

Major Periods & Important Dates In American History

Colonial Period 1607-1763

Jamestown, 1607 (first African-Americans, 1619)

French and Indian war 1754-1763

Revolutionary Period, 1763-1789

End to salutary neglect with end to French & Indian War, 1763

Lexington and Concord, 1775

Declaration of Independence, 1776

Articles of Confederation ratified, 1781

Battle of Yorktown, 1781

Treaty of Paris, 1783

Critical Period, 1781- 1788

Early Republic, 1789-1824

Constitution Ratified, 1789

French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars

War of 1812, 1812-1815

“Era of Good Feelings,” 1816-1824

Market Revolution, 1816-1845

Clay’s American System, 1816

Erie Canal completed, 1825

Age of Jackson, 1824-1840

Property requirements for suffrage dropped

“Corrupt Bargain” of 1824

Andrew Jackson elected, 1828 (“the people’s president”)

Reform movements abound

Antebellum Period, 1840-1860

Manifest Destiny, 1840s

Mexican War, 1846-48

Sectional Crisis, 1850s

Election of Lincoln, 1860

Civil War, 1861-65

Confederate States of America founded, 1861

Fort Sumter attacked, 1861

Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

Confederate Surrender, 1865

Lincoln assassinated, 1865

Reconstruction, 1865-77

Slavery abolished, Civil War amendments

Weak presidents: Andrew Johnson, U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes

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Nation reunifies, but South remains embittered, devastated
 The European-American Settlement of the West, 1877-1900
 Destruction of Native Americans' Way of Life
 Farming, Ranching, and Mining
 Industrialism (The Gilded Age), 1865-1900 (a northern phenomenon)
 U.S. Imperialism, 1890-1914
 Panama Canal built
 Spanish-American War, 1898
 Virgin Islands purchased
 Progressive Era 1900-1914
 Government reform of industrial society
 WWI, 1914-18
 U.S. involved 1917-1918
 Wilson's 14 Points
 Treaty of Versailles, League of Nations
 The (Roaring) Twenties
 Prohibition
 Women gain right to vote
 General prosperity
 Stock speculation
 The Great Depression, 1929-41
 1929 Stock market crash
 FDR elected, 1932
 WWII erupts, 1939
 World War II, 1939-45 (U.S. involvement, 1941-45)
 Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941
 Germany surrenders, May 8, 1945
 A-bombs dropped, August 6 & 9, 1945, Japan surrenders
 Cold War, 1947-1989
 NATO, 1st peacetime alliance
 Soviets test A-bomb, 1949
 China goes communist, 1949
 Korean War, 1950-53
 McCarthyism, 1950-54
 Vietnam War, 1965-73
 Détente, 1972-1979
 Fall of Berlin Wall, 1989
 Collapse of Soviet Union, 1991
 Civil Rights Movement, 1954-68
 Brown v. Board of Ed. decision, 1954
 24th Amendment, 1964
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated, 1968
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Globalization

President Nixon, 1969-1974, Watergate, Resigns, avoiding Impeachment, 1974, Arab Oil Embargo and Energy Crisis, '73-74

President Gerald Ford, 1974-76

President Jimmy Carter, 1977-80, Iran Hostage Crisis

President Ronald Reagan, 1981-89, Supply-side economics, nuclear build-up, cold war ends, Iran-Contra Affair

President George Bush, 1989-92, The Persian Gulf War, 1991

President Bill Clinton, 1993-2001, Impeachment, acquittal. Record-setting economic growth.

Troops to Somalia ('93), Bosnia ('95)

President George W. Bush, 2001-present, Contested Election; 9/11, War on Terror, Iraq War 2003-present.