

United States History 1877 to the Present Review

Physical features/climate of the Great Plains (USII.2a)

- Flatlands that rise gradually from east to west
- Land eroded by wind and water
- Low rainfall
- Frequent dust storms

Because of new technologies, people saw the Great Plains not as a “treeless waste land” but as a vast area to be settled.

Inventions/adaptations

- Barbed wire
- Steel plows
- Dry farming
- Sod houses
- Beef cattle raising
- Wheat farming
- Windmills



Transportation of resources (USII.2b)

- Moving natural resources (e.g., copper and lead) to eastern factories
- Moving iron ore deposits to sites of steel mills (e.g., Pittsburgh)
- Transporting finished products to national markets

Examples of manufacturing areas

- Textile industry - New England
- Automobile industry - Detroit

Reasons for westward expansion (USII.3a)

- Opportunities for land ownership
- Technological advances, including the Transcontinental Railroad
- Possibility of wealth created by the discovery of gold and silver
- Adventure

Reasons for increased immigration (USII.3b)

- Hope for better opportunities
- Religious freedom
- Escape from oppressive governments
- Adventure

Reasons why cities developed

- Specialized industries including steel (Pittsburgh), meat packing (Chicago)
- Immigration from other countries
- Movement of Americans from rural to urban areas for job opportunities

Inventions that contributed to great change and industrial growth

- Lighting and mechanical uses of electricity - *Thomas Edison*
 - Telephone service - *Alexander Graham Bell*
- Rapid industrialization and urbanization led to overcrowded immigrant neighborhoods and tenements.

Immigration

- Settlement Houses, such as Hull House founded by *Jane Addams*, helped immigrants
- Political machines that gained power by attending to the needs of new immigrants (e.g., jobs, housing) in return for votes

Interaction and conflict between different cultural groups

American Indian policies and wars

- Reservations
- Battle of Little Bighorn
- Chief Joseph

Discrimination against immigrants

- Chinese and Irish

Challenges faced by cities

- Tenements and ghettos
- Political corruption (political machines)



How can we group the United States?



States grouped by region (USII.2c)

Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

Southeast: Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas

Midwest: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota

Southwest: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona

Rocky Mountains: Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho

Pacific: Washington, Oregon, California

Noncontiguous: Alaska, Hawaii

Cities (USII.2c)

Northeast: New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia

Southeast: Washington, D.C., Atlanta, New Orleans

Midwest: Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit

Southwest: San Antonio, Santa Fe

Western (Rocky Mountains): Denver, Salt Lake City

Pacific: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle

Noncontiguous: Juneau, Honolulu

Reasons for rise and prosperity of big business (USII.3d)

- National markets created by transportation advances
- Captains of industry (*John D. Rockefeller* - oil; *Andrew Carnegie* - steel, and *Henry Ford* - automobile)
- Advertising
- Lower-cost production

Factors resulting in growth of industry

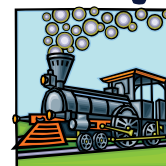
- Access to raw materials and energy
- Availability of work force
- Inventions
- Financial resources

Examples of big business

1. Railroads
2. Oil
3. Steel

Postwar changes in farm and city life

- Mechanization (e.g., reaper) reduced farm labor needs and increased production.
- Industrial development in cities created increased labor needs.
- Industrialization provided access to consumer goods (mail order).



Racial segregation (USII.3c)

- Based upon race
- Directed primarily against African Americans, but other groups also were kept segregated

“Jim Crow” laws

- Were passed to discriminate against African Americans.
- Made discrimination practices legal in many communities and states
- Were characterized by unequal opportunities in housing, work, education, government

African American response

- *Booker T. Washington* - Believed equality could be achieved through vocational education; accepted social separation
- *W.E.B. Du Bois* - Believed in full political, civil, and social rights for African Americans

Negative effects of industrialization (USII.3e)

- Child labor
- Low wages, long hours
- Unsafe working conditions



Rise of organized labor

- Formation of unions - American Federation of Labor
- Strikes - Homestead Strike

Progressive Movement

1. Workplace reforms

- Improved safety conditions
- Reduced work hours
- Placed restrictions on child labor

2. Women’s suffrage

- Increased educational opportunities
- Attained voting rights
- Women gained the right to vote with passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States
- *Susan B. Anthony* worked for women’s suffrage

3. Temperance Movement

- Composed of groups opposed to the making and consuming of alcohol
- Supported 18th Amendment prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic beverages

World War I (USII.4b)

- U. S. was unable to remain neutral
- Reasons for U.S. involvement in war
- German submarine warfare - sinking of Lusitania
- U.S. economic and political ties to Great Britain

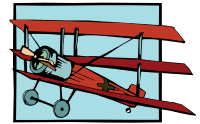
Allies	Central Powers
Great Britain France Russia Serbia Belgium	Germany Austria-Hungary Bulgaria Ottoman Empire

U.S. leadership as the war ended

- At the end of World War I, *President Woodrow Wilson* prepared a peace plan that called for the formation of the League of Nations, a peacekeeping organization
- The United States decided not to join the League of Nations

Results of improved transportation brought by affordable automobiles (USII.5a)

- Greater mobility
- Creation of jobs
- Growth of transportation-related industries (road construction, oil, steel, automobile)
- Movement to suburban areas



Invention of the airplane

The Wright brothers

Use of the assembly line

Henry Ford

Communication changes

- Increased availability of telephones
- Development of the radio (role of Guglielmo Marconi)
- Broadcast industry (role of David Sarnoff)
- Development of movies

Ways electrification changed American life

- Labor-saving products (e.g., washing machines, electric stoves, water pumps)
- Electric lighting
- Entertainment (e.g., radio)
- Improved communications



Prohibition (USII.5b)

- Was imposed by a constitutional amendment that made it illegal to manufacture, transport, and sell alcoholic beverages

Results of Prohibition

- Speakeasies were created as places for people to drink alcoholic beverages
- Bootleggers smuggled illegal alcohol and promoted organized crime

Reasons for the Spanish American War (USII.4a)

- Protection of American business interests in Cuba
- American support of Cuban rebels to gain independence from Spain
- Rising tensions as a result of the sinking of the *U.S.S. Maine* in Havana Harbor
- Exaggerated news reports of events (Yellow Journalism)

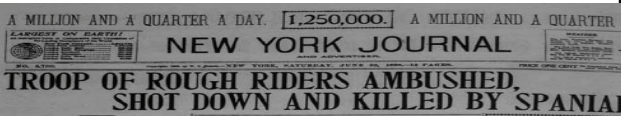
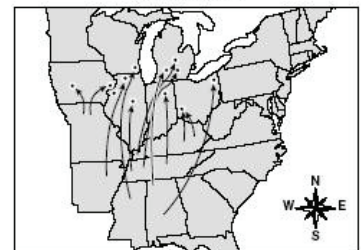
Results of the Spanish American War

- The United States emerged as a world power
- Cuba gained independence from Spain
- The United States gained possession of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico

Great Migration north (USII.5b)

- Jobs for African Americans in the South were scarce and low paying
- African Americans faced discrimination and violence in the South
- African Americans moved to northern cities in search of better employment opportunities
- African Americans also faced discrimination and violence in the North

African-American Migration 1915–1925



End of World War I	Harlem Renaissance	Stock Market Crash	Great Depression	World War II Begins	United Nations Begins
					

Harlem Renaissance (USII.5c)

- **Art - Jacob Lawrence**, painter who chronicled the experiences of the Great Migration north through art
- **Literature - Langston Hughes**, poet who combined the experiences of African and American cultural roots
- **Music - Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong**, jazz composers; **Bessie Smith**, blues singer

Cultural climate of the 1920s and 1930s (USII.5c)

African American artists, writers, and musicians based in Harlem revealed the freshness and variety of African American culture.

- **Art - Georgia O'Keeffe**, artist known for urban scenes and, later, paintings of the Southwest
- **Literature - F. Scott Fitzgerald**, a novelist who wrote about the Jazz Age of the 1920s; **John Steinbeck**, a novelist who portrayed strength of poor migrant workers during 1930s
- **Music - Aaron Copland & George Gershwin**, composers who wrote uniquely American music

Causes of the Great Depression (USII .5d)

- People over-specified on stocks, using borrowed money that they could not repay when stock prices crashed
- The Federal Reserve failed to prevent the collapse of the banking system
- High tariffs strangled international trade

Impact on Americans

- A large numbers of banks and businesses failed
- One-fourth of workers were without jobs
- Large numbers of people were hungry and homeless
- Farmers' incomes fell to low levels

Major features of the New Deal

- Social Security
- Federal work programs
- Environmental improvement programs



Causes of World War II (USII.6a)

• **Political instability and economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I**

- ⇒ Worldwide depression
- ⇒ High war debt owed by Germany
- ⇒ High inflation
- ⇒ Massive unemployment

• **Rise of Fascism**

- ⇒ Fascism - political philosophy in which total power is given to dictator and individual freedoms are denied.
- ⇒ Fascist dictators included Adolf Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), and Hideki Tojo (Japan).
- ⇒ These dictators led the countries that became known as the Axis Powers.

The Allies

Democratic nations (United States, Great Britain, Canada) - known as the Allies. The Soviet Union joined the Allies after being invaded by Germany. **Allied leaders** included **Franklin D. Roosevelt** and later, **Harry S. Truman** (United States), **Winston Churchill** (Great Britain), **Joseph Stalin** (Soviet Union)

Gradual change in American policy from neutrality to involvement

- Isolationism (Great Depression, legacy of World War I)
- Economic aid to Allies
- Direct involvement in the war

War

- Rising tension developed between United States and Japan because of Japanese aggression in East Asia
- On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked United States at Pearl Harbor without warning.
- The United States declared war on Japan.
- Germany declared war on the United States.

Major events of World War II (USII.6b)

- Germany invaded *Poland*, setting off war in Europe. Soviet Union also invaded Poland and the Baltic nations.
- Germany invaded France, capturing Paris.
- Germany bombed London and the *Battle of Britain* began.
- United States gave Britain war supplies and old naval war ships in return for military bases in Bermuda and Caribbean.
- Japan bombed *Pearl Harbor*.
- After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Germany declared war on United States.
- The United States declared war on Japan and Germany.

Turning Points:

1. The United States was victorious over Japan in the *Battle of Midway*. This was the turning point of the war in the Pacific.
2. Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union defeated Germany at *Stalingrad*, marking the turning point of the war in Eastern Europe.
3. American and Allied troops landed in Normandy, France, on *D-Day* to begin the liberation of Western Europe.

War ends: United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan.

Anti-Semitism	Aryan supremacy	Systematic attempt to rid Europe of all Jews
The Holocaust (USII.6b)		
<p>Tactics: Boycott of Jewish stores; threats; segregation; imprisonment and killing of Jews and others in concentration camps</p>		

Homefront (USII.6c)

- American involvement in World War II brought an end to Great Depression. Factories and workers were needed to produce goods to win war.
- Thousands of American women took jobs in defense plants during the war (e.g., Rosie the Riveter).
- Americans at home supported war by conserving and rationing resources.
- Need for workers temporarily broke down racial barriers (e.g., hiring in defense plants) yet, discrimination against African Americans continued.
- While many Japanese Americans served in armed forces, others were treated with distrust/prejudice-many were forced into internment camps.

Rebuilding after World War II (USII.7a)

Much of Europe was in ruins following World War II. Soviet forces occupied most of Eastern and Central Europe and the eastern portion of Germany. The United States felt it was in its best interest to rebuild Europe and prevent political and economic instability.

- The United States instituted George C. Marshall's plan to rebuild Europe (the Marshall Plan), which provided massive financial aid to rebuild European economies and prevent the spread of communism.
- Germany was partitioned into East and West Germany. West Germany became democratic and resumed self-government after a few years of American, British, and French occupation. East Germany remained under the domination of the Soviet Union and did not adopt democratic institutions.
- Following its defeat, Japan was occupied by American forces. It soon adopted a democratic form of government, resumed self-government, and became a strong ally of the United States.

Establishment of the United Nations

- The United Nations was formed near the end of World War II to create a body for the nations of the world to try to prevent future global wars



Reasons for rapid growth of American economy following World War II (USII.7b)

- With rationing of consumer goods over, business converted from production of war materials to consumer goods
- Americans purchased goods on credit
- The workforce shifted back to men, and most women returned to family responsibilities
- Labor unions merged and became more powerful; workers gained new benefits and higher salaries
- As economic prosperity continued and technology boomed, the next generation of women re-entered the labor force in large numbers

Factors leading to changing patterns in society (USII.7d)

- Strong economy (healthy job market, increased productivity, increased demand for American products)
- Greater investment in education
- "The Baby Boom," which led to changing demographics
- Interstate highway system
- Evolving role of women (expected to play supporting role in the family, but increasingly working outside the home)
- Role of Eleanor Roosevelt in expanding women's rights
- African Americans' aspirations for equal opportunities
- Changes in make-up of immigrants after 1965 (e.g., Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans)

Policies and programs expanding educational and employment opportunities

- G.I. Bill of Rights gave educational, housing, and employment benefits to World War II veterans.
- Truman desegregated the armed forces.
- Civil Rights legislation led to increased educational, economic, and political opportunities for women and minorities.



Origins of the Cold War (USII.7c)

Cold War: State of tension between United States/Soviet Union without actual fighting that divided world into two camps

- Differences in goals and ideologies between the United States and the Soviet Union (two superpowers) - The United States was democratic and capitalist; the Soviet Union was dictatorial and communist.
- The Soviet Union's domination over Eastern European countries
- American policy of containment (to stop the spread of communism)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) versus Warsaw Pact



Major conflicts in post-World War II

- South Korea and the United States resisted Chinese and North Korean aggression. The conflict ended in a stalemate.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred when the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba. The Soviets removed the missiles in response to a U.S. blockade.
- United States intervened to stop the spread of communism into South Vietnam (Domino Theory). Americans were divided over whether the United States should be involved militarily in Vietnam. The conflict ended in a cease-fire agreement in which U.S. troops withdrew.

Collapse of Communism in Europe

- Breakup of the Soviet Union into independent countries
- Destruction of Berlin Wall

New challenges

- Role of U.S. military intervention
- Environmental challenges
- Global issues, including trade, jobs, diseases

Some effects of segregation (USII.8a)

- Separate educational facilities and resources for white and African American students
- Separate public facilities (e.g., restrooms, drinking fountains, restaurants)
- Social isolation of races



Civil Rights Movement

- Opposition to *Plessy v. Ferguson* - "Separate but equal"
- *Brown v. Board of Education*, desegregation of schools
- Martin Luther King, Jr. - Passive resistance against segregated facilities; "I have a dream..." speech
- Rosa Parks - Montgomery bus boycott
- Organized protests, Freedom Riders, sit-ins, marches
- Formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act of 1965

Changing role of women

- Workplace disadvantages
- Discrimination in hiring practices against women
- Lower wages for women than for men doing same job
- Improved conditions through the National Organization for Women (NOW) and Federal legislation to force colleges to give women equal athletic opportunities
- *Equal Rights Amendment*, despite its failure and a focus on equal opportunity employment, created a wider range of options

