus of U.S. foreign policy. In 1991, the United States fought a war with Iraq called the First Gulf War or Operation Desert Storm. This was to stop Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from occupying Kuwait, a small oil-producing country.

In 1992, Bill Clinton became President. Under Clinton, the United States sent soldiers into Bosnia as part of a United Nations mission. The United States also agreed to a trade pact called the North American Free Trade Agreement (and repealed Glass–Steagall Legislation). Clinton was impeached for lying in court about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, but the Senate voted against removing him as President.

## ***Topic 12 - African-American Civil Rights Movement***

The African-American Civil Rights Movement was an ongoing fight for racial equality that took place for over 100 years after the Civil War. Leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Booker T. Washington, and Rosa Parks paved the way for non-violent protests which led to changes in the law. When most people talk about the "Civil Rights Movement" they are talking about the protests in the 1950s and 1960s that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

### ***Background***

The Civil Rights Movement has its background in the abolitionist movement before the Civil War. Abolitionists were people that thought slavery was morally wrong and wanted it to come to an end. Before the Civil War, many of the northern states had outlawed slavery. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. After the war, slavery was made illegal with the thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

### ***Segregation and the Jim Crow Laws***

After the Civil War, many southern states continued to treat African-Americans as second class citizens. They implemented laws that kept black people separate from white people. These laws became known as Jim Crow laws. They required separate schools, restaurants, restrooms, and transportation based on the color of a person's skin. Other laws prevented many black people from voting.

### ***Early Protests***

In the early 1900s, black people began to protest the Jim Crow laws that southern states were implementing to enforce segregation. Several African-American leaders such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells joined together to found the NAACP in 1909. Another leader, Booker T. Washington, helped to form schools to educate African-Americans in order to improve their status in society.

### ***The Movement Grows***

The civil rights movement gained momentum in the 1950s when the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in schools was illegal in the case of **Brown v. Board of Education**. Federal troops were brought in to Little Rock, Arkansas to allow the Little Rock Nine to attend a previously all

white high school.

### ***Major Events in the Movement***

The 1950's and early 1960's brought about several major events in the fight for the civil rights of African-Americans. In 1955, **Rosa Parks** was arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. This sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott which lasted for over a year and brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to the forefront of the movement. King led a number of non-violent protests including the Birmingham Campaign and the March on Washington.

### ***Civil Rights Act of 1964***

In 1964, the **Civil Rights Act** was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. This act outlawed segregation and the Jim Crow laws of the south. It also outlawed discrimination based on race, national background, and gender. Although there were still many issues, this law gave the NAACP and other organizations a strong base on which to fight discrimination in the courts.

### ***Voting Rights Act of 1965***

In 1965, another law was passed called the **Voting Rights Act**. This law said that citizens could not be denied the right to vote based on their race. It outlawed literacy tests (a requirement that people be able to read) and poll taxes (a fee that people had to pay to vote).

## ***Topic 13 - 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

### ***Bush Presidency***

In 2000, George W. Bush was elected President. Terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on **September 11, 2001**. Thousands of people died. Soon after the attacks, the U.S. and NATO went to Afghanistan to find Osama bin Laden and others who they believed planned the September 11 attacks. In 2003, the United States invaded Iraq. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have lasted many years. By 2011, most American soldiers had left Iraq, and combat there was over.

In 2005, the southern United States was hit by Hurricane Katrina. Much of the city of New Orleans was destroyed. In 2006, the Democrats won back Congress because Americans did not like the way Bush dealt with War in Iraq or Katrina. At the end of Bush's term, the United States entered the worst recession since the Great Depression.

### ***Obama Presidency***

Barack Obama was elected President in 2008. He became the first African-American President of the United States. During his first years in office, Obama and Congress passed reforms on health care and banking. They also passed a large stimulus bill to help the economy during the recession. During the recession, the government used large amounts of money to keep the banking and auto industries from falling apart. There was also a large oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2010, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a sweeping overhaul of the health care system. Dubbed "Obamacare", it was faced with fierce criticism from conservative media.

A "Tea Party movement" started during Obama's presidency. This group opposes Obama's health care plan and other policies they see as "big government." Due to the recession, the Tea Party and a dislike of what Obama did, Republicans won a large number of House and Senate seats in the 2010 election. In 2011, Tea Party members of Congress almost shut down the government and sent the U.S. into default (not being able to pay people the government owes money). A few months later, many young people protested against organized and concentrated wealth during the Occupy movement. In 2012, Obama was reelected to a second term. Following reelection, Obama faced major obstruction from Congressional Republicans. This polarization in the political atmosphere and the media, lead to events such as the 2013 Federal Government Shutdown and the stalling of Obama's Supreme Court pick, Judge Merrick Garland to replace Justice Antonio Scalia. In 2014, Republicans took control of both houses of Congress, further adding to the gridlock. In foreign policy, President Obama helped crafted the Paris Climate Agreement, a major global commitment to fighting climate change. He also forged the Iran Nuclear Agreement and opened relations with Cuba for the first time in fifty years.

### ***Trump's Presidency***

The United States presidential election, 2016 attracted much retention. Main popular candidates of the election were Republicans Donald Trump and Senator Ted Cruz and Democrats Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders. Trump and Clinton won their respective primaries. On November 9, 2016, Trump defeated Clinton in a "political upset" to become the 45th president of the United States. Mike Pence became Vice President. They were inaugurated on January 20, 2017. In the aftermath, there were many protests against Trump across the country.

On January 27, President Trump signed an executive order that suspended entering of refugees for 120 days and denied entry to citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days, citing security concerns about terrorism. The following day, thousands of protesters gathered at airports and other locations throughout the United States to protest the signing of the order and detainment of the foreign nationals. Later, the administration seemed to reverse a portion of part of the order, effectively exempting visitors with a green card.

On April 7, 2017, Trump ordered the launch of 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the Mediterranean Sea into Syria, aimed at Shayrat Air Base as a defense after the Khan Shaykhun chemical attack.

On May 3, 2017, Puerto Rico filed for bankruptcy after a massive debt and weak economy. It is the largest bankruptcy case in American history.

### *A Changing Country*

The United States faces many political issues. One of these is what kind of government the United States should become. Liberals want a large government, while the Tea Party and other groups want a smaller government. One of these debates is over health care. Health care costs have risen. Conservatives and liberals also disagree on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage. Many more people have come to accept gays and gay marriage as an acceptable part of American society. There are also many trends and developments that the U.S. must deal with. One of these is immigration. Many people are coming to the U.S. from Latin America and Asia, especially Mexico. This is called the "browning of America". Baby Boom Americans are getting older and a larger fraction of the people are retired. Other issues facing the United States are a growing concern about the environment. This has led to the creation of many "green jobs," or jobs that create clean or renewable energy.

## ***Topic 14 - The Constitution of US***

The Constitution is the framework for the federal government of the United States. It is the highest form of law in the country. The Constitution creates the branches of government and gives them the power to govern. However, it also protects the citizens of the United States and guarantees their basic rights.

### ***History of the Constitution***

#### ***Articles of Confederation***

The first Constitution was called the Articles of Confederation, which was ratified in 1781. The Articles of Confederation had issues, however. The main issue was that the government had no money or way to get money under the Articles. The army wasn't being paid and was deserting. Debts to foreign countries weren't being paid. The government became too weak and a new constitution was needed.

#### ***Constitutional Convention***

In May of 1787 the Constitutional Convention gathered to discuss changes to the Articles of the Confederation. After some debate it became apparent to the representatives that a new Constitution was needed. A lot of the debate was held in secret so that the delegates would feel free to speak their minds.

A primary aim of the Constitution was to create a government that would be powerful enough to run the country, but would not impose on people's or state's rights. To avoid too much power being held by one person or group, they created the Balance of Power between the three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

There were two primary competing plans for the Constitution:

***Virginia Plan*** - The Virginia plan was written by James Madison. It represented the desires of the larger states and said that the number of representatives to Congress should be based on the state's population.

***New Jersey Plan*** - The New Jersey plan was written by William Paterson from New Jersey. It represented the smaller states and said that each state should have the same number of representatives.



In the end, an agreement was reached called The Great Compromise. This allowed the number of representatives to the House be based on the state's population while each state would have two representatives in the Senate.

### ***Articles of the Constitution***

The Constitution is organized into seven articles:

- Legislative Power
- Executive Power
- Judicial Power
- States' Powers and Limits
- Amendments
- Federal Power
- Ratification

### ***Ratification***

In order for the Constitution to go into effect, 9 of the 13 states needed to ratify it. The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware on December 7, 1787. The last state was Rhode Island in May of 1790.

### ***Preamble to the Constitution***

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

### ***The Bill of Rights***

The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution. The idea behind the Bill of Rights was to insure certain freedoms and rights to the citizens of America. It put limits on what the government could do and control. Freedoms protected include freedom of religion, speech, assembly, the right to bear arms, unreasonable search and seizure of your home, the right to a speedy trial, and more.

Many delegates of the states were against signing the Constitution without a Bill of Rights included. It became a major issue in ratifying the Constitution in some states. As a result, James

Madison wrote 12 amendments and presented them to the First Congress in 1789. On December 15, 1791 ten of the amendments were passed and made part of the Constitution. They would later become known as the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights was based on several previous documents including the Magna Carta, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights.

Here is a list of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights:

**The First Amendment** - states that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. Also protected are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**The Second Amendment** - protects citizen's right to bear arms.

**The Third Amendment** - prevents the government from placing troops in private homes. This was a real problem during the American Revolutionary War.

**The Fourth Amendment** - this amendment prevents the government from unreasonable search and seizure of the property of US citizens. It requires the government to have a warrant that was issued by a judge and based on probable cause.

**The Fifth Amendment** - The Fifth Amendment is famous for people saying "I'll take the Fifth". This gives people the right to choose not to testify in court if they feel their own testimony will incriminate themselves.

In addition this amendment protects citizens from being subject to criminal prosecution and punishment without due process. It also prevents people from being tried for the same crime twice. The amendment also establishes the power of eminent domain, which means that private property can not be seized for public use without just compensation.

**The Sixth Amendment** - guarantees a speedy trial by a jury of one's peers. Also, people accused are to be informed of the crimes with which they are charged and have the right to confront the witnesses brought by the government. The amendment also provides the accused the right to compel testimony from witnesses, and to legal representation (meaning the government has to provide a lawyer).

**The Seventh Amendment** - provides that civil cases also be tried by jury.

**The Eighth Amendment** - prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual

punishments.

**The Ninth Amendment** - states that the list of rights described in the Constitution is not exhaustive, and that the people still have all the rights that are not listed.

**The Tenth Amendment** - gives all powers not specifically given to the United States government in the Constitution, to either the states or to the people.

## *Topic 15 - Presidential Election Process*

### *Overview of the Presidential Election Process*

An election for president of the United States happens every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The next presidential election will be November 3, 2020.

#### Primaries, Caucuses, and Political Conventions


The election process begins with primary elections and caucuses. These are two methods that states use to select a potential presidential nominee. In general, primaries use secret ballots for voting. Caucuses are local gatherings of voters who vote at the end of the meeting for a particular candidate. Then it moves to nominating conventions, during which political parties each select a nominee to unite behind. During a political party convention, each presidential nominee also announces a vice presidential running mate. The candidates then campaign across the country to explain their views and plans to voters. They may also participate in debates with candidates from other parties.


#### What is the Role of the Electoral College?

During the general election, Americans go to their polling place to cast their vote for president. But the tally of those votes—the popular vote—does not determine the winner. Instead, presidential elections use the Electoral College. To win the election, a candidate must receive a majority of electoral votes. In the event no candidate receives a majority, the House of Representatives chooses the president and the Senate chooses the vice president.

#### What is a Typical Presidential Election Cycle?

The presidential election process follows a typical cycle:

- Spring of the year before an election – Candidates announce their intentions to run.
- Summer of the year before an election through spring of the election year – Primary and caucus  debates take place.

- January to June of election year – States and parties hold primaries  and caucuses.
- July to early September – Parties hold nominating conventions to choose their candidates.
- September and October – Candidates participate in presidential debates.
- Early November – Election Day
- December – Electors cast their votes in the Electoral College.
- Early January of the next calendar year – Congress counts the electoral votes.
- January 20 – Inauguration Day

### ***U.S. Constitutional Requirements for Presidential Candidates***

The president must:

- Be a natural-born citizen of the United States
- Be at least 35 years old
- Have been a resident of the United States for 14 years

Anyone who meets these requirements can declare their candidacy for president. Once a candidate raises or spends more than \$5,000 for their campaign, they must register with the Federal Election Commission. That includes naming a principal campaign committee to raise and spend campaign funds.

### ***Presidential Primaries and Caucuses***

Before the general election, most candidates for president go through a series of state primaries and caucuses. Though primaries and caucuses are run differently, they both serve the same purpose. They let the states choose the major political parties' nominees for the general election.

#### **State Primaries and Caucuses for the Presidential Elections**

- State primaries are run by state and local governments. Voting happens through secret ballot.
- Caucuses are private meetings run by political parties. They're held at the county, district, or precinct level. In most, participants divide themselves into groups according to the candidate they support. Undecided voters form their own group. Each group gives speeches supporting its candidate and tries to get others to join its group. At the end, the number of voters in each group determines how many delegates each candidate has won.
- Both primaries and caucuses can be "open," "closed," or some hybrid of the two.
  - During an open primary or caucus, people can vote for a candidate of any political party.
  - During a closed primary or caucus, only voters registered with that party can take part and vote.

- “Semi-open” and “semi-closed” primaries and caucuses are variations of the two main types.

### Awarding Delegates from the Primaries and Caucuses

At stake in each primary or caucus is a certain number of delegates. These are individuals who represent their state at national party conventions. The candidate who receives a majority of the party’s delegates wins the nomination. The parties have different numbers of delegates due to the rules involved in awarding them (PDF, Download Adobe Reader).

Each party also has some unpledged delegates or superdelegates. These delegates are not bound to a specific candidate heading into the national convention.

When the primaries and caucuses are over, most political parties hold a national convention. This is when the winning candidates receive their nomination.

For information about your state's presidential primaries or caucuses, contact your state election office or the political party of your choice.

### *National Conventions*

After the primaries and caucuses, most political parties hold national conventions (PDF, Download Adobe Reader).

### What Happens at a National Political Convention?

Conventions finalize a party’s choice for presidential and vice presidential nominees.

To become the presidential nominee, a candidate typically has to win a majority of delegates. This usually happens through the party’s primaries and caucuses. It’s then confirmed through a vote of the delegates at the national convention.

But if no candidate gets the majority of a party’s delegates during the primaries and caucuses, convention delegates choose the nominee. This happens through additional rounds of voting.

### Delegates: Types and Numbers Required

There are two main types of delegates:

- Pledged, or bound delegates must support the candidate they were awarded to through the primary or caucus process.
- Unpledged delegates or super delegates can support any presidential candidate they choose.

## Contested and Brokered Conventions

In rare cases, none of the party's candidates has a majority of delegates going into the convention. The convention is considered "contested." Delegates will then pick their presidential nominee through one or more rounds of voting.

- In the first round of voting, pledged delegates usually have to vote for the candidate they were awarded to at the start of the convention. Unpledged delegates don't.
- Super delegates can't vote in the first round unless a candidate already has enough delegates through primaries and caucuses to get the nomination.
- If no nominee wins in the first round, the convention is considered "brokered." The pledged delegates may choose any candidate in later rounds of voting. Superdelegates can vote in these later rounds.
- Balloting continues until one candidate receives the required majority to win the nomination.

At the convention, the presidential nominee officially announces their selection of a vice presidential running mate.

## *Electoral College*

In other U.S. elections, candidates are elected directly by popular vote. But the president and vice president are not elected directly by citizens. Instead, they're chosen by "electors" through a process called the Electoral College.

The process of using electors comes from the Constitution. It was a compromise between a popular vote by citizens and a vote in Congress.

### The Electors

Each state gets as many electors as it has members of Congress (House and Senate). Including Washington, D.C.'s three electors, there are currently 538 electors in all. See the distribution of electors by state.

Each state's political parties choose their own slate of potential electors. Who is chosen to be an elector, how, and when varies by state.

### How Does the Electoral College Process Work?

After you cast your ballot for president, your vote goes to a statewide tally. In 48 states and Washington, D.C., the winner gets all the electoral votes for that state. Maine and Nebraska assign their electors using a proportional system.

A candidate needs the vote of at least 270 electors—more than half of all electors—to win the presidential election.

In most cases, a projected winner is announced on election night in November after you vote. But the actual Electoral College vote takes place in mid-December when the electors meet in their states.

The Constitution doesn't require electors to follow their state's popular vote, but it's rare for one not to.

### ***Special Situations***

#### ***Winning the Popular Vote but Losing the Election***

It is possible to win the Electoral College but lose the popular vote. This happened in 2016, in 2000, and three times in the 1800s.

#### ***What Happens if No Candidate Wins the Majority of Electoral Votes?***

If no candidate receives the majority of electoral votes, the vote goes to the House of Representatives. House members choose the new president from among the top three candidates. The Senate elects the vice president from the remaining top two candidates.

This has only happened once. In 1824, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as president.

#### **How to Change the Electoral College**

The Electoral College process is in the U.S. Constitution. It would take a constitutional amendment to change the process. For more information, contact your U.S. senator or your U.S. representative.

### ***Inauguration Day***

Inauguration Day occurs every four years on January 20 (or January 21 if January 20 falls on a Sunday) at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC. On this federal holiday, the president-elect and vice-president-elect are sworn in and take office.

The vice-president-elect is sworn in first, and repeats the same oath of office, in use since 1884, as Senators, Representatives, and other federal employees:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and

that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

Around noon, the president-elect recites the following oath, in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."



### ***Topic 16 – America’s Involvement in Major International Conflicts***

In addition to the named wars and conflicts listed below, members of the American military (and some civilians) have played small but active roles in many other international conflicts.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>War in Which American Colonists or United States Citizens Officially Participated</b>	<b>Major Combatants</b>
July 4, 1675– August 12, 1676	King Philip's War	New England Colonies vs. Wampanoag, Narragansett, and Nipmuck Indians
1689– 1697	King William's War	The English Colonies vs. France
1702– 1713	Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession)	The English Colonies vs. France
1744– 1748	King George's War (War of Austrian Succession)	The French Colonies vs. Great Britain
1756– 1763	French and Indian War (Seven Years War)	The French Colonies vs. Great Britain
1759– 1761	Cherokee War	English Colonists vs. Cherokee Indians
1775– 1783	American Revolution	English Colonists vs. Great Britain
1798– 1800	Franco-American Naval War	United States vs. France
1801– 1805; 1815	Barbary Wars	United States vs. Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli
1812– 1815	War of 1812	United States vs. Great Britain
1813– 1814	Creek War	United States vs. Creek Indians
1836	War of Texas Independence	Texas vs. Mexico

1846–1848	Mexican-American War	United States vs. Mexico
1861–1865	U.S. Civil War	Union vs. Confederacy
1898	Spanish-American War	United States vs. Spain
1914–1918	World War I	Triple Alliance: Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary vs. Triple Entente: Britain, France, and Russia. The United States joined on the side of the Triple Entente in 1917.
1939-1945	World War II	Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, Japan vs. Major Allied Powers: United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia
1950–1953	Korean War	United States (as part of the United Nations) and South Korea vs. North Korea and Communist China
1960–1975	Vietnam War	United States and South Vietnam vs. North Vietnam
1961	Bay of Pigs Invasion	United States vs. Cuba
1983	Grenada	United States Intervention
1989	US Invasion of Panama	United States vs. Panama
1990–1991	Persian Gulf War	United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq
1995–1996	Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina	United States as part of NATO acted peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia
2001–present	Invasion of Afghanistan	United States and Coalition Forces vs. the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to fight terrorism.
2003–2011	Invasion of Iraq	United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq
2004–present	War in Northwest Pakistan	United States vs. Pakistan, mainly drone attacks
2007–present	Somalia and Northeastern Kenya	United States and Coalition forces vs. al-Shabaab militants
2009–2016	Operation Ocean Shield (Indian Ocean)	NATO allies vs. Somali pirates

2011	Intervention in Libya	US and NATO allies vs. Libya
2011– 2017	Lord's Resistance Army	US and allies against the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda
2014– 2017	US-led Intervention in Iraq	US and coalition forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
2014– present	US-led intervention in Syria	US and coalition forces against al-Qaeda, Isis, and Syria
2015– present	Yemeni Civil War	Saudi-led coalition and US, France and Kingdom against the Houthi rebels, Supreme Political Council in Yemen and allies
2015– present	US intervention in Libya	US and Libya against ISIS
2017- present	US – Iran Conflicts	Regarding US's sanctions against Iran
2018- present	US – China Conflicts	Trade War