

US History Glossary

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AAA

Part of the New Deal, the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) placed restrictions on farm production and paid government subsidies to growers of staple crops. Money for the payments was raised by a processing tax on middlemen. The object was to raise farm prices, but it proved counterproductive for tenant farmers and sharecroppers. It was declared unconstitutional in 1936.

Abolitionism

Abolitionists sought to end slavery. They were a varied collection of reformers, and often disagreed about how to accomplish their goal. Both white reformers and many free blacks were active abolitionists.

Abstract expressionism

Abstract expressionism was a school of art that emerged after World War II. It was led by Jackson Pollack. Abstract expressionists were utterly subjective in their approach to art: the genre reflected the alienation of modern artists from the world of atomic bombs, computers, and mass culture.

Act for Religious Toleration

The Act for Religious Toleration was the first law in America to call for freedom of worship for all Christians. Enacted in Maryland in 1649 to quell disputes between Catholics and Protestants, the act failed to bring peace.

Actual representation

New state governments adopted the view of actual representation; that is, they saw representatives as agents reflecting the interests of the voters of a particular district, rather than as superior persons chosen to decide public issues according to their own best judgment (virtual representation). According to the practice of actual representation, elected representatives normally reside in their districts and are directly responsive to local interests.

Adams, John

Adams was Washington's vice-president and defeated Jefferson for the presidency in the election of 1796. He resisted his party's demand for war with France during his term.

Adams, John Quincy

Adams was President Monroe's very successful secretary of state, but, after winning the Election of 1824, had a very troubled and unsuccessful single term in the presidency.

Adamson Act

The Adamson Act established an eight-hour day for interstate-railway workers. It was part of President Wilson's bid to fulfill every plank of his 1912 platform before his reelection bid in 1916 began. The effort attracted progressives from both parties to vote for Wilson.

Adjusted compensation

World War I veterans, members of the American Legion, demanded "adjusted compensation," that is, bonuses for their years of military service. Presidents Harding and Coolidge vetoed the proposals, but in 1924, Congress granted the veterans paid-up life-insurance premiums worth over \$1,000 each.

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Administration of Justice Act

One of the Coercive or Intolerable Acts passed by Parliament in 1774, the Administration of Justice Act provided that British officials accused of capital crimes could be tried in England.

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was a religious body founded by blacks for blacks in the North during the early nineteenth century. The Church gained adherents among former slaves in the South after the Civil War.

Afrika Korps

Germany's Afrika Korps under the command of General Erwin Rommel contested British and American armies for control of North Africa in 1942-43. In July 1943, the Korps surrendered.

Agricultural Wheel

The Agricultural Wheel was one of several farmer organizations that emerged in the South during the 1880s. It sought federal legislation to deal with credit and currency issues.

Agnew, Spiro

Maryland Governor Agnew was elected vice president in 1968 and 1972. Presidential candidate Nixon chose him in order to court southern votes in those elections. Agnew was outspoken in his dislike of antiwar protestors and the liberal media, and was tough on crime. He resigned in 1973, pleading no contest to charges of tax evasion.

Aguinaldo, Emilio

Aguinaldo was the leader of the Filipino rebels who were fighting for independence from Spain when the Spanish-American War began. He helped Commodore Dewey defeat the Spanish at Manila, but then fought U.S. troops in the Philippine Insurrection (1900-1904).

AIDS

The spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), a deadly, and very often sexually transmitted disease, was one very serious consequence of the relaxed sexual taboos of the sexual revolution. The disease is a complex of deadly pathologies resulting from infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Air brake

In 1869 George Westinghouse invented the air brake for railroad cars. It greatly increased the size of trains and the speed at which they could operate safely.

Alamo

A Franciscan mission at San Antonio, Texas, the Alamo was the site in 1836 of a siege and massacre of Texans by Mexican troops.

Al-Qaddafi, Muammar

Libyan president Qaddafi is sympathetic to international terrorism and bitterly anti-American and anti-Israeli. In 1985, President Reagan ordered an air strike on Libya in retaliation for Qaddafi's support of terrorism.

Albany Congress

Called in 1754 in Albany, New York, the intercolonial Albany Congress was designed to deal with Iroquois grievances against the English. At the congress, prominent colonists proposed the Albany Plan of Union.

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Albany Regency

The Albany Regency was the well-organized political machine of New York Senator Martin Van Buren, a future vice-president and president. Members of the Regency were intensely loyal to Van Buren.

Ali, Muhammad

World heavyweight-boxing champion Muhammad Ali was a hero to both black and white fans for his athletic talent as well as his outspokenness and charisma, militant advocacy of racial equality, his adoption of the Muslim religion, and his opposition to the war in Vietnam.

Alien and Sedition Acts

In 1798 the Federalist Congress passed the four acts collectively known as the Alien and Sedition Acts to attack the Republican party and suppress dissent against Federalist policies. The Acts curtailed freedom of speech and the liberty of foreigners resident in the United States.

Alien Enemies Act

Passed by Congress in 1798, the Alien Enemies Act authorized the president, in the event of war, to deport aliens suspected of endangering the public peace; one of the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Alien Friends Act

Passed by Congress in 1798, the Alien Friends Act authorized the president during peacetime to expel aliens suspected of subversive activities; one of the Alien and Sedition Acts.

all deliberate speed

A year after the Supreme Court ruled in "Brown v. Board of Education" that racial segregation in public schools was inherently unequal, the Court ordered the states to proceed "with all deliberate speed" to integrate their schools.

Alliance for Progress

The Alliance for Progress was a program of economic aid to Latin America during the Kennedy administration.

Allies

The Allies were Britain, France, Russia, Italy and other belligerent nations fighting against the Central Powers in World War I, but not including the United States.

America First Committee

The America First Committee, led by aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, was an isolationist organization in the 1930s that opposed any U.S. intervention in world affairs that might lead the United States into war. Officially the Committee to Defend America First, the organization promoted the policy of building and defending "Fortress America."

American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society

The American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was an antislavery organization formed in 1840 when a group of moderate abolitionists split off from the American Anti-Slavery Society in protest of the radicalism of William Lloyd Garrison and his support of women's rights.

American Anti-Slavery Society

Founded in 1833, the American Anti-Slavery Society was the first national organization of abolitionists.

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American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

The ACLU was formed in 1920 to guard the constitutional rights of Americans against government infringement.

American Colonization Society

The American Colonization Society was founded in 1817. It purchased land in Africa (Liberia) with the intention of solving the "Negro problem" by transporting freed slaves there. Society backers were convinced that both blacks and whites would benefit from racial separation. Few blacks wished to migrate to Africa and the society accomplished little.

American Equal Rights Association

This association was formed by women's rights activists in 1866 to advocate universal suffrage at the state level after the Fourteenth Amendment failed to provide federal guarantees for women's voting rights.

American Expeditionary Force

The first members of the AEF, American troops who served in Europe in World War I, arrived in Paris in July 1917. They were under the command of General John J. Pershing, who insisted that they fight as independent units and not be integrated into British and French (Allied) forces.

American Federation of Labor (AFL)

This union formed in 1886 organized skilled workers along craft lines and emphasized a few workplace issues rather than a broad social program.

American Female Moral Reform Society

This organization founded in 1839 by female reformers established homes of refuge for prostitutes and petitioned for state laws that would criminalize adultery and the seduction of women.

American Indian Movement

Members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) demanded the return of lands taken illegally from their ancestors. They launched a concerted effort to revive tribal cultures and used confrontations with the federal government to publicize their case for Indian rights. Some sought Indian nationalism in the form of establishing Indian states within states.

American Liberty League

This business group organized to sway popular opinion against the New Deal.

American Protective Association

American nativists, who disliked Catholics and minority groups, organized the American Protective Association in 1887. The skilled workers and small businessmen who formed the association tried to limit immigration to America and block the upward mobility of newly arrived "new" immigrants, in favor of saving jobs for Protestant workers.

American Protective League

The American Protective League was one of the leading vigilante organizations that suppressed dissent while promoting reactionary causes during World War I.

American Railway Union (ARU)

Led by Eugene V. Debs, this union supported the Pullman strike.

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American Revenue Act

Commonly known as the Sugar Act, this law passed in 1764 raised revenue in the American colonies by lowering the duty from 6 pence to 3 pence per gallon on foreign molasses imported into the colonies and increased the restrictions on colonial commerce.

American System

Intended to protect domestic manufacturers from foreign competition; the American System was the brainchild of Kentucky Congressman Henry Clay. It involved a political trade-off: In return for eastern support for federal aid to railroad and canal construction, the West would back protective tariffs. This arrangement would stimulate manufacturing and a demand for raw materials, and increase the market for manufactured goods.

American system of manufacturing

The American system of manufacturing was a technique of production pioneered in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century that relied on precision manufacturing with the use of interchangeable parts.

American Temperance Union

The founding of the American Temperance Union in 1826 by evangelical Protestants signaled the start of a national crusade against drunkenness. Using a variety of techniques, the union set out to persuade people not to drink intoxicating beverages and was successful in sharply lowering per capita consumption of alcohol.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA banned discrimination against physically handicapped persons in employment, transportation, and public accommodations.

Amnesty

Amnesty is a general pardon for a past offense. In 1865, President Johnson issued an amnesty proclamation for most former Confederates who would take a general loyalty oath to the United States.

Anarchist

Anarchists advocate the overthrow of organized government because they believe it interferes with individual liberty. They sometimes see cooperatives and voluntary association of individuals and groups as the best way to organize society. Anarchists called the protest meeting at Haymarket Square in Chicago in 1886.

Andros, Edmund

Andros was the governor of the Dominion of New England. When appointed by James II in 1686, he set about to abolish the Massachusetts assembly, enforce religious toleration, and collect the king's quitrents. He was deposed in the wake of the Glorious Revolution in England in 1688.

Anglican church

The Anglican church became the official Church of England during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603). During Elizabeth's reign, England assumed the leadership of the Protestant world.

Anglo-American Accords

This series of agreements reached in the British-American Convention of 1818 fixed the western boundary between the United States and Canada at the 49th parallel, allowed for the joint occupation of the Oregon Country, and restored to Americans fishing rights off Newfoundland.

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Anglo-Saxon

An Anglo-Saxon is a person whose native language or origin is English. The term was generally used in the late nineteenth century to identify "native" Americans and distinguish them from nonwhite peoples and from "new" immigrants.

Anna, Santa (Antonio Lopez de)

Santa Anna was the president of Mexico and general of the Mexican army that invaded Texas during the Texas Revolt in 1835-1836. He was defeated and captured at the Battle of San Jacinto where Texans won their independence.

Annapolis Convention

The Annapolis Convention was a conference of state delegates at Annapolis, Maryland, that issued a call in September 1786 for a convention to meet at Philadelphia in May 1787 to consider fundamental changes to the Articles of Confederation.

Antebellum

Antebellum translates from Latin as "before the war," and is a term commonly used by historians to refer to the three decades preceding the Civil War, 1830-1860.

Anthony, Susan B.

Anthony saw the need for thorough organization if the women's rights movement was to become effective in a male-dominated society. She campaigned for women's right to vote, own property, attend college, and enter the professions.

Anti-imperialists

After the Spanish-American War (1898), American anti-imperialists objected to the annexation of the Philippines, the ratification of the Treaty of Paris, and the building of an American empire. Idealism, self-interest, racism, constitutionalism, and other interests motivated them, but they failed to make their case: the Philippines were annexed in 1900.

Anti-Masons

A third party formed in 1827, the Anti-Masons stood in opposition to the presumed power and influence of the Masonic order.

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is opposition to, hatred of, or agitation against Jews. Distaste for immigrants from Eastern Europe, many of whom were Jewish, expanded into a more general anti-Semitism in the United States in the 1920s.

Anti-federalists

Anti-federalists opposed ratification of the Constitution; they were states' rightists and were concerned that the Constitution contained no Bill of Rights. Federalists advocated ratification of the Constitution; they were centralizing nationalists.

Antinomianism

Antinomianism was the view--heretical to Puritans--that those possessing saving grace were exempt from the rules of good behavior and from the laws of the community. Antinomians believed that salvation came through faith alone and that individuals who are saved need only obey the spirit within them rather than the moral law.

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Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World

In 1829, David Walker, a Boston free black, published this pamphlet, which called for slaves to rise up in rebellion.

Appomattox

On April 9, 1865, Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union general Ulysses S. Grant in this town in south-central Virginia.

Apprentice

Apprentices were young men who aspired to become craftsmen and artisans. After five to seven years of training with a master craftsman, to whom the young man was bound by a legal agreement for the period of the apprenticeship, the apprentice became a journeyman and began working for wages. With skill and luck he eventually opened a shop of his own as an independent artisan.

Archaic period

The Archaic period was roughly between 8000 and 1500 B.C., during which time Native Americans adapted to a changed continental climate, developed larger communities, and, in several regions, adopted agriculture.

Archipelago

An archipelago is a group of islands. The Philippines, for example, form an archipelago.

Arminianism

Arminianism was the view--heretical to Puritans--that good works and faith in God could win a person admittance to Heaven (salvation). Arminianism was a doctrine of works.

Arnold, Benedict

General Arnold had been an effective commander of Patriot troops early in the Revolutionary War, but he became disaffected by what he considered unjust criticism of his generalship, and he defected to the British in 1780.

Arthur, Chester A.

Arthur, Garfield's vice-president and a former Collector of the New York Customs House, became president when Garfield was assassinated in 1881. Like presidents Hayes and Garfield, Arthur was not a strong presidential leader.

Article 10 of the League Covenant

Article 10 of the League of Nations Covenant in the Treaty of Versailles bound signatories to protect the political independence and territorial integrity of all member nations. Of all the treaty conditions, it provoked the most opposition to ratification in the U.S. Senate.

Articles of Confederation

The Articles (ratified in 1781) were the United States' first constitution. They sharply limited central authority by denying the national government any coercive power including the power to tax and to regulate trade. The articles set up the loose confederation of states that comprised the first national government from 1781 to 1788.

Artisan

Artisans were self-employed craftsmen and small businessmen engaged in the production of a marketable good or service--tailor, shoemaker, printer, baker, etc.

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Ashcan artists

The early-twentieth-century "ashcan" school of artists supported progressive political and social reform. They turned to city streets, the slums, and the working class for subject matter.

Assembly line

The assembly line is a mass-production process in manufacturing that simplifies the production process by moving the product along a conveyor, with each worker repeating the same limited task on each product as it comes by. The assembly line is closely identified with Henry Ford's revolutionizing of the automobile industry.

Atlanta Campaign

During the decisive Atlanta Campaign in 1864, Union general William T. Sherman maneuvered past Confederate general Joseph E. Johnson from northwestern Georgia toward Atlanta until President Davis replaced Johnson with General John B. Hood, who promptly engaged Sherman and lost this vital rail junction to the Union.

Atlanta Compromise

The Atlanta Compromise derived from a speech given by black leader Booker T. Washington in 1895. He urged blacks to concentrate on learning useful skills. He viewed black self-help and self-improvement, not agitation over segregation, disfranchisement, and racial discrimination, as the surest way to social and economic advancement for blacks.

Atlantic Charter

At a meeting in August 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill developed the Atlantic Charter, a statement of common principles and war aims.

Attlee, Clement

Attlee, leader of the Labour Party in Britain, replaced Winston Churchill as prime minister during the Potsdam Conference.

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)

Created in 1946 to develop and control military and civilian uses of atomic energy, this civilian agency had its functions transferred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1975.

Auschwitz

Auschwitz was a German concentration camp in Poland during World War II. There, and in other death camps, German forces killed more than 6 million people, most of them Jews. This effort at genocide is now referred to as the Holocaust.

Austin, Stephen F.

Entrepreneur Stephen Austin contracted with the Mexican government to settle American families in Mexican Texas in the 1820s. Largely through his efforts, by 1830 there were over 20,000 Americans living in Texas.

Australian ballot

The Australian ballot system refers to the use of official ballots and secret voting rather than party tickets.

Axis Powers

The Axis Powers were the opponents of the United States and its allies in World War II. The Rome-Berlin Axis was formed between Germany and Italy in 1936 and included Japan after 1940.

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baby boom

Post-World War II Americans idealized the family. After the war, marriage and birth rates rose precipitously and the divorce rate dropped. The prolonged birth rate surge came to be referred to as the "baby boom."

backcountry

The backcountry refers to the western edges of settlement in colonies from Pennsylvania south to the Carolinas. Colonists first began moving to the backcountry in the eighteenth century, developing a society that was at first somewhat cruder than longer-settled eastern communities.

Bacon's Rebellion

Nathaniel Bacon led an armed rebellion that began with settler attacks on Indians but which culminated in a rebellion against the royal governor of Virginia, Sir William Berkeley, in 1676. The rebellion was the product of Berkeley's political favoritism, economic exploitation, and Indian policy.

Baker v. Carr

In "Baker v. Carr" (1962) and other decisions, the Supreme Court allowed federal courts to review the apportionment of state legislative districts and ended unequal representation in state and local legislative bodies by establishing the rule of one man, one vote.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad

The B & O was America's first railroad line. It began operations in 1830.

bank holiday

The day after becoming president in 1933, Franklin Roosevelt called for a four-day "bank holiday," which placed an embargo on the export of gold and temporarily closed all banks while they were investigated by federal examiners to determine their solvency. Most banks were open again within a month.

Bank of the United States

In 1791 Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton proposed the creation of a joint public and private national bank to store government funds, collect and expend government revenue, and issue bank notes to serve as a national medium of exchange.

Bank War

In 1832 President Jackson vetoed a politically motivated proposal to renew the charter of the second Bank of the United States. Jackson's veto message asserted that the Bank was unconstitutional, a dangerous monopoly, and vulnerable to control by foreign investors.

Banking Act of 1935

This law strengthened the authority of the Federal Reserve Board over the nation's currency and credit system.

Barbary pirates

Pirates from the Barbary states in North Africa habitually seized trading vessels in the Mediterranean Sea and held crews and passengers for ransom. President Jefferson dispatched a naval squadron to deal with the pirates, but the venture failed and the United States paid a financial tribute to the Barbary states until 1815.

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Barnburners

The Barnburners were the Van Buren antislavery wing of the Democratic party. They were labeled barnburners (radicals) for their absolute objection to any further expansion of slavery, and for their refusal to support any candidate who countenanced slavery. They coalesced with the Liberty party to form the Free Soil party in 1848.

barrios

"Barrios" are urban neighborhoods heavily populated by Hispanics. They are centers of Hispanic culture in America, particularly in big cities of the Southwest.

Baruch plan

In 1946, Bernard Baruch, commissioner of the United Nations' Atomic Energy Commission, offered a plan for the eventual outlawing of nuclear weapons. The plan called for UN inspectors to be allowed to find out if any nation was secretly building nuclear weapons, then for the destruction of the only existing stockpile of such weapons, those in the United States. The plan failed because the Soviets refused to allow inspectors into the Soviet Union.

Battle of Antietam

The bloodiest one-day battle in U.S. history, Antietam was fought September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Maryland. General Robert E. Lee had invaded Maryland, but was forced to regroup his forces along a hastily formed defensive line after his invasion plans fell into Union hands. The cautious Union commander, General George B. McClellan, delayed his counterattack, which did not go well when finally launched. Both sides lost heavily. Though badly wounded, Lee was allowed to escape back across the Potomac to the safety of Virginia.

Battle of the Atlantic

The Battle of the Atlantic from 1940-1943 pitted German submarines against British and American naval and air forces in a struggle for control of the North Atlantic.

Battle of Brandywine Creek

During the Revolutionary War engagement of the Battle of Brandywine Creek in southeastern Pennsylvania on September 11, 1777, British forces under Sir William Howe defeated Americans under General George Washington, thereby clearing the way for the British occupation of Philadelphia.

Battle of Britain

A series of air engagements in 1940 during World War II pitted British interceptor fighter planes against German bombers attacking British cities and industry in the Battle of Britain.

Battle of Brooklyn Heights

During the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, a Revolutionary War battle fought on August 27, 1776, Sir William Howe landed a large British force on Long Island, New York, outflanked the American defenders, and attacked their rear. Although the Americans suffered heavy casualties, General George Washington was later able under cover of darkness to withdraw his forces to Manhattan Island.

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Battle of Bull Run

The first Battle of Bull Run, fought July 21, 1861, was also the first major battle of the Civil War. Poorly organized Union troops under the command of General Irvin McDowell were repulsed by poorly organized Confederate troops under the command of General P.G.T. Beauregard. Both sides realized that the war would not end quickly with a single major showdown, and both sides fell back to prepare for larger military operations. In the second Battle of Bull Run, fought August 29 and 30, 1862, Confederate troops under the field command of Generals Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and James Longstreet outmaneuvered and defeated Union troops under the rather inept command of General John Pope.

Battle of Bunker Hill

The misnamed Battle of Bunker Hill was the first major battle of the Revolutionary War (Boston, June 1775). The British held their position on Breed's Hill, but at great cost--more than a thousand casualties. The battle effectively ended any hope of a negotiated settlement between the colonists and Britain.

Battle of Camden

During this decisive British victory at Camden, South Carolina, on August 16, 1780, more than one thousand Americans were killed or wounded and many were captured. A second battle near Camden on April 25, 1781, was more nearly a draw.

Battle of Charleston

During this Revolutionary War engagement that began on February 11, 1780, Sir Henry Clinton led eight thousand British troops from New York and encircled and laid siege to Charleston, South Carolina. One May, 1780, 5,400 American defenders under Benjamin Lincoln surrendered in the costliest American defeat of the Revolutionary War.

Battle of the Coral Sea

The Battle of the Coral Sea occurred between U.S. and Japanese aircraft carriers in May 1942 and served to halt the Japanese advance toward Australia during World War II.

Battle of Cowpens

This Revolutionary War engagement, which involved approximately 1,000 men on each side, took place in upstate South Carolina on January 17, 1781. American forces under General Daniel Morgan won a resounding victory over the British under Banastre Tarleton, thereby compromising the latter's reputation for invincibility and boosting American morale.

Battle of El Alamein

This British victory during World War II checked the advance of the German army into Egypt in June 1942.

Battle of Fallen Timbers

In 1794 General Anthony Wayne's army decisively defeated the Indians in Ohio and opened the way for settlement in the region.

Battle of Franklin

Confederate general John B. Hood's disastrous frontal assault on well-entrenched Union positions south of Nashville in November 1864 proved a costly loss for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Battle of Guilford Court House

In this fiercely fought Revolutionary War engagement on March 15, 1781, near modern Greensboro, North Carolina, British forces under Lord Cornwallis and Americans commanded by General Nathanael Greene both sustained heavy losses. The British technically won but were forced to withdraw to Wilmington, North Carolina.

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Battle of Kettle Creek

In this Revolutionary War engagement in upstate Georgia on February 14, 1779, Americans under General Andrew Pickens defeated a band of about seven hundred Tories from North and South Carolina. This victory boosted American morale and intimidated Tories in the area.

Battle of Kings Mountain

In this decisive Revolutionary War victory in northwestern South Carolina on October 7, 1780, nine hundred American militia from Virginia, the western Carolinas, and eastern Tennessee annihilated or captured over one thousand Loyalists, an important turning point in the southern campaign.

Battle of Lexington and Concord

In these first skirmishes of the Revolutionary War, which took place on April 19, 1775, British forces brushed by American militia at Lexington, then pushed on to Concord, where they met stronger resistance. On the long retreat back to Boston, the British suffered 273 dead, wounded, or missing as a consequence of hit-and-run actions by American militiamen.

Battle of Leyte Gulf

In this World War II naval engagement in October 1944, the Japanese navy tried to disrupt U.S. landings in the Philippines and suffered a decisive defeat.

Battle of Little Big Horn

In this 1876 battle, Colonel George A. Custer and the Seventh Cavalry were defeated by the Sioux and Cheyennes under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

Battle of Long Island

In July 1776, British general William Howe, directing the largest amphibious landing prior to World War II, drove Washington's defenders out of New York and established British headquarters there.

Battle of Midway

In this World War II naval and air battle, the United States turned back a Japanese effort to seize Midway Island in June 1942 and inflicted severe damage on the Japanese navy.

Battle of Monmouth Court House

This final major Revolutionary War engagement between the main British and American forces in the North occurred on June 28, 1778, in central New Jersey as the British withdrew from Philadelphia toward their headquarters at New York City. The Americans under General George Washington and the British under Sir Henry Clinton each suffered about 350 casualties.

Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

In this Revolutionary War engagement that occurred on February 27, 1776, near Wilmington, North Carolina, an American force of approximately 100,000 clashed with about 1,800 Loyalists, most of them Highland Scots. The smashing American victory disrupted British plans for the Loyalists to link up with a large British expedition that sailed from Ireland to North Carolina during the winter of 1775-1776.

Battle of Nashville

This battle refers to the destruction of the Confederacy's Army of Tennessee in December 1864 by Union general George H. Thomas during the Civil War.

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Battle of New Orleans

Although it was fought two weeks after the Treaty of Ghent, General Andrew Jackson's victory over the British at New Orleans in January 1815 convinced many Americans, inattentive to chronology, that the United States had won the War of 1812 on the battlefield. Jackson became a celebrated national hero. The victory ended any British hopes of gaining control of the lower Mississippi River Valley.

Battle of One Hundred Slain

In 1866, in what whites called the Fetterman Massacre, the Sioux defeated the U.S. Army on the Bozeman Trail.

Battle of Plattsburg

This American naval victory on Lake Champlain in September 1814 in the War of 1812 thwarted a British invasion from Canada.

Battle of Princeton

In this Revolutionary War battle fought on January 3, 1777, General Washington eluded the main British forces under Cornwallis and attacked a British column near Princeton, New Jersey, inflicting heavy losses before withdrawing into winter quarters not far away at Morristown. The battles of Trenton and Princeton greatly improved Patriot morale.

Battle of Put-in-Bay

This American naval victory on Lake Erie in September 1813 in the War of 1812 denied the British strategic control over the Great Lakes.

Battle of Queenston Heights

This battle was a major defeat in October 1812 for an American army attempting to invade Canada along the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812.

Battle of San Jacinto

In this battle fought in eastern Texas on April 21, 1836, Texas troops under General Sam Houston overwhelmed a Mexican army and forced its commander, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, to recognize the independence of Texas.

Battle of Saratoga

Following months of organizational ineptitude and American military harassment, British General John Burgoyne was forced to surrender his army to General Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777. The victory encouraged France to join the war on the side of the American rebels.

Battles of Savannah

This series of Revolutionary War encounters began when British forces routed American militia and occupied Savannah on December 29, 1778. A French fleet under the Comte d'Estaing and American forces under General Benjamin Lincoln then tried to recapture the city by siege, beginning on September 3, 1779, but an assault on October 9 failed, with heavy casualties. D'Estaing, wounded, departed with this fleet on October 28, leaving the way open for the British attack on Charleston, South Carolina.

Battle of Spotsylvania

One in a series of dogged attacks in Virginia by Union general Ulysses S. Grant on entrenched Confederate positions during May 1864, the battle prompted high casualties and mounting public criticism. However, Grant continued to push on until the disaster at Cold Harbor later in the month caused him to reconsider his tactics.

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Battle of Stalingrad

This World War II battle of attrition between German and Soviet armies in Stalingrad, on the Volga River, from August 1942 to February 1943, ended with the surrender of the encircled German army.

Battle of the Bulge

In December 1944, the German army launched a counterattack against Allied forces in western Europe. Its advance toward Antwerp, Belgium, created a "bulge" in the Allied lines. By June 1945, the bulge was contained and the Allied line was restored.

Battle of the Thames

This battle was an American victory in October 1813 over combined British and Indian forces in southern Ontario during the War of 1812.

Battle of Tippecanoe

In 1811 General William Henry Harrison led his forces against Chief Tecumseh's Indian confederacy at Tippecanoe in the Ohio country. The Indian confederacy was shattered.

Battle of Trenton

In this Revolutionary War clash that occurred on December 26, 1776, General George Washington, who has withdrawn his forces into Pennsylvania, recrossed the Delaware River and surprised approximately fourteen hundred Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey, capturing or killing nearly one thousand.

Battle of White Plains

In this Revolutionary War engagement that took place on October 28, 1776, between General George Washington's troops, evacuating New York City, and British forces under Sir William Howe, Washington sustained more than three hundred casualties before withdrawing his troops.

Battle of the Wilderness

This Civil War clash between Confederate and Union forces near Chancellorsville in May 1864 was marked by fierce hand-to-hand combat in dense woods.

Battle of Yorktown

Beginning August 30, 1781, armies under Washington, Lafayette, and Rochambeau, backed by a French fleet in the Chesapeake Bay, laid siege to British forces under Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Cornwallis surrendered 8,000 troops on October 19, 1781.

Bay of Pigs

In April 1961, an American-backed effort by 1500 anti-Castro Cuban exiles to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs and force the overthrow of Fidel Castro's government was a dismal failure. It was an embarrassment to the United States and to Kennedy personally, although the invasion had originally been planned while Eisenhower was president.

Beacon Hill

Boston's exclusive Beacon Hill residential area housed the city's well-to-do upper class, who generally ignored conditions in the poorer areas of the city.

Bear Flag Republic

With the tacit support of U.S. Military forces, a handful of Americans in the Mexican state of California declared independence from the Mexican central government in 1846. Until the U.S. formally annexed California in 1848, this "Bear Flag Republic" functioned fitfully and unevenly as a separate government.

US History Glossary

Beats

Nonconformists in the late 1950s who came together in large cities to reject conventional dress and sexual standards and cultivate poetry, jazz, and folk music; also known as beatniks.

Beaumont, William

Beaumont was an American physician who, in the 1830s, came to be recognized as the world's leading expert on the human gastric system.

Beaver Wars

Between the 1640s and 1680s, during the bloody conflicts known as the Beaver Wars, the Iroquois fought the French and their Indian allies for control of the fur trade in eastern North America and the Great Lakes region.

Beecher, Henry Ward

A middle-class urban conservative preacher of great renown, Beecher attributed the poverty of the cities to the improvidence of the poor--the poor were to blame for their own poverty. He denounced labor unions and saw cheap immigrant labor as a solution to labor agitation.

Bell, Alexander Graham

Bell invented the first practical telephone in 1876.

Bell, John

Senator John Bell from Tennessee was the presidential nominee of the new Constitutional Union party in 1860. That party supported the Constitution, the Union, and the laws of the United States. Bell received some support from the border states in the election.

Bellamy, Edward

Bellamy wrote the utopian novel "Looking Backward, 2000-1887," in 1888. The book envisioned America in the future as a completely socialized society where all were equal.

Bellow, Saul

In his many novels, Saul Bellow has described characters possessed of their full share of eccentricities and weaknesses without losing sight of the positive side of modern life. He is a Nobel Prize winner in literature.

benevolent empire

In the early nineteenth century, voluntary reform associations associated with Protestant churches were a pillar of middle-class life that organized to do good work. Collectively these voluntary associations constituted a "benevolent empire" eager to restore moral order and make society over into their members' idea of how God wanted it to be.

Berkeley, William

Berkeley was the governor of Virginia for over thirty years. He and his policies were the targets of Bacon's Rebellion in 1676.

Berlin Wall

Erected by East Germany in 1961 and torn down in 1989, the Berlin Wall isolated West Berlin from the surrounding areas in Communist-controlled East Berlin and East Germany.

US History Glossary

Bessemer process

The Bessemer process, independently invented by Henry Bessemer and William Kelly in the 1850s, provided the technology that enabled the mass production of good quality steel. This revolutionized the construction of bridges, buildings, railroads, machine tools, and others.

bicameral legislature

A bicameral legislature is a legislative body composed of two houses.

Biddle, Nicholas

Biddle was the president of the second Bank of the United States during the Bank War in 1832. He was a competent administrator of the bank's affairs, especially its regulating the availability of credit by controlling the lending policies of state banks.

big lie

The "big lie" is a tactic used to smear the reputation of someone by making outrageous allegations about his or her behavior or affiliations. It was the favorite tactic of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the early 1950s when he conducted a witch-hunt for communists in the federal government.

Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution (adopted in 1791) that protect individual liberties and states' rights against the power of the national government; more generally, a bill of rights is a written summary of inalienable rights and liberties.

birds of passage

So-called "birds of passage" were temporary immigrants to America. They were usually single young men who came to America in order to earn enough money to buy land back home. They worked hard, but they had no reason to develop an attachment to American ways.

Birney, James G.

Birney, a former Kentucky slaveowner, was the abolitionist Liberty party's presidential candidate in 1840 and 1844. He received few votes.

Birth of a Nation

Producer D. W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" (1915) was an important breakthrough in cinema. It signaled a technological and artistic improvement in movie making and appealed to a more cultivated audience than earlier movies. The film was a sympathetic treatment of the Ku Klux Klan.

Black Codes

Black Codes were special laws passed by southern state and municipal governments immediately after the Civil War. The laws denied many rights of citizenship to free blacks and were designed to control black labor, mobility, and employment, and to get around the Thirteenth Amendment that freed the slaves. The laws outraged northerners.

Black Death

The Black Death was a mid-fourteenth century disease epidemic that ravaged Europe and helped cause an economic decline. This outbreak of the pneumonic form of the bubonic plague killed perhaps a third of Europe's population.

US History Glossary

Black Hawk's War

Federal troops and Illinois militia units defeated the Sauk and Fox Indians led by Black Hawk during this short war in 1832.

Black Hills

When gold was discovered in the Black Hills Indian Reservation (South Dakota), whites invaded the Indian's lands and drove them on the warpath. This culminated in "Custer's Last Stand" at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Black Muslims

The Black Muslims is a common name for the Nation of Islam, a religious movement among black Americans that emphasizes self-sufficiency, self-help, and separation from white society.

Black Panthers

Founded in Oakland, California in 1966, the Black Panther party, headed by black radical H. Rap Brown, was a violently militant black organization that demanded compensation for the historical legacy of injustice toward blacks in America.

Black Power

The Black Power philosophy emerged after 1965 to declare that real economic and political gains for African-Americans could only come through self-help, self-determination, and organizing for direct political influence. Latinos and Native Americans developed their own versions as Brown Power and Red Power, respectively.

Blaine, James G.

The charming and popular James G. Blaine was the Republican nominee for president in 1884 who lost to Grover Cleveland. His candidacy was hurt by charges of corruption with the railroads exposed in the Mulligan letters.

Bleeding Kansas

The contest between pro and antislavery settlers for control of Kansas Territory provoked violence and bloodshed in 1855. For partisan reasons, President Pierce's administration failed to peacefully implement popular sovereignty in "Bleeding Kansas."

Bland-Allison Act

The Bland-Allison Act was a 1878 compromise currency law that provided for limited silver coinage.

Blitzkrieg

Translated as "lightning war," blitzkrieg was a German war tactic in World War II involving the concentration of air and armored firepower to punch and exploit holes in opposing defensive lines.

blue water navy

A navy with a worldwide reach; the ability to project power anywhere in the world. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the power of such a navy was measured by the number and quality of its battleships.

Board of Indian Commissioners

Established in 1869, the Board of Indian Commissioners was a nonpartisan board created as an advisory agency to eliminate politics and corruption from the government bureaucracy dealing with Indian affairs.

US History Glossary

Board of Trade

Parliament created the Board of Trade in 1696 to make recommendations on colonial policy. Replacing the Lords of Trade as overseers of colonial affairs, the board reviewed laws passed by colonial assemblies and nominated colonial governors. Though the board gathered information about the colonies and recommended policy changes, it had no executive authority.

bohemians

A bohemian is one who adopts a way of life exhibiting protest against, or indifference to, the common conventions of society. Greenwich Village in New York City was an early-twentieth-century retreat and home for American artistic and intellectual bohemians.

Bolshevik

A Bolshevik was a member of the Communist movement in Russia that established the Soviet government after the 1917 Russian Revolution; more generally, a Bolshevik is any radical or disruptive person or movement seeking to transform economic and political relationships.

Bonaparte, Napoleon

Napoleon was the French military genius who sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States in 1804. He needed the money to finance his war with Britain.

Bonus Army

In June 1932, 20,000 World War I veterans marched on Washington, D.C., to demand immediate payment of their "adjusted compensation" bonuses voted by Congress in 1924. Congress rejected their demands, and President Hoover had the army forcefully remove them from their encampment. He feared their ranks were infested with criminals and radicals.

boomers

"Boomers" were transient workers on the railroads. They had reputations as lustful, heavy-drinking rowdies.

boondoggle

Boondoggle was a derisive term used by opponents of New Deal federal works projects administered by the FERA, CWA, and WPA. They objected to "make work" projects that seemed to have no other purpose than to put people on the government payroll.

Borah, William E.

Republican Senator Borah from Idaho headed the "irreconcilables" who, as isolationists, refused to support U.S. membership in the League of Nations under any circumstances.

border ruffians

The "border ruffians" were Missourians who, during the territorial and statehood elections in Kansas in the mid-1850s, crossed the border into Kansas specifically to vote for the proslavery candidates.

Boston Associates

The Boston Associates were a group of merchants headed by Francis Cabot Lowell. Between 1813 and 1850 they revolutionized textile production. Their Boston Manufacturing Company at Waltham, Massachusetts concentrated on the mass production of a single standardized product, cheap but durable cotton cloth.

US History Glossary

Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre was a violent confrontation between British troops and a Boston mob on March 5, 1770. Five citizens were killed when the troops fired on the crowd that had been harrassing them. The incident inflamed anti-British sentiment in the colony.

Boston Port Act

One of the Coercive Acts passed by Parliament in 1774 in response to the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Port Act closed the port of Boston until townspeople paid for the tea and the duties on it.

Boston Seamen's Aid Society

The Boston Seaman's Aid Society was a female reform organization founded in 1833 to assist widows and orphans of sailors.

Boston Tea Party

The December 16, 1773 Boston Tea Party was the colonists' response to Parliament's effort to help the British East India Company sell its surplus tea in America. Colonists saw it as a thinly disguised effort to entice them to pay the tea tax, tricking them into violating their claim to "no taxation without representation." The "party" led to the dumping of British tea into Boston Harbor in order to prevent payment of the duty on the tea.

Boxer Rebellion

The 1900 Boxer Rebellion in China tested the United States' new Open Door policy, because it could have provoked European and Japanese retaliation against China that could have led to China's dismemberment (and perhaps exclusion of the United States from trade there).

boycott

Colonists protested against British tax policies in the 1760s by refusing to import, that is, they boycotted British goods. Boycotts were effective in forcing the repeal of the Stamp Act and Townshend duties.

braceros

"Braceros" were temporary immigrant farm workers from Mexico who were allowed to migrate to the United States to work in the fields whenever cheap labor was needed. The United States and Mexico negotiated "bracero" agreements during World War II, and from 1948 to 1965.

bracket creep

With the high inflation of the Carter presidency, many people's taxes rose more rapidly than their wages and salaries because, as wages climbed in response to inflation, their incomes moved them into tax brackets with higher rates of taxation. This was called "bracket creep."

Bradford, William

Bradford was the governor of Pilgrim Separatists at Plymouth Plantation. He wrote a history of the colony titled "Of Plymouth Plantation."

Bradley, Omar

General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1951, concluded in an often-quoted remark that an American-Chinese war growing out of the Korean War "would be the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." Bradley thought U.S. military priorities were in the defense of Western Europe, not Korea.

US History Glossary

Brandeis, Louis

Brandeis, a lawyer, was the first Jewish member of the Supreme Court. When practicing law, he was a defender of the rights of labor and working people, exemplified in his "Brandeis brief" in the case of "Muller v. Oregon."

Breckinridge, John

Breckinridge, President Buchanan's vice-president, was nominated for president by the southern wing of the divided Democratic party in 1860. He wanted the territories left open to slavery. He won a majority of southern votes, but lost the election to Abraham Lincoln.

British Constitution

The British Constitution refers to the principles, procedures, and precedents that governed the operation of the British government. These could be found in no single written document, however; Parliament and the King made the Constitution by their actions.

broad constructionist

A broad constructionist favors reading implied powers into the Constitution.

Brook Farm

Brook Farm was a utopian community and experimental farm established in 1841 near Boston.

Brooklyn Bridge

John A. Roebling perfected the design of a steel-cabled suspension bridge. The Brooklyn Bridge, completed in 1893, was his masterpiece.

Brown v. Board of Education

In 1954, the Supreme Court reversed the 1896 "Plessy v. Ferguson" decision that established the "separate but equal" doctrine. The "Brown" decision found segregation in schools inherently unequal and in violation of the Constitution. The decision led to a long and difficult effort to integrate the nation's public schools.

Brown, John

John Brown was a radical abolitionist who violently attacked slavery. He led the Pottawatomie Massacre against proslavery settlers in Kansas in 1856. He also led the Harpers Ferry raid in Virginia in 1859. When he was arrested, tried, and executed for treason, he became a martyr to the abolitionist cause.

Bryan, William Jennings

Bryan, on the strength of his famous "Cross of Gold" speech, won the Democratic and Populist parties' nominations for president in 1896. He campaigned widely on a "free silver" platform for currency inflation, but was defeated by Republican William McKinley. He was later President Wilson's secretary of state, and a leading figure in the 1924 Scopes trial.

Bryan-Chamorro Treaty

The 1914 Bryan-Chamorro Treaty made Nicaragua a virtual protectorate of the United States. It guaranteed the United States an option to build a canal across Nicaragua and lent support to the unpopular dictatorial government of Adolpho Diaz.

Buchanan, James

Buchanan was an experienced diplomat and a co-author of the notorious Ostend Manifesto in 1854. Though labeled a "Doughface" by Republicans, he won the presidency as the nominee of the Democratic Party in 1856. The Democratic Party divided North and South during his term, and he sat paralyzed by indecision during the Secession Crisis of 1860-1861.

US History Glossary

Budget and Accounting Act

In 1921, Congress passed the Budget and Accounting Act. It created a director of the (federal) budget to help prepare a unified budget, and a comptroller general to audit government accounts.

bull market

A "bull" market means rising prices on the stock market; falling prices mean a "bear" market. The stock market was bullish in the 1920s until the Great Crash of late 1929.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was a government agency, within the U.S. Department of the Interior, responsible for carrying out official Indian policy.

Bureau of Reclamation

This federal agency established in 1902 provided public funds for irrigation projects in arid regions, and played a major role in the development of the West by constructing dams, reservoirs, and irrigation systems, especially beginning in the 1930s.

Burgoyne, John

General Burgoyne was commander of the British army that was captured at Saratoga in 1777. That battle changed the course and the character of the Revolutionary War by encouraging the French to ally with the colonies..

Burlingame Treaty

The Burlingame Treaty with China provided even more cheap "coolie" labor for U.S. railroad construction. It doubled the annual influx of Chinese immigrants between 1868 and 1882.

Burr, Aaron

Burr tied Jefferson for the presidency in the Electoral College vote in 1800 and became vice-president. He later killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel, and was acquitted of conspiring to commit treason when he was party to a mysterious scheme involving the Southwest Territory.

Bush, George

Vice President Bush was elected president in 1988. More moderate than his predecessor, he nevertheless promised the American people "no new taxes," a pledge he broke in 1990. Bush successfully commanded American military adventures in Panama in 1989 and the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He was defeated for reelection by Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.

business unionism

The American Federation of Labor's stance that members should avoid political activism and concentrate on basic workplace issues is referred to as business unionism.

Byrnes, James F.

Byrnes headed the Office of War Mobilization in World War II. He was second only to the president in authority to direct economic mobilization and postwar economic planning. He later became secretary of state (1945-47).

US History Glossary

-C-

Cabinet

The Cabinet is the body of secretaries appointed by the president to head executive departments and serve as advisers.

Cabot, John

Cabot was the seafarer whose explorations of Newfoundland and northeast North America in 1497-1498 established England's claim to New World territory.

Caesar's Column

"Caesar's Column" (1891) was a futuristic novel written by Minnesota Populist Ignatius Donnelly. He saw the United States headed for a plutocracy where the rich tyrannized the poor farmers and workingmen.

californio

A californio is a person of Spanish descent in California.

Calvin, John

Calvin was a Swiss Protestant leader and reformer whose ideas formed the religious doctrines of the Pilgrims (Separatists) and Puritans who later migrated to America.

Cambodian incursion

In 1970, President Nixon dispatched U.S. troops in Vietnam to destroy Vietcong sanctuaries in neighboring Cambodia. The incursion was brief and not very productive; its chief consequence was to provoke unprecedented antiwar sentiment and protest in the United States.

Camp David Agreement

In 1978, President Carter mediated a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Carter and the leaders of the two countries negotiated the treaty at Camp David, a presidential retreat near Washington, D.C.

Camp, Walter

Camp was the football coach at Yale University. He gave collegiate football much of its modern character and rules.

Capone, Al

Chicago gangster Al Capone grew rich on the bootleg-liquor traffic during the Prohibition Era of the 1920s.

Carmichael, Stokely

Carmichael was chairman of SNCC when, in the mid-1960s, it turned radical and opposed further cooperation with white liberals in the civil rights movement. He believed integration was a subterfuge for white supremacy.

Carnegie, Andrew

Carnegie organized the Carnegie Steel Company that dominated the industry for years. In his later years he turned his time and great wealth to philanthropic pursuits.

US History Glossary

carpetbaggers

Carpetbaggers were northerners who went to the South after the Civil War. They were a mixed lot of idealists and self-interested seekers of political and economic opportunity, many of whom became involved in Republican politics. "Carpetbaggers" has become a disparaging term.

Carranza, Venustiano

Carranza, a supporter of representative government, became president of Mexico in 1914. President Wilson extended his government diplomatic recognition as a way to help Mexico's constitutionalists regain order in the country.

Carter, Jimmy

Carter, a former governor of Georgia, was elected president in 1976. He was inexperienced in national politics and had a troubled one-term presidency.

Cass, Lewis

Cass was a Whig Senator from Michigan who, during the debate on the Wilmot Proviso, proposed the idea of popular sovereignty as a way to solve the problem of slavery in the territories.

Castro, Fidel

Castro was the leader of a rebel army that overthrew the corrupt and dictatorial Batista government in Cuba in 1959. As Castro drifted toward ties with the Soviets, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Cuba and imposed a trade embargo.

Catcher in the Rye, The

Author J. D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" (1951), like many popular novels of the 1950s and 1960s, was about people entirely wrapped up in themselves--members of the "me generation."

Cattle Kingdom

The Cattle Kingdom refers to the open-range cattle industry that stretched from Texas into Montana in the 1870s and 1880s.

cause celebre

A cause celebre is a celebrated legal case, usually a criminal case that excites great public interest. In the 1920s, the Sacco and Vanzetti case became a cause celebre.

CCC

During the Hundred Days, Congress created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to provide government jobs in reforestation, flood control, and other conservation projects to young men between eighteen and twenty-five. This popular New Deal program eventually employed over 300,000 people.

Centennial Exposition

The Centennial Exposition was a fair held in Philadelphia in 1876 to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the United States and to showcase American industry and technology.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

The CIA, established in 1947, is the agency that coordinates the gathering and evaluation of military and economics information on other nations.

US History Glossary

Central Powers

The Central Powers refers to Germany and its World War I allies Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria.

chain migration

A chain migration is a process common to many immigrant groups, whereby one family member brings over other family members, who in turn bring other relatives and friends and occasionally entire villages.

Challenger

In 1986, one of NASA's space shuttles, the "Challenger," exploded shortly after takeoff, killing its crew. The tragedy delayed space-shuttle launchings for three years.

Chambers, Whittaker

Chambers, a former communist and editor of "Time" magazine accused former State Department official Alger Hiss of having been a communist in the 1930s. Hiss sued Chambers for libel, but was himself tried and convicted of perjury.

Chancellorsville

Chancellorsville was the site of a battle ending in May 1863, marked by a Confederate victory, during which General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was mortally wounded.

Chaplin, Charlie

Chaplin was the greatest film star of his era, perhaps the greatest comic artist of his time. His most comical and endearing character was "the little tramp."

Charles River Bridge case

In the Charles River Bridge case (1837), the Supreme Court ruled that a state had a right to place the public's convenience over that of a private or particular company, over the presumed right of monopoly granted in a corporate charter. It advanced the interests of those who favored economic development.

Chase, Samuel

Associate Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase became a target of President Jefferson's first term attack on the federal judiciary. However, Chase was found innocent of any "high crimes and misdemeanors" required by the Constitution to remove a federal judge.

Chattanooga

Chattanooga was the site of a series of Civil War campaigns culminating in a smashing Union victory in November 1863 as federal troops broke a Confederate siege of the city and opened the road to Georgia.

Chautauqua movement

The Chautauqua (N. Y.) movement responded to the desire for formal education among many late nineteenth-century adults. It offered instruction, texts, and lectures on many subjects, and it provided educational opportunities for thousands who were seeking intellectual stimulation.

Chavez, Cesar

Chavez organized Mexican migrant farm laborers into the United Farm Workers union in the 1970s. He used strikes, boycotts, and nonviolent resistance to protest unfair practices of the growers.

checks and balances

The Constitution contains ingenious devices of countervailing power. These checks on centralized power balance the authority of government between the co-equal branches of the presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court. This is sometimes called the separation of powers.

US History Glossary

Cherokee War

This conflict from 1759 to 1761 on the southern frontier between the Cherokee Indians and colonists from Virginia southward caused South Carolina to request the aid of British troops and resulted in the surrender of more Indian land to whites.

Cherry Valley

Cherry Valley was the site of a Revolutionary War incident that occurred on November 11, 1778, when Joseph Brant of the Mohawks and Captain Walter Butler led seven hundred Indians and Tories on a raid of a New York valley that left as many as fifty Whig settlers dead.

Chesapeake incident

The U.S. naval vessel "Chesapeake" was fired upon and boarded by British officers in 1807, and four sailors were impressed. The incident provoked a clamor for war in the United States, but President Jefferson asked Congress for the Embargo Act instead.

Chicago Defender

The Chicago Defender was a major black newspaper that encouraged black migration from the South to the urban North.

Chief Joseph

Chief Joseph was chief of the Nez Perce Indians who, after a long campaign, finally surrendered to General Nelson A. Miles and U.S. troops in 1877. The Nez Perce were then sent to reservations in Oklahoma.

Children's Bureau

Established in 1912, the Children's Bureau was a federal agency for investigating and reporting on matters pertaining to the welfare of children.

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

The umbrella social service organization enabled Chinese immigrants to pool their resources to assist in such activities as job hunting, housing, support for the sick or poor, and burial.

Chinese Exclusion Act

This law passed by Congress in 1882 prohibited Chinese immigration to the United States; it was overturned in 1943.

Chisholm Trail

The Chisholm Trail was the route followed by Texas cattle raisers driving their herds north to markets at Kansas railheads.

Church of England

The Anglican church became the official Church of England during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603). During Elizabeth's reign, England assumed the leadership of the Protestant world

Church of God

The Church of God was a religious movement that emerged from the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina in 1886 as part of the Holiness movement. It accepted women, and sometimes blacks, on an equal basis with white men.

US History Glossary

Churchill, Winston

Churchill was prime minister of Britain from 1940 to 1945. He was one of the Big Three Allied leaders along with Roosevelt and Stalin. His eloquent statesmanship and steady leadership inspired the British people during the dark days of World War II.

Cincinnati Red Stockings

The Cincinnati Red Stockings were the first professional baseball team in America. It and seven other teams formed the National League in 1876.

CIO

The New Deal's support for labor organization fostered the creation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which organized the workers in mass-production industries like steel and automobiles. It did much to improve the working conditions of unskilled factory workers, increase the political influence of labor, and bring minorities into the labor movement.

Circular Letter

In 1768 the Massachusetts assembly circulated among the other colonies a document denouncing the Townshend duties. The Circular Letter claimed that the duties infringed on the colonists' natural and constitutional rights.

Citizen Genet

Genet was a special representative to the United States sent by the French government to seek support for the French Revolution. He was popularly received, but when he began recruiting ships and men for service to France, President Washington demanded his departure.

city commission

The city-commission form of city government was an invention of progressives and was designed to concentrate responsibility and ease the coordination of complex municipal activities. The system integrated executive and legislative powers in the hands of a small elected commission. It was first experimented with in Galveston, Texas.

city manager

The city-manager system of city government was an invention of progressives and was designed to bring expertise and efficiency to city government. In this system, elected commissioners appointed a nonpartisan, professional manager to administer city affairs. It enjoyed exemplary success in Dayton, Ohio.

Civil Disobedience

Henry David Thoreau wrote his essay on "Civil Disobedience" to express his view of the proper relationship between the individual and the government. He argued for passive resistance against government policies with which one disagreed. Like all romantics, he glorified individualism and condemned conformity and coercion.

Civil Rights Act

The 1866 Civil Rights Act declared that blacks were citizens of the United States, and it denied states the power to restrict blacks' basic civil rights. Congress overrode President Johnson's veto of the bill.

Civil Rights Act of 1875

Ultimately declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1883, this law prohibited racial discrimination in jury selection, public transportation, and public accommodations.

US History Glossary

Civil Rights Act of 1957

In response to African Americans' demands for unhindered voter registration in the South, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. It authorized the attorney general to use injunctions to block interference with black voter registration, created an investigative civil-rights commission, and created a civil-rights division in the Justice Department.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

This federal legislation outlawed discrimination in public accommodations and employment on the basis of race, skin color, sex, religion, or national origin.

civil service reform

To clean up the graft, corruption, and favoritism of the spoils system of political patronage, civil service reformers advocated a standardized examination of office seekers. The 1882 Pendleton Act initiated this reform at the federal level.

Civil Works Administration (CWA)

During the winter of 1933-34, this government agency under Harry Hopkins created 4 million relief jobs for the unemployed.

claims club

A claims club was a group of local settlers on the nineteenth-century frontier who banded together to prevent the price of their land claims from being bid up by outsiders at public land auctions.

Clark Memorandum

State Department officer Reuben Clark's 1930 memorandum rescinded the U.S. claim to the right to intervene in the affairs of Latin American nations as expressed in the Roosevelt Corollary. It laid the groundwork for the Good Neighbor policy of the Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt administrations.

Clayton Antitrust Act

The 1914 Clayton Antitrust Act strengthened existing antitrust laws. It outlawed interlocking directorates, exempted labor unions from antitrust laws, and limited the use of injunctions in labor disputes.

Clayton-Bulwer Treaty

The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty (1850) provided for the demilitarization and joint British-American control of any canal across the Central American isthmus of Panama. For Americans, it was a response to the need for improved communications to the West Coast.

Clean Air Act

In 1970, the Clean Air Act set federal standards for air quality.

clear and present danger

The "clear and present danger" doctrine was promulgated in the Supreme Court's ruling in "Schenck v. U.S." in 1919. It upheld the constitutionality of the wartime Espionage Act and endorsed limited government repression of free speech in wartime.

Clemenceau, Georges

Clemenceau, premier of France in 1919, represented his nation's interests as part of the "Big Four" at the Versailles peace conference. French security and the crippling of Germany were his primary focus, and he was cynical toward President Wilson's "peace without victory."

US History Glossary

Clermont

The "Clermont" was the steamboat constructed by Robert Fulton in 1807. Soon steamboats were plying the waters of every navigable river from the Mississippi River east.

Cleveland, Grover

Cleveland, who was elected president in 1884 and 1892, was the only Democrat to be elected president between 1856 and 1912. Like the Republican presidents of the time, he held a narrow view of presidential power, although he did try to lead Congress toward tariff reform.

Clinton, Bill

Clinton, former governor of Arkansas, was elected president in 1992 and 1996. He presided over two administrations that were mostly moderate and flexible on domestic policy and noninterventionist in foreign policy.

Clinton, DeWitt

Clinton, while state canal commissioner of New York, proposed the construction of the Erie Canal. Construction began in 1817 and was completed in 1825.

clipper ships

Clipper ships were speedy, long, sleek sailing ships that cut sailing time from the Atlantic to Pacific coast in half in the 1850s. Their heyday was brief, however, since they were uneconomical for bulky cargoes that were the mainstay of commerce.

closed shop

In a closed shop, provisions written into labor contracts require new workers to join a union before they may be employed. Closed shops were outlawed by the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act.

Coercive Acts

Parliament responded to the Boston Tea Party by passing the Coercive Acts in 1774. They were unjust acts in that they intended to punish Boston and Massachusetts generally for the crime committed by a few individuals. Colonists called these (combined with the Quartering and Quebec acts) the Intolerable Acts.

Cold Harbor

At this crossroads 10 miles northeast of Richmond where in June 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant launched a disastrous assault on Confederate positions during the Civil War.

Cold War

The term "Cold War" refers to the antagonism between the Soviet Union and the West, especially the United States, from the end of World War II to the late 1980s. Its origins as World War II was ending is a subject of controversy among historians.

collaborationist

A collaborationist willingly cooperates, complies with, or assists enemy forces occupying his country. During World War II, the Vichy government of France collaborated with German occupying forces.

collective bargaining

Collective bargaining involves negotiations between the representatives of owners and employees to decide on wages, hours, and working conditions. Most late nineteenth-century employers refused to bargain with union representatives.

US History Glossary

Colored Farmers' Alliance

The Colored Farmers' Alliance was an organization of southern black farmers formed in Texas in 1886 in response to the Southern Farmers' Alliance, which did not accept blacks as members.

Collier, John

President Franklin Roosevelt named Collier commissioner of Indian affairs. He successfully urged Congress to pass the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 to replace the 1887 Dawes Severalty Act. This restored tribal government.

Colonial Wars

Three colonial wars were fought between England and France between 1689 and 1748. In these, the American colonists were only peripherally involved.

colonization

Early nineteenth-century antislavery advocates proposed the idea of colonization--transporting freed slaves back to Africa. Appealing to the nation's racial prejudices, they thought southerners would be more likely to free their slaves if they would then be removed from America's shores.

Columbian exchange

The Columbian exchange involves the transatlantic exchange of plants, animals, and diseases that occurred after the first European contact with the Americas.

Columbus, Christopher

Columbus was an Italian seafarer commissioned by the Spanish monarchs to establish a western trade route to the Orient. He discovered the New World in 1492 and opened the Western Hemisphere to exploration and settlement from Europe.

Columbus, New Mexico

In 1916, Mexican "bandit" Pancho Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico, hoping to provoke U.S. intervention that would topple the Carranza government he opposed. U.S. troops intervened to chase Villa, but were withdrawn before he could be found.

Comecon

The Comecon, or Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, was established in 1949 by the Soviet Union and its eastern European satellites.

Committee of Safety

The Committee of Safety refers to any of the extralegal committees that directed the Revolutionary movement and carried on the functions of government at the local level in the period between the breakdown of royal authority and the establishment of regular governments under the new state constitutions. Some Committees of Safety continued to function throughout the Revolutionary War.

Committee on Public Information (CPI)

During World War I, President Wilson created the CPI and appointed journalist George Creel to head it. The committee's objective was to maximize national loyalty and support for the war. It was a hard-working wartime propaganda organization.

Committees of Correspondence

Colonial radicals formed these committees in 1772 in order to step up communications among the colonies, and to plan joint action in case of trouble. Their organization was a key step in the direction of establishing an organized colony-wide resistance movement.

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Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies

This organization formed before American entrance into World War II to support Franklin Roosevelt's policy of resisting Nazi Germany by actively aiding the British war effort.

common man

The Americans of Andrew Jackson's day (1820-1840) found it easy to believe that every person was the equal to and as politically important as his neighbor. This view led to the glorification of ordinariness and made mediocrity a virtue. It also led to a democratizing of American politics in the period.

common school

The early nineteenth-century common school movement was grounded in the belief that a successful republican government depended on an educated citizenry. This defined a need for free tax-supported common schools, which all children were expected to attend. Horace Mann was the recognized leader of the common school movement.

Common Sense

"Common Sense" was the revolutionary tract written by Thomas Paine in January 1776. It was a bold call for independence and the establishment of republican government in America.

Commonwealth v. Hunt

In "Commonwealth v. Hunt" (1842) the Massachusetts Supreme Court established the legality of labor unions, refuting the notion that they were inherently criminal conspiracies guilty of restraining trade. Other state courts followed this precedent.

Communism

Communism is a social structure based on the common ownership of property.

communitarianism

Communitarianism was a point of view aimed at reforming society by first establishing and demonstrating its principles on a small scale; in a commune. Communitarians were motivated either by religious beliefs or secular ideologies, but, while briefly popular, most were ineffective and did not last.

community action agencies

Community action agencies were locally based anti-poverty organizations created under federal legislation in 1964 and intended to allow poor people to help plan programs and services.

companionate family

In the "companionate" family emerging in the 1920s, husbands and wives dealt with each other as equals, sharing all family chores and responsibilities. Children in the companionate family were raised in a permissive atmosphere.

competency

In colonial New England, competency was defined as the possession of enough property to maintain a family's independent economic existence.

Compromise of 1850

The Compromise of 1850 was Congress's attempt to settle several outstanding issues involving slavery. It banned the slave trade, but not slavery in Washington, D.C.; admitted California as a free state; applied popular sovereignty to the remaining Mexican Cession territory; settled the Texas-New Mexico boundary dispute; and passed a more stringent Fugitive Slave Act.

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Compromise of 1877

Allegedly, a deal was struck in 1877 to settle the disputed outcome of the 1876 presidential election. In this Compromise of 1877, Democrats accepted the election of the Republican, Rutherford Hayes. In return, Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South and end Reconstruction.

Conant, James

Conant, a former president of Harvard University, was a post-World War II critic of the de-emphasis on traditional subject matter in American schools. He criticized the schools for their failure to effectively teach English grammar and composition, and foreign languages.

concentration

Concentration was the Indian policy adopted by the U.S. government in the late nineteenth century. Indians were persuaded to accept defined limits to their hunting ground. This enabled the government to negotiate with each tribe separately--a strategy of divide and conquer.

concentration camp

A concentration camp was a prison camp for political dissenters and social undesirables, used extensively in Nazi Germany.

Conciliatory Proposition

In this plan proposed by Lord North and adopted by the House of Commons in February 1775, Parliament would forbear taxation of Americans in colonies whose assemblies imposed taxes considered satisfactory by the British government. The Continental Congress rejected this plan on July 31, 1775.

Confederate States of America (CSA)

The CSA was declared to be a nation in Montgomery, Alabama, in February 1861, after the seven states of the Lower South seceded from the United States.

Confiscation Act of 1862

This, the second confiscation act passed by Congress, ordered the seizure of land from disloyal Southerners and the emancipation of their slaves.

Congress on Racial Equality

CORE was a civil rights group formed in 1942. They were committed to nonviolent civil disobedience, such as the 1961 "freedom rides."

Congressional Reconstruction

Congressional Reconstruction is the name given to the period from 1867 to 1870 when the Republican-dominated Congress controlled Reconstruction policy. It is sometimes known as Radical Reconstruction, after the radical faction in the Republican Party.

Conkling, Roscoe

Conkling, a New York congressman, was most noted for his leadership of the conservative Stalwart faction of the Republican Party in the late nineteenth century.

Conquistadores

Brave, brutal, and imaginative Spanish conquerors of the New World, "conquistadors" (Spanish for "conqueror") were noted for their mistreatment of Native Americans.

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Conscience Whigs

The Conscience Whigs were northern Whigs who opposed the existence of slavery in the territories. When the Whig party disintegrated after 1852, and the Democratic party was dominated by proslavery southerners, most Conscience Whigs joined the new Republican party.

conscription

Both the Confederates (in 1862) and the Union (in 1863) raised manpower during the Civil War by military draft, or conscription. This coercive measure was resented in both the North and the South. However, the bulk of the fighting forces in both armies were raised through voluntary enlistment.

conservation

Conservation refers to the efficient management and use of natural resources, such as forests, grasslands, and rivers, as opposed to preservation or uncontrolled exploitation.

conservative coalition

By 1938, many conservative Democrats alienated by New Deal deficit spending and predominantly southerners, joined with Republicans to form an anti-New Deal "conservative coalition" in Congress. The coalition succeeded in blocking additional New Deal legislation.

Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in 1787 and drafted the Constitution of the United States.

Constitutional Union party

Formed in 1860 mainly by former Whigs, the national Constitutional Union party emphasized allegiance to the Union and strict enforcement of all national legislation.

Constitution of the United States

The U.S. Constitution served as the written document that provided for a new central government for the nation. It was drawn up at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and ratified by the states in 1788.

Continental Army

The Continental Army was the regular or professional army authorized by the Second Continental Congress. General George Washington commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Better training and longer service distinguished its soldiers from the state militiamen.

Continental Association

In 1774, the First Continental Congress called for the boycott of British goods and the stopping of exports to England. The Continental Association was created to enforce these measures. Local committees were established to enforce the provisions of the association.

Continental dollars

The Continental Congress issued paper money called Continental dollars to finance the Revolution. Lacking tax revenues to back it up, this money depreciated rapidly. By mid-1781, it was literally worthless, but it had served its purpose by helping Congress conduct the war for six years.

Continental System

Napoleon's Continental System was supposed to make Europe economically self-sufficient and isolate Britain by depriving it of its European markets. The system ignored U.S. claims to neutral rights.

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contrabands

Slaves who escaped from their masters to Union lines during the Civil War were called contrabands.

contract theory of government

The contract theory of government posits that government is established by human beings to protect certain rights--such as life, liberty, and property--that are theirs by natural, divinely sanctioned law and that when government protects these rights, people are obligated to obey it. But when government violates its part of the bargain (or contract) between the rulers and the ruled, the people are no longer required to obey it and may establish a new government that will do a better job of protecting them. Elements of this theory date back to the ancient Greeks; John Locke used it in his Second Treatise on Government (1682), and Thomas Jefferson gave it memorable expression in the Declaration of Independence, where it provides the rationale for renouncing allegiance to King George III.

Contract with America

In 1994, conservative Republican congressional candidates signed a Contract with America pledging support for conservative reforms. Conservative Republicans helped their party win control of Congress in 1994. Associated with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, it proposed a sweeping reduction in the role and activities of the federal government. Congress, however, passed few of the contract's proposals, or President Clinton vetoed them.

Contras

Contras were Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries ("contra" means "against") who tried to overthrow the Sandinista government in that country. The Contras were backed by the Reagan administration.

convention

New state constitutions were usually written by specially called state conventions that were empowered to draft the charters. They illustrate the idea that constitutions are contracts between the people and their leaders.

Convention of 1800

The Convention of 1800 was negotiated with Napoleon. It ended the Franco-American Alliance of 1778, and ended the war scare produced by the XYZ Affair.

Convention of 1818

In the convention of 1818 Britain and the United States agreed to the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of the Louisiana Territory between Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains. The two nations also agreed to joint occupation of the Oregon country for ten years.

Coolidge, Calvin

President Coolidge was the darling of conservatives in the 1920s (and of President Reagan in the 1980s). He greatly admired businessmen and was devoted to laissez-faire economics. During his one-term presidency, complacency was the order of the day.

cooling-off period

The 1947 Taft-Hartley Act mandated an eighty-day "cooling off" period when the president sought an injunction to stop a strike that threatened national security. During the period, investigations and recommendations could be made to resolve the labor dispute.

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Cooper, James Fenimore

Cooper was the author of "The Last of the Mohicans" (1826). He presented a vivid, if somewhat romanticized view of frontier life.

cooperative

A cooperative was an organization that allowed a group of farmers to buy tools, seed, livestock, and other farm-related products at discounted prices in bulk.

Copley, John Singleton

Copley, an early nineteenth-century artist, painted portraits with a stern, straightforwardness that gave them a distinctively American character.

Copperheads

Copperheads were mostly northern Democrats who opposed all measures in support of war against the Confederacy. They wanted a negotiated peace. Republicans also applied the term copperhead to those suspected of aiding the Confederate cause during the Civil War.

cordon sanitaire

The cordon sanitaire referred to the belt of anti-Communist eastern European nations that separated western Europe from the Soviet Union after World War I.

Cornwallis, Charles

General Cornwallis commanded British troops in the South in 1778-1781. He was surrounded and forced to surrender at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.

corporation

America's modern method of organizing and financing large enterprises, corporations, were rare before the Civil War. There was a strong cultural bias against corporations in the early nineteenth century, and chartering corporations often required a special act by a state legislature.

corrupt bargain

In the controversial Election of 1824, John Quincy Adams laid himself open to the charge of having won the presidency by virtue of a "corrupt bargain" with Henry Clay. Employing his great influence in the House of Representatives, Clay swung the House vote for Adams for president. Adams then appointed Clay as his secretary of state.

cotton gin

Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793. The device efficiently separated upland cotton fiber from its sticky seeds and made cotton production highly profitable throughout the South. This in turn brought a revival of southern slavery.

Cotton Whigs

The Cotton Whigs were southerners who were alienated from the Whig party by their antislavery brethren. When the Whig party disintegrated after 1852, they joined with proslavery southerners in the Democratic party.

Coughlin, Charles

Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest, contended on his popular radio show that inflating the currency could solve the Great Depression. He turned against the New Deal, and verbally attacked bankers, New Dealers, and Jews.

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Council of Economic Advsiers

A board of three professional economists, the Council of Economic Advisers was established in 1946 to advise the president on economic policy.

Council of National Defense

A government body consisting of cabinet officials and economic leaders, the Council of National Defense oversaw the wartime agencies controlling the nation's economy during World War I.

counterculture

The term counterculture referred to various alternatives to mainstream values and behaviors that became popular in the 1960s. Among these were experimentation with psychedelic drugs, communal living, a return to the land, Asian religions, and experimental art.

Country (Real Whig) ideology

Country ideology first appeared in England in the late seventeenth century in response to the growth of governmental power and a national debt. Main ideas of this strain of thought stressed the threat to personal liberty posed by a standing army and high taxes, and emphasized the need for property holders to retain the right to consent to taxation.

coureur de bois

French for "woods runner," a coureur de bois was an independent fur trader in New France.

court-packing scheme

Concerned that the conservative Supreme Court might declare all his New Deal programs unconstitutional, President Roosevelt asked Congress to allow him to appoint more justices, who would likely be more sympathetic to Roosevelt's program, to the Court. Both Congress and the public rejected this "court-packing" scheme and it was defeated.

covenant

A covenant was an agreement or contract among Puritans that was intended to ensure the upright behavior of all who migrated to the Massachusetts Bay colony. Settlers believed that they made a covenant with the Lord to create a godly society, and in their towns and churches, settlers made covenants whereby they agreed to live and worship in harmony. Also, more broadly, a covenant is a formal agreement or contract.

Coxey, Jacob

In 1894, Ohio small-town businessman Jacob Coxey led an "army" of unemployed workers to Washington, D.C. They demanded a federal public works program to make jobs available to those left unemployed by the Panic of 1893. He was arrested for trespassing on the White House lawn.

crack

"Crack" is a cheap, smokeable, and highly addictive form of cocaine. Its widespread use is a symptom of the "drug problem" in contemporary America.

creation theory

In response to the evolutionary theory often taught in science classes in postwar public schools, religious fundamentalists have argued in favor of teaching the biblical explanation of Creation.

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CREEP

The Republican-backed Committee to Re-elect the President in 1972 was anagrammed CREEP. James McCord, a security officer in CREEP, and four others (the "plumbers") broke into the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate apartment and office complex in Washington, D.C., initiating the Watergate scandal.

creeping socialism

When Eisenhower became president in 1953 he spoke of the necessity to stop "creeping socialism," referring to the increasing expense and centralized authority of the federal government. He advocated more local control of government affairs and reduced government spending.

Creole

A Creole was a slave of African descent born in the colonies.

Crime of '73

In 1873 Congress demonetized silver. Inflationists who wanted a bimetallic standard for the money supply (gold and silver) called this the "Crime of '73." In a series of compromise legislation, the government began purchasing stocks of silver, but, because of the enormous productivity of western silver mines, it had little inflationary effect.

criollo

A criollo was a person of Spanish descent born in the Americas or in the West Indies.

Crittenden Compromise

During the Secession Crisis in 1860-1861, Kentucky Senator John Crittenden proposed a North-South compromise on slavery. He proposed a constitutional amendment recognizing slavery in all territory south of 36° 30' (the "Missouri Compromise line"), and an unamendable amendment guaranteeing slavery in slave states. President-elect Lincoln and the Republicans rejected the proposals.

crop lien system

To finance the sharecropping system, southerners turned to the crop lien system. Landowners and sharecroppers borrowed (at high interest rates) against the future harvest. Lenders insisted that they produce cash crops like cotton. The system made landowners and sharecroppers dependent on local merchants, and it prevented the development of diversified farming in the South.

Crusades

The Crusades were European religious campaigns of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries that attempted to drive the Muslims from the Middle Eastern Holy Land. They were partly responsible for stimulating trade between Western Europe and Asia.

cryptanalyst

A cryptanalyst deciphers coded messages. In 1941, cryptanalyst Colonel William Friedman had deciphered the Japanese diplomatic code, so American leaders knew a Japanese attack was imminent. They expected it to be in the Philippines or Southeast Asia, not Pearl Harbor.

Cuban missile crisis

In 1962, the United States and Soviet Union came close to nuclear war when the United States insisted that the Soviets remove their missiles from Cuba. The Soviets eventually did so, nuclear war was averted, and the crisis passed.

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cult of true womanhood (or cult of domesticity)

Early nineteenth-century male expectations of the role of women in society reflected a "cult of true womanhood." In this conception, a woman was expected to be pious, pure, submissive, and domesticated; her place was in the home.

culture area

A culture area is a geographical region inhabited by peoples who share similar basic patterns of subsistence and social organization.

Currency Act

Passed by Parliament in 1764, the Currency Act prevented the colonies from issuing legal tender paper money, which often depreciated.

Currier and Ives

In the late 1850s, the prints of the firm of Currier and Ives appealed to a wide audience. Their lithographs of common scenes were issued in large editions and were relatively inexpensive.

Custer, George A.

Colonel Custer commanded a detachment of the Seventh Cavalry that was annihilated at the Battle of Little Bighorn in June 1876.

Czolgosz, Leon

Czolgosz, an anarchist, assassinated President William McKinley in 1901, making Vice President Theodore Roosevelt the new president.

-D-

D-Day

D-Day was June 6, 1944, the day Allied troops crossed the English Channel and opened a second front in Western Europe. The "D" stands for "disembarkation"--to leave a ship and go ashore. D-Day saw the first paratroop drops and amphibious landings on the coast of Normandy, France, in the first stage of Operation OVERLORD during World War II.

Daley, Richard

In 1968, Chicago Mayor Daley surrounded the Democratic National Convention hall with police. During the convention, Chicago police rioted in response to antiwar demonstrations and hundreds of protestors were beaten and arrested.

Darrow, Clarence

Darrow, a noted defense lawyer for radical and lost causes, was John Scopes' defense attorney in the "monkey trial" in 1924. His defense rested on exposing the childlike faith and naive ignorance of religious fundamentalists like William Jennings Bryan.

Dartmouth College v. Woodward

In the Dartmouth College case (1819), the Supreme Court prohibited states from interfering with the privileges granted to a private corporation. In its ruling, the Supreme Court mandated that a charter granted by a state was a contract and could not be canceled or altered without the consent of both parties. The ruling caused states to spell out the limitations of corporate charters in greater detail.

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Davis, Jefferson

Davis became the first (and only) president of the Confederate States of America. He had been a respected Senator from Mississippi and former Secretary of War, but Davis proved unable to provide strong national leadership for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Dawes Act

The Dawes Act was an 1887 law terminating tribal ownership of land and allotting some parcels of land to individual Indians with the remainder opened for white settlement.

Dawes Plan

The Dawes Plan (1924) and Young Plan (1929) were international arrangements to help European nations pay their war debts to the United States and help Germany pay its reparations obligations. The onset of the depression in the 1930s ruined chances that either war debts or reparations would continue to be paid.

de Gaulle, Charles

French General de Gaulle organized a government in exile after the collapse of France to German invasion in 1940. He later became president of the Fifth French Republic (1959-69).

de Lùme, Dupuy

De Lùme was the Spanish minister to the United States in the 1890s. In a private letter to a friend, he made several insulting remarks about President McKinley. The letter was published in February 1898 and inflamed American anti-Spanish sentiment, moving the United States and Spain closer to war.

de Tocqueville, Alexis

Tocqueville was a French visitor to the United States in the early 1830s. He was impressed by the relative equality of opportunity and condition in America and wrote of it in his classic description of Jacksonian America, "Democracy in America."

Dean, John

During the Watergate hearings in 1973, President Nixon's lawyer, John Dean, gave extensive testimony implicating the president in a cover-up of the Watergate break-in.

Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms

This declaration, issued by the Second Continental Congress, was a comprehensive condemnation of everything the British had done since 1763. Colonists now claimed they had to make a choice between submission to tyranny and resistance by force.

Declaration of Independence

Written by Thomas Jefferson and adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence justified the American Revolution by reference to republican theory and to the many injustices of King George III toward the colonies. The declaration's indictment of the king provides a remarkably full catalog of the colonists' grievances, and Jefferson's eloquent and inspiring statement of the contract theory of government makes the document one of the world's great state papers.

Declaration of London

This statement drafted by an international conference in 1909 clarified international law and specified the rights of neutral nations.

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Declaration of Rights and Grievances

These resolves, adopted by the Stamp Act Congress at New York in 1765, asserted that the Stamp Act and other taxes imposed on the colonists without their consent, given through their colonial legislature, were unconstitutional.

Declaration of Sentiments

These resolutions passed at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 called for full female equality, including the right to vote.

Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms

This document, written mainly by John Dickinson of Pennsylvania and adopted on July 6, 1775 by the Second Continental Congress allowed the Congress to justify its armed resistance against British measures.

Declaratory Act

Parliament passed the 1766 Declaratory Act when it repealed the Stamp Act. It stated that the colonies were entirely subordinate to Parliament's authority, and that Parliament had the authority to legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever." Whether "legislate" meant tax was not clear to Americans.

declension

Declension was the decline of the Puritan experiment in Massachusetts Bay. It began in the 1660s and was marked by the loss of religious intensity. It was manifested in the adoption of the Half-Way Covenant in 1662.

Deere, John

Deere was a blacksmith who, in 1839, invented the steel plow. His plow cut easily through the tough and sticky prairie sod of the upper Mississippi Valley and opened it to extensive farming.

defensive perimeter

In 1950, Secretary of State Dean Acheson excluded Korea from the U.S. defensive perimeter in Asia. Included within the perimeter were Japan, the Philippines, and Formosa (Taiwan). Acheson's exclusion of Korea may have helped invite the communist North Korean invasion of South Korea in June 1950.

Deism

Deism was the faith of the Enlightenment that revered God for the marvels of the universe rather than for His power over humankind. This religious orientation rejects divine revelation and holds that the workings of nature alone reveal God's design for the universe.

Democracy in America

In 1831 Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States and prepared material for his book, "Democracy in America," which was published in 1835. It is a classic, though not altogether accurate, description of the "equality of conditions" he found in America.

Democratic party

- 1) Sometimes called the Jeffersonian Democrats, this party organized in opposition to Federalist policies in the 1790s and gained control of the national government in the election of 1800.
- 2) The Democratic Party was reorganized on a popular basis during the 1820s under the leadership of Andrew Jackson. From the 1830s through the early decades of the twentieth century, the party generally favored states' rights and a limited role for the federal government.

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Denmark Vesey's conspiracy

As part of this slave revolt, the most carefully devised slave revolt, the rebels planned to seize control of Charleston in 1822 and escape to freedom in Haiti, a free black republic, but they were betrayed by other slaves, and seventy-five conspirators were executed. The revolt was named for its leader, a free black in Charleston.

deregulation

Deregulation refers to the reduction or removal of government regulations and encouragement of direct competition in many important industries and economic sectors.

Desert Shield

Desert Shield was the U.S. and Allied military operation to protect Saudi Arabia from possible attack after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990; this set the stage for the military offensive in 1991 code-named Desert Storm.

Desert Storm

Desert Storm was the code name for the successful offensive against Iraq by the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

deskilling

Deskilling refers to a decline in work force skills due to discrimination, as for southern blacks in the late nineteenth century, or to mechanization, as for white industrial workers in the same period.

destroyers-for-bases deal

In 1940, President Roosevelt arranged to trade fifty old American naval destroyers to Britain in exchange for six Caribbean naval bases. It was a shrewd deal that helped save Britain's fleet and bolster U.S. defenses in the Atlantic.

détente

"Détente" is a French term meaning the relaxation of tensions. The word was used to identify U.S.-Soviet and U.S.-Chinese relations in the 1970s, as the superpowers pursued friendlier relations with each other.

Dewey, George

Commodore Dewey, commander of the navy's Asiatic Squadron, steamed from Hong Kong to Manila as the Spanish-American War began in 1898. He quickly defeated the Spanish fleet and gained control of Manila in the Philippines.

Dewey, John

The "father" of progressive education, John Dewey published "The School and Society" (1899) to suggest the need for an education that was practical and useful. He insisted that education should be child centered and that schools should build character, teach good citizenship, and be instruments of social reform.

Dewey, Thomas E.

Dewey, a successful governor of New York, was the Republican candidate for president in 1944, when he lost to Roosevelt, and in 1948, when he lost to Truman.

Dickinson, John

Dickinson published the "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania" denying that Parliament had the right to tax the colonies, although he was loyal to the empire and searched for a peaceful solution to colonial problems.

US History Glossary

Diem, Ngo Dinh

Diem was the president of South Vietnam from 1954 to 1963. He was a Catholic in a largely Buddhist nation, and an intense anticommunist. The United States backed his increasingly ineffective government until Diem was killed during a 1963 coup.

Dien Bien Phu

In 1954, French troops were defeated at Dien Bien Phu in northern Vietnam. This effectively ended French colonial rule in Vietnam and bolstered the cause of Vietnamese nationalism. Vietnam's most popular nationalist leader, Ho Chi Minh, was a communist.

Direct Tax of 1798

The Direct tax of 1798 was a national tax levied on land, slaves, and dwellings.

disenfranchisement

Disenfranchisement refers to the use of legal means to bar individuals or groups from voting.

direct taxes

The Stamp Act was a direct tax, an excise tax on all kinds of printed matter. It was designed to raise revenue to defray British imperial expenses in America. Indirect taxes, like the Navigation Acts, were taxes on colonial imports, and were designed to regulate imperial trade.

disestablishment

To disestablish means to withdraw exclusive government recognition or support. The final disestablishment of America's churches in the 1830s reflected the Jacksonian dislike of special privilege.

distribution

President Jackson, who generally held to Jeffersonian views of states' rights and limited government, suggested that once the federal debt was paid off, the surplus revenues of the federal government should be distributed among the states.

Distribution Act

The 1841 Distribution Act called for distributing the proceeds from federal land sales to the states. Its political purpose was to reduce federal revenues in order to justify raising tariff rates, the chief source of federal revenue.

Divine Creation

Religious fundamentalists in the 1920s insisted that the only explanation for the origin of the human species was divine creation. A Tennessee law to that effect was tested in the 1924 Scopes trial when biology teacher John Scopes tried to teach a class on Darwinian evolution.

Dix, Dorothea

In the early nineteenth century, Dix devoted herself to a campaign to improve the care of the insane. She traveled extensively inspecting asylums and poorhouses, but in the long run, her hopes for reform were not realized.

Dixiecrats

Southern Democrats who broke from the party in 1948 over the issue of civil rights and ran a presidential ticket as the States' Rights Democrats were referred to as dixiecrats.

US History Glossary

dollar diplomacy

Dollar diplomacy was a foreign policy associated with the presidency of William Taft. It reasoned that American economic penetration would bring stability and safety to underdeveloped nations (particularly in Latin America and Asia), and bring profit and power to the United States without the need to for actual U.S. control of the region.

Dominion of New England

The Dominion was a governing scheme of James II in the 1680s designed to bring greater imperial supervision of the New England colonies and New York. James II planned to combine eight northern colonies into a single large province, to be governed by a royal appointee (Sir Edmund Andros) with an appointed council but no elective assembly. Andros made himself obnoxious to the Massachusetts Bay Puritans, who rebelled against his rule, and James II was ousted from the English throne, ending the plan.

domino theory

The domino theory held that the loss of one nation to communist control would start a chain reaction that would inevitably lead to communist domination of all its neighboring nations. The theory was used to justify U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

double-digit inflation

The most disturbing problem that troubled the United States during the Carter presidency was soaring inflation. Double-digit inflation (10 percent and up) had a devastating effect on those living on fixed incomes, and it reduced the inclination to save and invest.

doughboys

The doughboys were American troops of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) who served in Europe in World War I. Their presence boosted the morale of British and French troops and was decisive in the outcome of the war.

Doughface

"Doughface" was the pejorative appellation Republicans pinned on President Buchanan. It was their belief that he lacked the force of character to stand up against southern proslavery extremists.

Douglas, Stephen A.

Democratic Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois managed the congressional maneuvering that resulted in the Compromise of 1850. He championed popular sovereignty in the 1850s and introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854. He and Abraham Lincoln engaged in a classic political debate in 1858, and he was the Northern Democratic presidential candidate in 1860.

Douglass, Frederick

Douglass was a former slave who escaped to the North and became active in the abolitionist movement. He was a determined campaigner against both slavery and racial prejudice.

doves

The term "doves" identified those Americans who opposed U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. They generally believed that the United States was unjustifiably meddling in a Vietnamese civil war.

US History Glossary

Dred Scott decision

In the Dred Scott decision (1857), the Supreme Court ruled that blacks were not citizens and could not sue in a federal court, and that Congress had no constitutional authority to ban slavery from a territory, that, in effect, the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional. The decision threatened both the central plank of the Republican party platform and the concept of popular sovereignty. Scott, a slave, had brought the lawsuit demanding his freedom based on his residence in a free state and a free territory with his master.

Du Bois, W. E. B.

Du Bois was America's foremost black intellectual at the turn of the twentieth century, and an outspoken leader of the black cause. He disagreed with Booker T. Washington's accommodationist posture and called upon blacks to insist on equal rights. He was a founder of the NAACP and editor of its journal, "The Crisis."

Dukakis, Michael

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis was the Democratic presidential candidate in 1988.

Duke of York

James, Duke of York, and the brother of King Charles II, became the proprietor of the English colony of New York in 1664 when it was seized from the Dutch.

Dulles, John Foster

Dulles was President Eisenhower's secretary of state in the 1950s. He was a very experienced diplomat, a moralist, and an intense anticommunist. He proposed a more aggressive policy to combat communism, but the Eisenhower administration generally adhered to the containment doctrine.

Dust Bowl

In the 1930s, the combination of long droughts and unscientific farming methods on the Great Plains created frequent dust storms that blew away valuable topsoil. Thousands of indebted farmers left this "dust bowl" to seek opportunities in the West

Dutch West India Company

The Dutch West India Company established and governed the Dutch colony of New Netherlands from its first permanent settlement at Fort Orange in 1624 until it was seized by the English in 1664.

Dwight, Morrow

Morrow was President Coolidge's appointee as ambassador to Mexico. A patient and sympathetic man, Morrow helped improve U.S.-Mexican relations. He also helped Mexicans complete their social and economic revolution without interference from the United States.

dynamic conservatism

President Eisenhower characterized his views as "dynamic conservatism" and "progressive moderation." He claimed he was liberal toward people, but conservative about spending public money. He sought to balance the federal budget and lower taxes without destroying existing social programs or hurting military spending.

-E-

Eastern Front

The Eastern Front referred to the area of military operations in World War II located east of Germany in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

US History Glossary

Eastman, George B.

Eastman developed a mass-produced photographic film roll that could be easily used in his simple but efficient Kodak camera.

Economic czar

In 1943, Justice James F. Byrnes left the Supreme Court to become head of the Office of War Mobilization. That agency had complete control over economic priorities and prices during World War II, hence Byrnes was called an "economic czar."

Economic Recovery and Tax Act of 1981 (ERTA)

RTA represented a major revision of the federal income tax system.

Economic royalists

During the 1936 presidential campaign, President Roosevelt abandoned any effort to court the business community, which had not been cooperative with his New Deal, and took to referring to businessmen as "economic royalists." By this he meant to gain political support from the popular dislike of "greedy" businessmen in the 1930s.

Ederle, Gertrude

Ederle was the first woman to swim the English Channel, doing so in 1926 in record time.

Edge city

An edge city refers to a suburban district that has developed as a center for employment, retailing, and services comparable to a traditional downtown.

Edison, Thomas A.

Edison, a prolific inventor, organized a modern research laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey. He eventually acquired over 1000 patents. Among his major inventions was the electric light bulb.

Edwards, Jonathan

Edwards was an American revivalist of the Great Awakening. He was both deeply pious and passionately devoted to intellectual pursuits.

Eisenhower Doctrine

Following the Suez Crisis in 1956, President Eisenhower announced his doctrine that the United States was prepared to use armed force in the Middle East against aggression by any country controlled by communism. It, like the Truman Doctrine, was an affirmation of the containment doctrine.

Eisenhower, Dwight

General Eisenhower, or "Ike," commanded Allied forces in Europe in World War II and planned the Normandy invasion for D-Day. He was later elected president and served two terms from 1953 to 1961.

elastic clause

The elastic clause in the Constitution grants Congress the right to pass all laws "necessary and proper" to carry out the powers specifically granted to Congress by the Constitution. This clause was the source of Hamilton's implied powers doctrine.

Election of 1800

In the Election of 1800 both Jefferson and Aaron Burr received 73 votes in the Electoral College. Because of the tie, the Constitution required that the House of Representatives (voting by states) choose between the two and Jefferson was elected. The Twelfth Amendment was adopted to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

US History Glossary

Election of 1828

In 1828, Andrew Jackson defeated John Quincy Adams who was seeking reelection to the presidency. The campaign was filled with personal attacks on both candidates, but the mud-slinging turned out an unusually high number of voters.

Election of 1840

In 1840, the newly organized Whig party adopted the campaign tactics of the Jacksonians and elected William Henry Harrison president. Like Jackson, Harrison was a popular military hero who concealed or ignored the issues. He, like Jackson, was presented to the voters as a common man.

elective system

Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard, introduced the elective system in 1869. It gradually eliminated required courses and expanded offerings in languages, economics, and laboratory sciences. Its adoption sometimes led to a superficial education.

Electoral College

The Constitutional Convention adopted the Electoral College system as a method of electing presidents. Each state had electors equal in number to its representation in Congress. Each elector cast two votes for president, but if no candidate received a majority, the election would be decided in the House of Representatives.

electoral commission

In 1877, Congress created a special electoral commission to decide the disputed outcome of the electoral vote in the 1876 presidential election. The eight Republicans and seven Democrats on the commission awarded all twenty disputed votes to Republican candidate, Rutherford B. Hayes and he won the electoral vote and the presidency, 185 to 184.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

This federal legislation in 1965 provided the first large-scale federal aid for needy public school districts.

Eliot, Charles W.

Eliot was the president of Harvard University who replaced required courses with the elective system. He also expanded course offerings and encouraged innovative teaching methods among his faculty.

Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. It freed all slaves in areas then in rebellion against the United States (i.e., the Confederacy). It made emancipation a war goal and speeded the destruction of slavery.

Embargo Act

The 1807 Embargo Act was provoked by the "Chesapeake" incident and prohibited all exports from U.S. ports. President Jefferson hoped to pressure Britain and France into recognizing neutral rights, but the embargo damaged the economy and was bitterly resented, especially in New England.

Emergency Banking Act of 1933

This law stabilized the banking system through government aid and supervision.

Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935

This law authorized a massive program of public work projects for the unemployed.

US History Glossary

Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Emerson was the leading transcendentalist thinker of the early nineteenth century. Optimism and self-confidence marked his philosophy, and, like other romantics, he glorified individualism and self-reliance. He wrote "The American Scholar."

Employment Act of 1946

This federal legislation committed the United States to the goal of "maximum employment, production, and purchasing power."

empresario

An empresario was an agent who received a land grant from the Spanish or Mexican government in return for organizing settlements.

encomienda

In the Spanish colonies, an encomienda was a grant to a Spanish settler of a certain number of Indian subjects, who would pay him tribute in goods and labor.

Enforcement Act of 1870

This largely ineffectual law was passed in response to growing political violence in the South, enabling the federal government to appoint supervisors where estates failed to protect citizens' voting rights.

Engel v. Vitale

This 1962 Supreme Court decision found that reading a nondenominational prayer in public schools violated the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Enlightenment

The Enlightenment was an intellectual awakening of the eighteenth century that celebrated human reasoning powers. This major intellectual movement was inspired by recent scientific advances; Enlightenment thinkers emphasized the role of human reason in understanding the world and directing its events. Their ideas placed less emphasis on God's role in ordering worldly affairs. Enlightened rationalism had a major impact on American political thought.

Enola Gay

"Enola Gay" was the nickname of the B-29 Superfortress bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945.

Enrollment Act

This law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1863 during the Civil War subjected all able-bodied men between the ages of twenty and forty-five to the draft. Its unpopularity contributed to the New York Draft Riot later than year.

enumerated articles

The enumerated articles were specific goods, including sugar, cotton, and tobacco, that, under the Navigation Act of 1660, colonists could ship only to British ports.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

This federal agency was created in 1970 to oversee environmental monitoring and cleanup programs.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

This federal commission was established by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to monitor and enforce nondiscrimination in employment.

US History Glossary

equal representation

Delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 debated having a national legislature chosen on the basis of equal representation with each state having equal voting strength, or proportional representation with each state's representation based on the size of its population. The debate ended in the Great Compromise.

equal rights amendment

In 1967, the National Organization for Women (NOW) advocated an equal rights amendment (ERA) to the Constitution that would outlaw discrimination on the basis of sex. Congress proposed the amendment in 1972, but it was never ratified.

equality of opportunity

Jacksonians revered the concept of equal opportunity--that all special privileged barriers to social and economic mobility and opportunity should be removed so that all might have the chance to succeed.

Era of Good Feelings

The Era of Good Feeling lasted from 1817 to 1823 in which the disappearance of the Federalists enabled the Republicans to govern in a spirit of seemingly nonpartisan harmony.

Erdman Act

This law provided for the voluntary mediation of railroad labor disputes and recourse to a board of arbitration. Congress passed the law in 1898 in response to growing public opposition to the use of federal troops to put down strikes.

Ericson, Leif

Ericson was a Norse seafarer (from Scandinavia) who was probably the first European to reach America (about 1000).

Erie Canal

The construction of the 363-mile long Erie Canal began the canal boom of the 1820s and 1830s. It was financed by the state of New York with public funds. Begun in 1817, it was completed in 1825 and was an immediate financial success.

Espionage Act of 1917

The vague prohibition of this law, against obstructing the nation's war effort, was used to crush dissent and criticism during World War I.

Essex Junto

The Essex Junto was a group of die-hard Federalists led by Timothy Pickering who in 1804 organized a scheme to lead the northeastern states out of the Union. The Essex Junto had little support even within the Federalist party.

established church

An established church is one supported in part by public taxes.

eugenics

Eugenics is a science that deals with the "improvement" of hereditary qualities of a people. The 1920s birth-control movement was supported by eugenicists who saw birth control as a way of "weeding-out" the "unfit" types from the population.

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Executive Order 8802

In 1943, Executive Order 8802 required racial nondiscrimination clauses in war contracts and subcontracts.

Executive Order 9066

Executive Order 9066 in February 1942 authorized the forcible relocation of Japanese Americans from portions of four western states.

Executive Order 9835

Executive Order 9835 implemented a loyalty program for federal employees.

executive privilege

The doctrine of executive privilege holds that discussions and communication within the executive branch are confidential and therefore immune from congressional scrutiny. President Nixon applied the doctrine broadly and tried to use it to protect himself from implication in the Watergate scandal

Exposition and Protest

In 1828, Vice-President John C. Calhoun was provoked by the Tariff of Abominations to write an essay, the "South Carolina Exposition and Protest," repudiating the nationalist philosophy he had previously championed. He denounced protective tariffs, argued for the right of states to reject a law of Congress (nullification), and outlined a procedure for a state to nullify a federal law.

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factionalism

When the Federalists disappeared as a national party by 1820, the Jeffersonian Republicans, lacking any organized opposition, became more troubled by internal factional disputes. A faction is a group or clique within a larger group (political party).

factors

Factors were Scottish and English agents who sold colonial planters' crops, filled their orders for manufactured goods, and extended them credit. The factor system was very convenient for southern planters, but it prevented the development of a diversified economy in the South.

factory system

The factory system brought the means of production together in buildings (factories) where water power (later steam and electricity) supplied the energy to run the machinery that increased productivity and reduced labor costs. It was introduced to the United States in textile manufacturing in 1790.

Fair Deal

The Fair Deal was a program for expanded economic opportunity and civil rights proposed by President Truman in 1949.

Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC)

When African Americans demanded equal employment opportunities in 1941, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which prohibited discrimination in plants with defense contracts. The FEPC was set up to enforce the order.

Fair Labor Standards Act

In 1938, The Fair Labor Standards Act abolished child labor, and established a national minimum wage (40 cents an hour, later raised) and a forty-hour work week.

US History Glossary

Fall, Albert

President Harding's secretary of the interior, Albert Fall, arranged to lease government oil reserves to private oil companies in return for personal, non-repayable "loans." The central figure in the Teapot Dome scandal, he was eventually fined and imprisoned for accepting a bribe.

Farewell Address

President Washington decided not to seek reelection in 1796. Near the end of his term he delivered a farewell address that warned the nation against the harmful effects of rivalry between political parties, and against the dangers of permanent alliances with foreign nations.

farm bloc

The 1920s farm bloc of Midwestern Republicans and southern Democrats represented a conservative populism of indebted postwar farmers. Their opponent was "the interests" of rich bankers and industrialists. The farm bloc generally favored lower taxes and higher tariffs on farm goods.

Farm Credit Administration

This government agency was established in 1933 to refinance farm mortgages, thereby saving farms and protecting banks.

Farmers' Alliance

As it spread throughout the South in the 1880s, the Farmers Alliance stressed cooperation among farmers (both black and white). Their marketing cooperatives usually failed, pushing many farmers to become economic and social radicals. The Alliances enjoyed some electoral success in 1890 and helped organize the Populist party.

fascist

Fascists subscribed to a philosophy of governmental dictatorship that merges the interests of the state, armed forces, and big business. Fascism was associated with the dictatorship of Italian leader Benito Mussolini between 1922 and 1943 and also often applied to Nazi Germany.

Faubus, Orval

Arkansas Governor Faubus tried to prevent the integration of Central High School in Little Rock in 1957. President Eisenhower responded by sending federal troops to enforce the Supreme Court's school-integration mandate.

Faulkner, William

Novelist William Faulkner wrote several works depicting the multiple dilemmas of modern life. His major theme was of southerners imprisoned by their past and their surroundings, trying to escape.

favorable balance of trade

A favorable balance of trade was a condition of maximizing exports of one's own goods and limiting imports of foreign goods so as to remain a creditor nation in international trade.

FDIC

Congress created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in 1933 to guarantee bank deposits up to \$5000 (later raised). It was designed to protect individual savings accounts from loss due to bank closings.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

In 1934, Congress created the FCC and gave it power to regulate radio broadcasting and television. It could revoke the license of radio stations that failed to operate in the public interest.

US History Glossary

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

This government agency guarantees bank deposits, thereby protecting both depositors and banks.

Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)

This agency was set up to provide direct federal grants to the states for assisting the unemployed during the Great Depression.

Federal Highway Act of 1956

This measure provided federal funding to build a nationwide system of interstate and defense highways.

Federal Reserve Act

The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 gave the United States a central banking system governed by a Federal Reserve Board, which controlled the rediscount rate and thus the money supply.

federal system

Delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 agreed that the United States should have a federal system of government with both independent state governments and a national government with limited powers to handle matters of common interest.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

The FTC, created in 1914, replaced the Bureau of Corporations. This nonpartisan commission investigated and reported on corporate behavior, and was authorized to issue cease and desist orders against unfair trade practices.

The Federalist

This series of eighty-five essays, written anonymously and individually by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, were published in New York in 1787 and 1788 to rally support for the ratification of the Constitution.

Federalist party

One of the original two political parties, the Federalist party was organized by Alexander Hamilton and generally stood for strong national government, a mercantilistic economy, implied powers, and friendship with England.

Federalists

Federalists advocated ratification of the Constitution; they were centralizing nationalists. Antifederalists opposed ratification of the Constitution; they were states' rightists and were concerned that the Constitution contained no Bill of Rights.

Federalists Papers

Alexander Hamilton, with the help of James Madison and John Jay wrote the "Federalist Papers," a brilliant series of essays explaining and defending the national government created by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Female Missionary Society

The Female Missionary Society mobilized the wives of business leaders who were receptive to the admonitions of the evangelical clergy of the Second Great Awakening. The society raised money to support revivalism in the "burned over district" of upstate New York.

US History Glossary

Feminine Mystique, The

In her book "The Feminine Mystique" (1963), feminist Betty Friedan attacked the cultural assumptions about women's "proper" place being in the home. Friedan argued that the assumed domesticity of women robbed them of the capacity to use their intelligence and their talent for creativity.

Fence laws

This legislation required the penning of animals so that they would not disturb crops.

Ferraro, Geraldine

Ferraro, the first woman ever nominated for the vice presidency by a major political party, was nominated by the Democrats in 1984.

Fetterman Massacre

In 1866, a tribe of Oglala Sioux under chief Red Cloud, provoked by the building of the Bozeman Trail through their hunting ground in southern Montana, wiped out a U.S. army unit commanded by Captain W. J. Fetterman.

Field Order No. 15

This order by General William T. Sherman in January 1865 set aside abandoned land along the southern Atlantic coast for 40-acre grants to freedmen; it was rescinded by President Andrew Johnson later that year.

Fifteenth Amendment

The Fifteenth Amendment (1870) forbade the states to deny the vote to anyone on the account of race, color, or for having been a slave. It was intended to guarantee blacks the right to vote in the South.

Finney, Charles Grandison

Finney was probably the most effective of a number of charismatic evangelists who brought the Second Great Awakening to its crest in the early 1830s. He encouraged his listeners to take their salvation into their own hands, and that, with the grace of God, salvation was available to anyone.

fireside chats

During the depression years of the 1930s, President Roosevelt used the radio to communicate with the American people, using plain language to explain complex issues and programs. These "fireside chats" had a reassuring and steadying effect on the public and boosted confidence.

First Continental Congress

Delegates from twelve colonies attended the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774. The Congress denied Parliament's authority to legislate for the colonies, adopted the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, created a Continental Association to enforce a boycott, and endorsed a call to take up arms. The Congress also wrote addresses to the king, the people of Britain, and the American people.

Fitch, John

Fitch built and operated the world's first regularly scheduled steamboat in 1790. Steamboats later brought the West into the national economy.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

Fitzgerald was the symbol of the "lost generation" of American writers in the 1920s. Among his other novels, he wrote "The Great Gatsby" and "Tender Is the Night."

US History Glossary

Five Nations

The Five Nations was the powerful Iroquois Indian confederation in New York. The confederacy conducted a profitable fur trade with Europeans in North America.

Fletcher v. Peck

This Supreme Court decision of 1810 overturned a state law by ruling that it violated a legal contract.

Food Administration

This agency sought to increase agricultural production and food conservation to supply the U.S. military and the Allies during World War I.

Foran Act

The 1885 Foran Act outlawed the exploitative system of contract labor used to recruit cheap immigrant labor .

Forbes, Charles

Veterans Bureau administrator Charles Forbes siphoned off millions of dollars for his own pocket from funds appropriated to build veterans hospitals. He was one of several in President Harding's Ohio Gang who were involved in corruption.

Force Acts

Congress attacked the Ku Klux Klan with three Force Acts in 1870-1871. They placed state elections under federal jurisdiction and imposed fines and imprisonment on those guilty of interfering with any citizen exercising his right to vote. They were designed to protect black voters in the South.

Ford, Gerald

Ford was a longtime Republican congressman from Michigan. When Vice President Agnew resigned in 1973, Ford replaced him, and when President Nixon resigned the presidency, Ford became president. He was defeated in the 1976 presidential election by Democrat Jimmy Carter.

Ford, Henry

Ford was the person most responsible for the growth of the American automobile industry. His key insights were to lower the price of cars to make them available to a mass market, and to pay good wages to get high production from his employees.

Fordney-McCumber Tariff

The 1922 Fordney-McCumber Tariff granted strong protection to America's "infant industries" like rayon, china, and chemicals, yet it was moderate in its protection of most other industrial products.

Fort Donelson

With Fort Henry, Fort Donelson was one of two strategic forts on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, and the site of a January 1862 Union victory during the Civil War.

Fort Henry

With Fort Donelson, Fort Henry was one of two strategic forts on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, and the site of a January 1862 Union victory during the Civil War.

Fort Laramie Treaty

In this 1851 treaty, the United States attempted to establish definite boundaries for each of the major Indian tribes on the Central Plains.

US History Glossary

Fort Sumter

Built on a small island, Fort Sumter was designed to protect the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. When South Carolina seceded in December 1860, the garrison inside Fort Sumter remained loyal to the United States. When the fort's food supplies began to run out, President Lincoln's effort to replenish them generated military reprisal from Confederate forces. The shelling of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, triggered open warfare between the United States and the Confederate secessionists.

Fort Ticonderoga

On May 10, 1775, Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen, leading forces from Massachusetts and Vermont, respectively, captured this strategically important fort between Lake George and Lake Champlain, along with its fifty defenders and its military stores, at the outset of the Revolutionary War.

Fort Wagner

The Confederate installation guarding the entrance to Charleston harbor during the Civil War was the site of a failed federal assault in July 1863, during which a black Union regiment, the 54th Massachusetts, distinguished itself.

Forty-Niners

Miners who rushed to California after the discovery of gold in the northern part of the territory in 1848 were called "forty-niners."

Founding Fathers

The Founding Fathers were the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention in 1787 that wrote the Constitution. Most were lawyers, planters, and businessmen, and most of them had previous political experience.

Four Freedoms

In 1941, before the United States entered World War II, President Roosevelt enumerated the Four Freedoms required for world peace and for which World War II was being fought--freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Four-Power Treaty

At the Washington Naval Conference in 1921, the United States, Britain, France, and Japan agreed to respect one another's interests in the Pacific.

Fourier, Charles

Fourier was a French utopian socialist who proposed that society should be organized in cooperative units called phalanxes. Several phalanxes were founded in the northern and western states, but the communities were short-lived.

Fourteen Points

In January 1918, President Wilson outlined a peace plan with fourteen points, including no secret diplomacy, freedom of the seas, free trade, arms reduction, non-colonization, and national self-determination.

Fourteenth Amendment

This Constitutional amendment passed by Congress in April 1866 incorporated some of the features of the Civil Rights Act of 1866. It prohibited states from violating the civil rights of its citizens and offered states the choice of allowing blacks to vote or losing representation in Congress.

Frame of Government

This plan by William Penn in 1682 for the government of Pennsylvania created a relatively weak legislature and a strong executive; it also contained a provision for religious freedom.

US History Glossary

Franco, Francisco

Franco was the fascist leader of Spanish rebels who, with the help of fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, overthrew the liberal Spanish Republic in the 1936 Spanish Civil War. The U.S. reaction to the war was to broaden its neutrality acts to include civil wars, thus isolating itself from these events.

Franco-American Alliance

The French and Americans signed a commercial treaty and a formal treaty of alliance in 1778. They agreed to aid each other, and the French guaranteed the sovereignty and independence of the United States.

Franco-American Accord of 1800

This settlement reached with France brought an end to the Quasi-War and released the United States from its 1778 alliance with France.

Franklin, Ben

Franklin was a Philadelphia printer and critic of Pennsylvania's royal governors. He also expressed concern over the large number of clannish Germans who settled in the Pennsylvania backcountry.

Fredericksburg, Battle of

In this battle, fought December 13, 1862, Union General Ambrose E. Burnside failed to dislodge Confederate forces from their defensive position above this small Virginia city. Union forces lost heavily in a poorly conceived assault.

Freedmen's Bureau

The Freedmen's Bureau was a federal refugee agency set up to aid former slaves and destitute whites after the Civil War. It provided them food, clothing, and other necessities as well as helping them find work and set up schools. Congress overrode President Johnson's veto of a Freedmen's Bureau renewal bill in 1866.

freedom rides

"Freedom rides" were bus trips taken by black and white civil-rights advocates in the 1960s. They rode buses through the South to test the enforcement of federal regulations that prohibited segregation in interstate public transportation.

Freedom Summer

This voter registration effort in rural Mississippi was organized by black and white civil rights workers in 1964.

Freedom's Journal

Freedom's Journal was the first African-American newspaper, founded in 1827 by John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish.

Freeport Doctrine

During the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, Douglas declared that, even in the face of the Dred Scott decision, the people of a territory could exclude slavery simply by not passing the local laws essential for holding blacks in bondage. This Freeport Doctrine helped Douglas win reelection to the Senate, but it hurt his bid for the presidential nomination of the Democratic party in 1860.

free silver

Advocates of an inflationary currency policy to raise prices adopted "free silver" as their slogan. Their aim was to inflate the currency and raise (farm) prices by requiring the government to adopt a bimetallic (gold and silver) monetary standard.

US History Glossary

Free Soil party

In 1848 the antislavery Barnburners in the Democratic party combined with the abolitionist Liberty party to form the Free Soil party and nominated Martin Van Buren for president. The party opposed the expansion of slavery into the territories.

Free Speech movement (FSM)

The first student protest of the 1960s came at the University of California, Berkeley in 1964. There, veterans of the civil rights movement staged sit-ins to protest university policies that restricted political advocacy on the campus.

Fremont, John C.

Fremont was the presidential nominee of the new Republican party in 1856. Known as "the Pathfinder," he was a noted frontier soldier and a hero of the conquest of California during the Mexican War. He had little political experience.

French and Indian War

Fourth in the series of great wars between England and France, this conflict (1754-1763) had its focal point in North America and pitted the French and their Native American allies against the English and their Native American allies. Known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, this struggle drove the French from North America.

Fries's Rebellion

This armed attempt to block enforcement of the Direct Tax of 1798 in the eastern counties of Pennsylvania was named for an auctioneer who played a prominent role in the conflict.

front porch campaign

In 1896, William McKinley conducted a "front porch campaign," wherein he never left his Canton, Ohio home. Large crowds of spectators were brought to his "front porch" to meet the candidate. It proved very successful.

Fugitive Slave Act

As part of the Compromise of 1850, Congress passed a new Fugitive Slave Act. Under it, federal commissioners were authorized to compel citizens to assist in the return of runaway (fugitive) slaves, fugitives could not testify in their own behalf, and they were denied a jury trial.

Fulbright, J. William

Arkansas Senator Fulbright was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the 1960s. He was an opponent of adventurous foreign policy initiatives undertaken by presidents Kennedy in Cuba and Johnson in Vietnam.

Fulton, Robert

Fulton was an American artist and engineer who constructed the steamboat, "Clermont," in 1807. It was the first efficient vessel to operate on America's navigable rivers.

Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina

This complex plan for organizing the colony of Carolina was drafted in 1669 by Anthony Ashley Cooper and John Locke. The plan's provisions included a scheme for creating a hierarchy of nobles who would own vast amounts of land and wield political power; beneath them would be a class of freedmen and slaves. The provisions were never implemented by the Carolina colonists.

US History Glossary

fundamentalism

Religious fundamentalists, found in larger numbers in the Baptist and Methodist churches of the South and viewed as boors and hayseeds by sophisticated urbanites, were devoted to a literal interpretation of the King James Version of the Bible. Fundamentalism was profoundly conservative and anti-Darwinian, and rejected modern urban culture. The name derives from an influential series of pamphlets, *The Fundamentals* (1909-1914).

Fundamental Orders

This design for Connecticut government, adopted in 1639, was modeled on that of Massachusetts Bay, except that voters did not have to be church members.

funded debt

This is the means by which governments allocate a portion of tax revenues to guarantee payment of interest on loans from private investors. England used this process to begin paying debts incurred during the first two Anglo-French wars, thereby harnessing private capital to serve the nation's military needs.

funding at par

In his Report on Public Credit in 1791, Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton recommended that the national debt be funded at par. This meant calling in all outstanding securities and issuing new bonds of the same face value in their place, and establishing an untouchable sinking fund to assure payment of the interest and principal of the new bonds.

fusion

Fusion refers to the political strategy adopted by Populists and Republicans in North Carolina during their successful 1894 election campaign.

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Gabriel Prosser's Rebellion

In this failed slave revolt, Gabriel Prosser, a slave preacher and blacksmith, organized a thousand slaves for an attack on Richmond, Virginia, in 1800. A thunderstorm upset the timing of the attack, and a slave informer alerted the whites. Prosser and twenty-five of his followers were executed.

Gadsden Purchase

In 1853, James Gadsden, U.S. Minister to Mexico, engineered the purchase of over 29,000 square miles of Mexican territory south of the Gila River. It provided a potential route for construction of a transcontinental railroad.

gag rule

This procedural rule passed in the House of Representatives prevented discussion of antislavery proposals from 1836 to 1844.

Galloway, Joseph

Galloway was a Pennsylvania delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1774. He wrote a conservative proposal to overhaul the empire by creating an American government that would manage intercolonial affairs and possess a veto over parliamentary actions affecting the colonies. His Galloway Plan was rejected.

gang system

The term gang system refers to the organization and supervision of slave field hands into working teams on southern plantations.

US History Glossary

Garfield, James A.

Garfield, a compromise "dark horse" nominee of the Republican party, was elected president in 1880. He was a weak and indecisive leader. Charles Guiteau, a frustrated Stalwart, assassinated him four months after he became president.

Garland, Hamlin

In his autobiographical books, Garland, who grew up in the Midwest, wrote of the hardships of life (especially for women) on the farming frontier.

Garner, John Nance

Garner, from Texas, was elected vice president in 1932 and 1936.

Garrison, William Lloyd

Garrison, publisher of "The Liberator," was an immediate abolitionist. He called for immediate, uncompensated emancipation of slaves, and for racial equality. His confrontational tactics repelled moderate abolitionists and the general public.

Gaspee

Gaspee was the British revenue schooner burned in Narragansett Bay by Rhode Islanders in 1772. The incident led to the appointment of a British commission of inquiry whose powers prompted Americans to establish committees of correspondence.

Gates, Horatio

General Gates and Benedict Arnold commanded the Patriot defenses at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

First signed in 1947, this international agreement was designed to lower barriers to international trade and was updated periodically in subsequent years. < P> **General Court**

The legislature of the colony of Massachusetts was known as the General Court.

General Electric

Building on Thomas Edison's inventive genius, the General Electric Company was founded in 1892. Along with Westinghouse Electric, GE dominated the electric industry in America for decades.

general incorporation law

New York enacted the first general incorporation law. These laws permitted the states to issue charters to corporations without specific legislative action in each case. They placed tight restrictions on the capitalization and term of corporations.

General Union for Promoting the Observance of the Christian Sabbath

Founded in 1828 by Congregationalist and Presbyterian ministers, this reform organization lobbied for an end to the delivery of mail on Sundays and other Sabbath violations.

Gentlemen's Agreement

In 1906, the Japanese government agreed not to issue passports to Japanese workers intending to migrate to the United States. President Roosevelt reciprocated by getting the San Francisco school board to end its discriminatory segregation of Japanese students.

US History Glossary

George III

King George III was condemned in the Declaration of Independence as the villain responsible for the colonists' loss of faith in the British empire. He, rather than Parliament, was held responsible because the king was the personification of the empire.

Geronimo

Apache Chief Geronimo was captured in 1886. This helped bring a close to the late nineteenth-century suppression of Indian resistance to white migration into the Trans-Mississippi West.

Gettysburg

This Pennsylvania town was the site of a pivotal Union victory in July 1863 during the Civil War.

Ghent, Treaty of

This treaty signed in December 1814 between the United States and Britain ended the War of 1812.

ghetto

A ghetto is a neighborhood or district in which members of a particular ethnic or racial group are forced to live by law or as a result of economics or social discrimination.

GI

GI was World War II slang for a U.S. soldier, derived from the words "government issue" stamped on equipment and supplies.

GI Bill of Rights

In 1944, the federal government made unprecedented educational opportunities available to World War II veterans in the GI Bill of Rights. It subsidized veterans so they could continue their formal education, learn new trades, or start new businesses. It also contained pension, hospitalization, and other benefits.

Gibbons v. Ogden

In "Gibbons v. Ogden" (1824), the Supreme Court ruled that states can regulate commerce that begins and ends in its own territory (intrastate trade), but when the transaction involves crossing a state line (interstate commerce), Congress's constitutional authority to regulate interstate trade takes precedence.

Gideon v. Wainwright

In 1962 the Supreme Court enlarged the rights of those accused of crime via its ruling in "Gideon v. Wainwright" that poor defendants were entitled to free legal counsel.

Gilbert, Humphrey

Gilbert was an English courtier whose interest in a Northwest Passage (through North America) to the Orient led him to attempt, unsuccessfully, the founding of an English colony in Newfoundland in the 1580s.

Gilded Age

The Gilded Age was Mark Twain's label for the post-Civil War decades. The term refers to a facade of proper and civilized behavior covering waste, corruption, and individual greed in late nineteenth-century America.

Gilded Age, The

"The Gilded Age" (1873) was Mark Twain's biting satire on the shallowness of his times.

US History Glossary

Gladden, Washington

Gladden was the most influential preacher of the Social Gospel. In "Applied Christianity" (1886) he defended labor's right to organize and strike. Though he was not a socialist, Gladden nevertheless called for government regulation of industry and other economic and social reforms.

glasnost

Russian for "openness," glasnost was the new policy of Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to encourage political debate and criticism in the Soviet Union. It was coupled with "perestroika" to decentralize administration and reward individual enterprise.

Glass-Steagall Act of 1933

This law separated investment from commercial banking to limit speculation by bankers and created the Federal Deposit control.

Glenn, John H. , Jr.

In 1962 Glenn became the first American (and third man) to orbit the earth in a man-made satellite. He later was a U.S. senator from Ohio.

Glidden, Joseph

Glidden invented barbed wire in 1874. It helped close the "open range" grazing of the cattle industry in the mid-1880s.

Glorieta Pass

This New Mexico mountain pass was the site of an important Civil War battle in April 1862 that maintained the Southwest under Union control.

Glorious Revolution

In 1688 fears that the birth of the son of James II would establish a Catholic dynasty in England prompted the exile of the king in order to secure English Protestantism and Parliament's power. In the colonies the Glorious Revolution resulted in the collapse of the Dominion of New England and in several colonial rebellions against James II's appointed governors. In England the bloodless revolt placed William of Orange, a Protestant, on the throne.

Goldwater, Barry

Arizona Senator Goldwater, leader of the extreme conservative wing of the Republican party, was the party's nominee for president in 1964. He was defeated in a landslide victory for Democrat Lyndon Johnson.

Goliad

On March 27, 1836, Mexican troops put to death over three hundred American prisoners in this Texas town, during the Texas War for Independence.

Gompers, Samuel

Gompers was a long-time president of the American Federation of Labor. He advocated the use of the strike and the vote to win concessions from employers and business.

Good Neighbor policy

President Hoover's administration initiated a new approach to relations with other nations in the Western Hemisphere. The Good Neighbor policy declared America's intention to disclaim the right to intervention pronounced in the Platt Amendment and the Roosevelt Corollary.

US History Glossary

Gorbachev, Mikhail

Gorbachev became premier of the Soviet Union in 1985. More moderate and flexible than his predecessors, he encouraged political debate and free enterprise.

gospel of wealth

The gospel of wealth is the thesis that hard work and perseverance lead to wealth, implying that poverty is a character flaw.

graduated income tax

A graduated income tax taxes income at low rates for low incomes and gradually higher rates for higher incomes. Congress first enacted a graduated income tax during the Civil War, repealed it after the war, and enacted it again in 1894, but it was declared unconstitutional. In 1913, the Sixteenth Amendment empowered Congress to impose an income tax.

Graham, Billy

Graham, a fiery and persuasive preacher and the most famous postwar religious revivalist in America, has stressed interdenominational cooperation.

Grand Army of the Republic

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was founded by former Union soldiers after the Civil War. It lobbied Congress for aid and pensions for former Union soldiers. It was also a powerful lobbying influence within the Republican party.

Grand Settlement of 1701

These separate peace treaties negotiated by Iroquois diplomats at Montreal and Albany marked the beginning of Iroquois neutrality in conflicts between the French and the British in North America.

grandfather clause

The grandfather clause was a rule that required potential voters to demonstrate that their grandfathers had been eligible to vote, a tactic used in some southern states after 1890 to limit the black electorate, as most black men's grandfathers had been slaves and ineligible to vote.

Grange

The Grange refers to the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, a national organization of farm owners formed after the Civil War.

Granger Laws

Granger laws, so-called because they were advocated by the Patrons of Husbandry, or Grange, were state laws designed to regulate railroad and grain warehouse rates. Such laws were upheld as constitutional in "Munn v. Illinois" (1877), but in the Wabash case (1886), the Supreme Court ruled that the regulation of interstate trade was an exclusive power of the national government. The result was the Interstate Commerce Act.

Grant, Ulysses S.

In 1864, President Lincoln placed General Grant, victorious commander at Vicksburg, in command of all Union forces. He slowly battered Lee's armies into submission around Richmond in 1864-1865, and received Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. He was elected president in 1868 and 1872. His administration was ridden with scandal.

US History Glossary

Great Awakening

The Great Awakening was the widespread evangelical revival movement of the 1740s and 1750s. Sparked by the tour of the English evangelical minister George Whitefield, the Awakening divided congregations and weakened the authority of established churches in the colonies.

Great Bridge

On December 9, 1775, this causeway near Norfolk, Virginia, was the site of a Revolutionary War battle between Americans and a British force composed mostly of African Americans and other Loyalists who had joined the governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore. Victory by the Americans enabled them to occupy Norfolk shortly thereafter.

Great Compromise

A plan proposed by Roger Sherman of Connecticut at the 1787 Constitutional Convention for creating a national bicameral legislature, the Great Compromise proclaimed that, in the House of Representatives places were to be assigned according to a state's population (proportional representation) and filled by popular vote. In the Senate, each state was to have two members (equal representation) elected by its state legislature.

Great Depression

Extending throughout the 1930s, the nation's worst economic crisis produced unprecedented bank failures, unemployment, and industrial and agricultural collapse and prompted an expanded role for the federal government.

Great Eastern

The steamship "Great Eastern" launched from England in 1858 opened a new era in transatlantic travel. The ocean crossing became safer, speedier, and cheaper; thus, European immigration to America increased dramatically.

Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

This term refers to the Japanese goal of an East Asian economy controlled by Japan and serving the needs of Japanese industry.

Great Migration

The Great Migration was the mass movement of Puritans to Massachusetts Bay colony that began in 1630 and continued into the 1640s. Economic depression and religious persecution in England provoked the migration. Alternately, the term refers to the mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North, spurred especially by new job opportunities during World War I and the 1920s.

Great Society

President Johnson named his agenda to wage war on poverty, promote social welfare legislation, and advance civil rights the "Great Society."

Great Uprising

The first nationwide work stoppage in American history, the Great Uprising was an unsuccessful railroad strike in 1877 to protest wage cuts and the use of federal troops against strikers.

Great War for the Empire

Also known as the French and Indian War, this was a showdown between England and France for control of North America. With help from the American colonists, the British won this war fought between 1756 and 1763.

US History Glossary

Greeley, Horace

Both the Liberal Republicans and the Democrats nominated Horace Greeley, editor of the "New York Tribune," for the presidency in 1876. He lost to President Grant.

Greenback party

This third party of the 1870s and 1880s garnered temporary support by advocating currency inflation to expand the economy and assist debtors.

greenbacks

Greenbacks were paper currency issued by the Union government during the Civil War. Whether to continue the issue of greenbacks and inflate the currency, or withdraw them from circulation remained an unresolved political issue in the 1870s and 1880s.

Greene, Nathanael

General Greene commanded Patriot armies in the backcountry of North and South Carolina in 1778-1781. His guerrilla tactics harassed General Cornwallis's army as it moved toward Virginia and the decision at Yorktown in 1781.

Greenville, Treaty of

In this 1795 treaty, Indians in the Old Northwest were forced to cede most of the present state of Ohio to the United States.

Greenwich Village

Greenwich Village in New York City was a gathering place of bohemian thinkers and "radical" progressives who sought basic changes in America's middle-class society.

Greer

A German submarine fired upon the U.S. naval destroyer "Greer" in July 1941. President Roosevelt, ignoring the "Greer's" provocation, ordered the navy to "shoot on sight" any German craft in waters south and west of Iceland, and to convoy merchant vessels to Iceland.

Grenville, George

Grenville became the Prime Minister of England in 1763. He was eager to reduce government spending, and he proposed the Sugar and Stamp acts to raise revenue in the colonies to defray the expenses of Britain's expanded empire.

Grimke, Angelina and Sarah

Angelina and Sarah Grimke, sisters from South Carolina, began their public careers in the abolitionist movement. Male abolitionists objected to their prominence in the movement, and the sisters turned to advocacy of women's rights.

Griswold v. Connecticut

In "Griswold v. Connecticut" (1965), the Supreme Court overruled a Connecticut law that banned the use of contraceptives by married couples. The decision was based on the view that the Connecticut law violated individuals' right to privacy.

Guadalupe Hidalgo, Treaty of

This 1848 treaty ended the Mexican War. In it, Mexico surrendered its claim to Texas above the Rio Grande and, in the Mexican Cession of 1848, ceded New Mexico and Alta California to the United States in return for a payment of \$15 million.

US History Glossary

Guiteau, Charles

Guiteau was a mentally unbalanced Stalwart office seeker who, in frustration, assassinated president James Garfield in 1881.

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

At President Johnson's request, after reports of North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964, giving the president authority to deploy U.S. troops to repel aggression in Southeast Asia. President Johnson accepted its passage as a license to conduct war in Vietnam.

guns and butter

The phrase "guns and butter" refers to the World War II economy's ability to supply adequate amounts of domestic goods (butter) at the same time it was mobilized for the production of war goods (guns).

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habeas corpus

The writ of habeas corpus requires arresting authorities to explain the grounds for a person's imprisonment or detention before a court of law.

Hakluyt, Richard

Hakluyt was a proponent of English colonization in the New World. He tried in his essay, "Discourse on Western Planting," to convince Queen Elizabeth I to aid the establishment of colonies, arguing that they would have important strategic and economic benefits for England.

Half-Breeds

The Half-Breeds were a more reform minded and circumspect faction of the Republican party than their major rivals, the Stalwarts. Both factions were mainly interested in patronage.

Half-Way Covenant

When it was formally adopted in 1662 the Half-Way Covenant provided limited membership in the Puritan church. "Half-Way" members and their children could be baptized, but were not originally allowed to take communion or have a voice in church affairs. Without the Half-Way Covenant, third-generation children would remain un-baptized until their parents experienced conversion.

Hamilton, Alexander

Hamilton was the first Secretary of Treasury. He was the leading spokesman for strong national government, and organized the Federalist party.

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo

Mark Hanna was President McKinley's campaign manager in the election of 1896-a kingmaker. He was a skillful organizer and money raiser who masterminded McKinley's "front porch campaign." After McKinley was elected, Hanna was elected to the Senate where he became a spokesman for business interests.

Harlem Renaissance

Harlem, New York, in the 1920s was the largest black city in the world and the cultural capital of African Americans. A multitude of talented black artists and writers found an audience, both black and white, for their artistic and literary expressions of black pride and other themes.

US History Glossary

Harper's

"Harper's" magazine was one of only a handful of serious magazines published in America to the mid-1880s. It was staid in tone and politically conservative, publishing articles on current events, poetry, fiction, and history. Aimed at the upper middle class, it was influential, but had no mass circulation.

Harpers Ferry raid

In 1859, abolitionist John Brown and his followers raided the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He planned to arm local slaves, lead a slave rebellion, and establish a black republic. Instead, he was captured, tried, and executed for treason.

Harrison Act

This 1914 law prohibited the dispensing and use of narcotics for other than medicinal purposes.

Harrison, Benjamin

Harrison, a noted waver of the "bloody shirt" accusing Democrats of treason for the Civil War, was elected president in 1888. Like other late nineteenth-century presidents, he usually deferred to Congress for leadership on the issues.

Hartford Convention

In December 1814, a group of Federalists met in Hartford, Connecticut, to protest the War of 1812 and propose several constitutional amendments, including changes to protect the commercial interests of New England. These antiwar Federalists were discredited when the United States achieved an honorable peace in the Treaty of Ghent that same month.

Hat Act

Another part of the British mercantilistic system, the Hat, Iron, and Wool Acts restricted and rechanneled infant colonial manufacturing.

Hawks

"Hawks" were Americans who, during the Vietnam War, urged support for a policy of pursuing and winning the war. They saw American involvement as a moral obligation to resist aggression and stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

Hawley-Smoot Tariff

In 1930, Congress enacted the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, which raised duties on most manufactured goods to prohibitive levels. Unable to earn American dollars in trade, Europeans could not make their war debt payments, further aggravating the depression of both the American and European economies.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

New England's Puritan heritage and its continuing influence fascinated Romantic novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne. His books analyzed the themes of guilt, sin, and pride. He wrote "The Scarlet Letter."

Hay, John

Secretary of State John Hay issued the turn-of-the-century "Open Door" notes that set forth America's policy in Asia-free trade and the territorial integrity of China. He also negotiated a number of treaties that led to the construction of the Panama Canal.

US History Glossary

Hay-Pauncefote Treaty

The Hay-Pauncefote Treaty (1901) set aside the 1850 Clayton-Bulwer Treaty between the United States and Great Britain and gave the United States the right to build and fortify an isthmian canal through Central America. The United States agreed to keep the canal open to ships of all nations.

Hayes, Rutherford B.

Ohio Governor Rutherford Hayes was the Republican nominee for president in 1876. He was elected when a special electoral commission gave several disputed electoral votes to him.

Haymarket riot

In 1886, a meeting was called to protest the killing of a worker during a strike held for an eight-hour workday. The protest at Haymarket Square in Chicago was ended by a mysterious bomb blast that killed seven policemen. It resulted in public condemnation of organized labor and the demise of the Knights of Labor.

hayseeds

"Hayseed" was the pejorative nickname middle-class urban dwellers attached to American farmers in the late nineteenth century. Its use signaled the declining status of the nation's farmers.

Haywood, William

"Big Bill" Haywood was an organizer of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), an openly anti-capitalist labor organization. Although he was sometimes dramatic in his leadership, Haywood was unable to build a large membership.

Head Start

In 1964, Congress created the Head Start program designed to prepare young children for elementary school. It also improved the health of children by providing medical examinations and good meals. It was one of the most successful Great Society programs.

headright system

Adopted first in Virginia and later in Maryland, this system of land distribution during the early colonial era granted settlers 50 acres for themselves and another 50 for each "head" (or person) they brought with them to the colony. This system was often used in conjunction with indentured servitude to build large plantations and supply them with labor.

Hearst, William Randolph

Hearst copied Joseph Pulitzer's methods and made the "New York Journal" newspaper even more popular than Pulitzer's "New York World."

Heller, Joseph

American writer Joseph Heller is best known for "Catch-22" (1955), an indignant yet darkly comedic denunciation of the absurdity of war that was extremely popular with college students in the 1950s and 1960s.

Helsinki Accords

This agreement in 1975 among NATO and Warsaw Pact members recognized European national boundaries as set after World War II and included guarantees of human rights.

Hemingway, Ernest

Hemingway was the most talented of America's expatriate writers in the 1920s. His many books portrayed his sense of life's meaninglessness and the amorality of modern life. His simple, evocative style made him a legend in his own time.

US History Glossary

Henry VIII

Henry VIII was the king of England who repudiated the Pope's authority and declared himself head of the (Protestant) Anglican church in 1533.

Henry, Patrick

Henry, a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, in May 1765 suggested that Parliament had no legal authority to tax the colonies.

Hepburn Act

The 1906 Hepburn Act put teeth in the regulatory power of the Interstate Commerce Commission. It gave the commission power to inspect railroad companies' records, set maximum rates, and outlaw free passes, which were often used to influence politicians.

Hessians

Hessians were German troops hired by the British in 1775 to help suppress rebellion in the colonies. Colonists took offense, and Britain's use of Hessians made reconciliation with the colonies seem out of the question.

Higher Education Act

This federal legislation in 1965 provided federal financial aid for college students.

higher law

During the debate over the Compromise of 1850, New York Senator William Seward argued against any concessions to the slave interests by claiming that a "higher law," God's law, superseded the Constitution's provision for the return of runaway slaves, and any countenance of the evils of slavery.

hippies

Hippies were young people in the 1960s who chose to drop out and alienate themselves from mainstream culture in America. They generally retreated to communes, drugs, and mystic religions--forming what was known as the "counterculture." They rejected materialism, political activism, and conventional authority and behavior.

Hiroshima

Hiroshima, Japan, a city of 344,000 persons, was the target of the first atomic bombing in history. On August 6, 1945, 78,000 Japanese were killed in Hiroshima and 100,000 more were injured. Over 96 percent of the city's buildings were destroyed.

Hiss, Alger

In 1948, "Time" editor and former communist Whittaker Chambers accused former State Department officer Alger Hiss of having been a communist in the 1930s. Hiss sued Chambers for libel, but was himself convicted of perjury. The Hiss case fed the fears of many Americans that a communist underground was operating in the United States and had agents within the government.

Holiness movement

This religious movement originating in the antebellum North and revived among Texas farmers in the 1880s stressed simplicity in lifestyle and appealed especially to the poor.

Holocaust

The Holocaust was the systematic murder of millions of European Jews and others deemed undesirable by Nazi Germany.

US History Glossary

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr.

Jurist Holmes argued that current necessity rather than precedent should determine the rules by which people are governed; that experience, not logic, should be the basis of law. He became a Supreme Court justice where he developed the "rule of reason" for prosecution of antitrust cases.

Holy Roman Empire

The Holy Roman Empire was the loose confederation of German and Italian territories under the authority of an emperor that existed from the ninth or tenth century until 1806.

Home mission societies

These organizations founded by white Methodist Church women in the South during the 1870s promoted industrial education among the southern poor and helped working-class women become self-sufficient.

Home Owners Loan Corporation

This federal agency rescued individual homeowners from foreclosure by refinancing mortgage loans.

Homestead Act

In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act that gave 160 acres of public land to any settler who would farm and improve the land within five years of the grant. It encouraged westward migration into the Great Plains after the Civil War.

Homestead strike

A company decision to crush the workers' union provoked a strike at Andrew Carnegie's Homestead steel plant in Pittsburgh in 1892. With ruthless use of force, strikebreakers, and public support behind them, company officials effectively broke the strike and destroyed the union.

Hoover, Herbert

Before he was elected president in 1928, Hoover had never been elected to any office. But he was a proven administrator and the intellectual leader of the New Era movement of government-business partnership and cooperation. The 1929 stock-market crash ruined his presidency.

Hoovervilles

"Hoovervilles" were the ramshackle communities built of paper boxes, rusty sheet metal, and other refuse by people who were left homeless in the depression. These people tended to blame President Hoover for the depression and honored him in this way. Hoovervilles cropped up in many cities in 1930 and 1931.

Hopkins, Harry

In 1935, President Roosevelt put his close friend and personal advisor Harry Hopkins in charge of the WPA. Hopkins had earlier administered the FERA and later would administer the Lend-Lease Act, and was chairman of the World War II War Production Board.

horizontal integration

Horizontal integration refers to the merger of competitors in the same industry.

House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC)

This Congressional committee (1938-1975) investigated suspected Nazi and Communist sympathizers.

House of Burgesses

The House of Burgesses was established in Virginia in 1619 as an advisory body to the colony's governors. It was the seed of the system of elected representative government in America.

US History Glossary

House of Commons

The House of Commons was the lower house of the British Parliament, which included representatives elected by England's propertied class.

House of Lords

The House of Lords was the upper house of the British Parliament, where members of the aristocracy were represented.

House, Edward M.

House was the personal confidant, friend, and adviser to President Woodrow Wilson. He advised Wilson on U.S. foreign policy before and during World War I, and at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919.

household system

The household system of manufacturing predated the factory system. In it, artisans produced a great variety of goods to supply local needs. In larger scale operations, central shops supplied materials to houses and small shops on a piecework basis, then marketed the finished goods to the regional or national market.

Houston, Sam

Houston was the commander of Texan armies in the Texas Revolt. He became the first president of the Republic of Texas in 1836 and was later a Texas senator and governor.

How the Other Half Lives

In 1890, journalist Jacob Riis wrote "How the Other Half Lives" to expose the unhealthy conditions of tenement life in New York City.

Howe, William

General Howe took command of British troops in North America after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He captured New York and Philadelphia, but botched the plan to isolate the New England colonies in 1777.

Howells, William Dean

A leading late nineteenth-century literary realist and influential critic, Howells's works described both the genteel, middle-class world he knew and the whole range of metropolitan life. "Silas Lapham," his masterpiece, dealt with the ethical conflicts inherent in a competitive society.

Huckleberry Finn

"Huckleberry Finn" (1884) was Mark Twain's masterpiece. The novel reflected his own experience and feeling and reflected the realism of late nineteenth-century literature--life as it is.

Hudson River school

The romantic Hudson River school of early nineteenth-century artists specialized in grandiose pictures of wild landscapes.

Huerta, Victoriano

Huerta ruthlessly seized power in Mexico in 1913. President Wilson objected to Huerta's murderous methods and refused to extend diplomatic recognition to the Huerta government. Huerta abdicated in 1914.

Hughes, Charles Evans

Hughes, a progressive Republican, was that party's presidential nominee in 1916. Later, he was a secretary of state and chief justice of the Supreme Court.

US History Glossary

Hull House

Jane Addams's Hull House in Chicago was the most famous settlement house in America. It, like other settlement houses, provided social services and practical education to those they served.

human rights policy

President Carter asserted that his administration's foreign policy would place basic human rights--security, freedom from fear and hunger, etc.--before all other concerns. His administration was inconsistent in applying this standard.

Humphrey, Hubert

President Johnson's vice president, Hubert Humphrey, was the Democratic presidential candidate in 1968. He had a lengthy record of support for social welfare and civil-rights legislation, but his support for Johnson's war policies cost him some Democratic liberal votes and he narrowly lost the 1968 election to Richard Nixon.

Hundred Days

The Hundred Days designates the period between Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration as president (March 4, 1933) and the adjournment of Congress on June 16, 1933. During the period, Congress passed an immense body of legislation requested by Roosevelt to try to stimulate the depressed economy.

Hussein, Saddam

Saddam Hussein was the president of Iraq whose army invaded Kuwait in 1990 and in doing so sparked the Persian Gulf War. President Bush marshaled the United Nations' support for a military force, mostly American, to compel Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Hutchinson, Anne

Hutchinson was a Massachusetts Bay Puritan who was banished for criticizing the colony's ministers and magistrates, and for her heresy of antinomianism.

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Immigrant Restriction League (IRL)

This New England-based organization was formed in 1894 to restrict immigration from southern and eastern Europe by mandating a literacy test for every immigrant.

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

This federal legislation replaced the national quota system for immigration with overall limits of 170,000 immigrants per year from the Eastern Hemisphere and 120,000 per year from the Western Hemisphere.

Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

This legislation granted legal status to 2,650,000 undocumented immigrants and established penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

impeachment

Impeachment generally means to bring charges against a public official for misbehavior in office. The House of Representatives impeached President Johnson in 1867 for violating the Tenure of Office Act, but a Senate trial failed to convict him of the impeachment charges.

US History Glossary

imperialism

Imperialism is the policy and practice of exploiting nations and peoples for the benefit of an imperial power either directly through military occupation and colonial rule or indirectly through economic domination of resources and markets.

implied powers

Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton defended his recommendation for the creation of a central Bank of the United States by arguing that although the Constitution granted no explicit power to Congress to create a bank, the authority could be implied from Congress's authority to tax, regulate trade, and provide for defense.

impoundment

"Impoundment" means to seize and hold. In the early 1970s, President Nixon refused to spend, or impounded, money appropriated by Congress for purposes that he disapproved of.

Impressionism

Impressionism was a style of painting characterized by short brush strokes and bright colors used to recreate the impression of light on objects. Mary Cassatt was a leading American impressionist, though her work was ignored in her lifetime.

Impressment

The British navy used press gangs to commandeer manpower for naval service. During the Napoleonic Wars British captains impressed seamen from neutral vessels, even naturalized American citizens. America's sense of national honor was outraged and impressment became a cause of war in 1812.

Income Tax Act of 1986

In 1986, Congress reduced tax rates on personal and corporate incomes. The act eliminated many tax loopholes, shelters, and credits. It also relieved many low-income Americans from having to pay taxes, but undermined the principle of progressive taxation that had been a feature of the personal income-tax code since its original enactment in 1913.

indenture

Indenture is a contract binding a person to the legal service of another for a specified period.

indentured servitude

Indentured servitude was a form of apprenticeship or bonded (contract) labor. It provided a way for Europeans who could not afford to pay their own passage to get to America. In return for payment of their transportation, servants--usually male but occasionally female--agreed to work for several years. They were often abused and exploited by their masters, but most eventually became free landowners. Indentured servitude was the primary labor system in the Chesapeake colonies for most of the seventeenth century.

Independent Treasury Act

To ensure the absolute safety of federal funds, President Van Buren proposed, and Congress passed legislation creating an Independent Treasury. This took the federal government out of banking. All payments to the government were to be made in hard cash and it was to be stored in government vaults until needed.

Indian Removal Act

This legislation passed by Congress in 1830 provided funds for removing and resettling eastern Indians in the West. It granted the president the authority to use force if necessary.

US History Glossary

Indian Reorganization Act of 1934

This law reversed previous Indian policy by guaranteeing religious freedom and tribal self-government and providing economic assistance.

Indian Self-Determination Act

In 1975, responding to AIM and public sympathy, Congress passed the Indian Self-Determination Act. It gave individual tribes greater control over matters of their education, welfare programs, and law enforcement.

indirect taxes

Indirect taxes, like the Navigation Acts, were taxes on colonial imports, and were designed to regulate imperial trade. The Stamp Act was a direct tax, an excise tax on all kinds of printed matter. It was designed to raise revenue to defray British imperial expenses in America.

individual retirement accounts (IRAs)

These personal saving and investment accounts allow workers and their spouses to accumulate retirement savings on a tax-deferred basis.

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

This militant labor organization founded in 1905 attracted mostly recent immigrants and espoused a class-conscious program and ideology. Its members were known as Wobblies.

Initiative

An initiative is defined as the procedure by which citizens can introduce a subject for legislation, usually through a petition signed by a specific number of voters.

Injunction

An injunction is a court order restraining someone from acting. In the late nineteenth century, the courts frequently issued injunctions against striking workers, thus weakening their unions.

Institutional economics

Members of the institutional school of economics, like Richard Ely, declared that the concepts of social Darwinism and laissez faire were outmoded and dangerous. Institutional economists called for government regulation and planning of the economy, and for analyzing actual economic conditions rather than applying abstract laws and principles.

Insular cases

In a series of cases, federal courts held that, in effect, the Constitution does not follow the flag and that Congress had the power to determine the rights of those who lived in American possessions, in this instance, those gained from the Spanish-American War. The name of the cases derives from the fact that they dealt with island possessions, i.e., territories detached from the U.S. mainland.

Intendant

A royally appointed government official in New France was referred to as an intendant.

interest group democracy

Some historians describe the New Deal as "interest-group democracy" because it responded to special interest groups (farmers, unions, trade associations, etc.) that were well organized and could articulate their interests and lobby Congress. While it responded to interest-group pressure, the New Deal slighted the unorganized majority--consumers.

US History Glossary

Intermediate Nuclear Force Agreement (INF)

According to this disarmament agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, an entire class of missiles would be removed and destroyed and on-site inspections would be permitted for verification.

internal improvements

Following the War of 1812, federal aid to finance internal improvements became a divisive political issue. Internal improvements were various construction enterprises such as turnpikes, canals, river and harbor clearing projects, and so on. The National Road was the first federally funded internal improvements project.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

This international organization established in 1945 was intended to assist nations in maintaining stable currencies.

Internment camps

Fearing they might be disloyal, the U.S. government segregated and detained over 110,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps in interior western states during World War II.

Interstate commerce

Interstate commerce is trade between states (Intrastate commerce is trade within a state.). The Constitution empowers Congress to regulate interstate commerce, and, in "Gibbons v. Ogden" in 1824, the Supreme Court ruled that a state government can regulate intrastate commerce, but not when the transaction involves crossing a state line.

Interstate Commerce Commission

When the Supreme Court ruled in the Wabash case that a state's power to regulate railroads was limited, Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act (1887) creating the ICC, America's first regulatory agency. Originally, it had little real authority.

interstate highways

In 1956, Congress began funding a limited-access interstate highway system that has enormously increased long-distance travel in America and shifted population away from the central city to the suburbs.

Intolerable Acts

Parliament responded to the Boston Tea Party by passing the Coercive Acts in 1774. They were unjust acts in that they intended to punish Boston and Massachusetts generally for the crime committed by a few individuals. Colonists called these (combined with the Quartering and Quebec acts) the Intolerable Acts.

Iran-Contra affair

The Iran-Contra affair involved high officials in the Reagan administration secretly selling arms to Iran (in return for the release of Western hostages in the Middle East) and illegally using the proceeds to finance the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. The transaction violated the Boland Amendment's ban on U.S. military aid to the Contras.

Iron Act

Another part of the British mercantilistic system, the Hat, Iron, and Wool Acts restricted and rechanneled infant colonial manufacturing.

Iron Curtain

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill coined the term "Iron Curtain" to refer to the "boundary" that divided Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe from Western European nations not under Soviet domination.

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Iroquois League

This union of five Indian nations (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas) formed around 1450; it was alternately known as the League of Five Nations. Essentially a religious organization, the league's purpose was to maintain peace among the five nations and unite them to fight against other enemies. After the Tuscarora War (1713-1715), the Tuscaroras joined the league, thereafter known as the League of Six Nations.

irreconcilables

The handful of Senate "irreconcilables," led by Senator Borah of Idaho, were basically isolationists uncompromising in their opposition to the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles and U.S. membership in the League of Nations.

Irving, Washington

Irving, author of "Rip Van Winkle" (1819) wrote many humorous accounts of the tales and legends of the Dutch in the Hudson Valley.

island hopping

Island hopping was the American strategy in the Pacific during World War II. It involved a leapfrogging movement of American forces from one strategic island to the next until American forces were in control of the Pacific and prepared to invade Japan.

isolationism

"Isolationism" is the label given to America's nineteenth-century foreign policy. It was based on President Washington's warning not to form alliances or become politically entangled with European nations in peacetime, and was announced as policy in the Monroe Doctrine of 1823.

Iwo Jima

In March 1945, the strategic island of Iwo Jima was captured by U.S. forces. Okinawa was taken in June 1945 and, except for the Japanese home islands, this completed the island hopping campaign in the Pacific that had begun at Guadalcanal in August 1942.

-J-

Jackson, Jesse

Jackson, a black civil-rights activist, ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988. He campaigned to reduce military spending and advance education and social services.

Jackson, Stonewall

General Thomas Jackson was one of the Confederacy's key military commanders and an expert on cavalry maneuvers. He was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville (1863) when he was accidentally shot by one of his own soldiers.

Jacksonian Democracy

The concept of Jacksonian Democracy glorified the equality of all adult white males--the common man. It disliked anything that smacked of special privilege. It rejected the elitist view that only the proven "best" men should be chosen to manage public affairs.

Jacksonian Democrats

Andrew Jackson's Democratic party generally championed the principles of equal opportunity, absolute political freedom (for white males), glorification of the common man, and limited government.

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James, Henry

James was a preeminent literary realist who detested romantic novels. In his own works, he pursued themes of cultural conflict and the cruel impoliteness of a pretentious upper class. He skillfully brought psychological penetration to the personalities of his characters.

James, William

James was the founder of the discipline of psychology. He was the most influential philosopher of his time. Contrary to the prevailing environmentalism, James held an axiomatic belief in free will. He was America's leading proponent of pragmatism.

Japanese Association of America

The Japanese Association of America was a social service organization for Japanese immigrants that stressed assimilation.

Jay's Treaty

John Jay negotiated a treaty with Britain in 1794 in which the British agreed to evacuate posts in the American northwest and settle some maritime disputes. Jay agreed to accept Britain's definition of America's neutral rights. The terms of the treaty provoked a storm of protest, but it was ratified in 1795.

Jay, John

Jay was Chief Justice, a coauthor of the Federalist Papers, and negotiated the controversial Jay Treaty with England.

Jazz Age

The 1920s were known as the Jazz Age, so called for the popular music of the day as a symbol of the many changes taking place in the mass culture.

Jazz Singer, The

"The Jazz Singer," (1927), starring Al Jolson, was the first talking movie.

Jefferson, Thomas

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, helped organize the Republican party in the 1790s, and became the third president of the United States (1801-1809).

Jeffersonian Republicans

This party, headed by Thomas Jefferson, formed in opposition to the financial and diplomatic policies of the Federalist party. They favored limiting the powers of the national government and placing the interests of farmers and planters over those of financial and commercial groups, and supported the cause of the French Revolution.

Jim Crow laws

Jim Crow laws were segregation laws that became widespread in the South during the 1890s; they were named for a minstrel show character portrayed satirically by white actors in blackface.

Job Corps

One of President Johnson's War on Poverty initiatives led to the creation of the Job Corps in 1964. It was a community-action program to help finance local job training for the poor. It was almost a total failure.

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John Brown's Raid

John Brown's Raid was the ill-fated attempt of the eponymous New England abolitionist to free Virginia's slaves with a raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in 1859.

Johns Hopkins

Under the presidency of Daniel Coit Gilman, Johns Hopkins University stressed meticulous research and freedom of inquiry. It specialized in graduate education and attracted scholars and faculty from throughout America and Europe.

Johnson, Andrew

Democratic Senator Andrew Johnson from Tennessee was Lincoln's vice-presidential running mate in 1864 on the National Union party ticket. He succeeded to the presidency when Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. His Reconstruction policies infuriated Radical Republicans in Congress, and he was impeached and nearly removed from office in 1867. He returned to the Senate in 1875.

Johnson, Lyndon B.

Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson was a master of the legislative process. He was elected vice president in 1960 and became president when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. He was elected president in 1964. His Great Society and civil-rights programs were overshadowed by his decisions that mired the United States in the Vietnam War.

Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War

Although created by the Republican-dominated Congress in December 1861 to examine and monitor Civil War military policy, the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War ultimately devoted itself more to harassing Democratic officers and promoting the political agenda of Radical Republican congressmen.

joint resolution

A joint resolution of Congress requires a simple majority vote in each house to pass. After falling short of the two-thirds majority needed in the Senate to ratify a treaty to annex Texas in 1844, Texas was annexed by a joint resolution in 1845.

joint-stock company

English merchants invested in companies similar to modern corporations. These joint-stock companies enabled investors to pool capital for commercial activity and colony planting, including the founding of the Virginia, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay colonies.

Jones, Bobby

Bobby Jones ruled the world of golf in the 1920s. In 1930 he won the amateur and open championships of both the United States and Great Britain.

Jones, Samuel M.

"Golden Rule" Jones was the progressive reform mayor of Toledo, Ohio at the turn of the twentieth century. He, like other reform mayors, launched a massive assault on dishonesty and inefficiency in urban government.

journeyman

A journeyman is a person who has completed an apprenticeship in a trade or craft and is now a qualified worker in another person's employ.

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judicial review

Although the Constitution did not specifically authorize the courts to declare laws void when they conflicted with the Constitution, courts soon exercised this power of judicial review. The case of "Marbury v. Madison" (1803) established the Supreme Court's and other federal courts' authority of judicial review of the acts of Congress.

Judiciary Act of 1789

The Judiciary Act of 1789 giving the Supreme Court the authority to issue a writ of mandamus was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the case of Marbury v. Madison (1803). It was the first federal law to fall victim to judicial review.

Judiciary Act of 1801

The lame-duck Federalist congress created several new federal courts in the Judiciary Act of 1801. Just before leaving office, President Adams appointed Federalist "midnight justices" to these courts. The new Republican congress repealed the act and many appointments were never delivered.

Jungle, The

Socialist journalist Upton Sinclair's novel "The Jungle" was a devastating exposé of Chicago's slaughterhouses. Its publication and popularity helped President Roosevelt pressure Congress into enacting meat-inspection and pure-food and drug legislation.

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Kai-shek, Chiang

Chiang was the leader of the noncommunist nationalist government in China in the 1940s. His government was corrupt and unpopular and was overthrown in 1949 by communist rebels led by Mao Tse-tung.

kamikazes

"Kamikazes" were Japanese suicide pilots in World War II who tried to crash their bomb-laden planes into America ships and airstrips. Literally, the word means "divine wind."

Kansas-Nebraska Act

In 1854, Senator Stephen A. Douglas introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, a proposal to organize the remaining Louisiana Purchase Territory. Since the Missouri Compromise had banned slavery in that territory, his proposal to use popular sovereignty to determine the fate of slavery in the territory outraged northerners. The bill passed, effectively repealing the Missouri Compromise, and northern opponents of slavery's expansion organized the Republican Party.

Kaskaskia

Kaskaskia, Illinois, on the Mississippi River, was occupied on July 4, 1778, during the Revolutionary War, by George Rogers Clark, command troops from Virginia. Cahokia, Illinois, and Vincennes, Indiana, soon capitulated, though the British later reoccupied Vincennes before Clark recaptured it on February 23, 1779. Clark's operations strengthened American claims to the areas at the end of the war.

Kasserine Pass

The Kasserine Pass was the site of the first large-scale World War II encounter between U.S. and German ground forces, in February 1942, in North Africa.

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Kellogg-Briand Pact

The 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact was a moral indictment of war, an "international kiss" that outlawed war as an instrument of national policy. It contained no enforcement machinery.

Kennan, George

Foreign Service officer George Kennan was the key idea man behind the containment doctrine. His knowledge of Soviet history led him to conclude that the Soviets saw capitalist-communist conflict as inevitable. The only way to deal with that mentality, concluded Kennan, was for the United States to contain communism by resisting Soviet aggression and expansion wherever it might occur.

Kennedy, John F

Massachusetts Senator Kennedy was elected president in 1960. He had trouble getting cooperation from Congress on his domestic policy and faced multiple complex problems in the conduct of foreign policy in Cuba, Europe, and Vietnam. He was assassinated in 1963.

Kennedy, Robert

Kennedy, as attorney general in his brother John F. Kennedy's administration, vigorously pursued civil-rights cases. He was later elected senator from New York, and he campaigned as an antiwar presidential candidate in 1968. He was assassinated just prior to the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Kent State

During a protest of the Cambodian incursion at Kent State University in 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen fired on the student demonstrators, killing four. The tragedy provoked larger and more frequent demonstrations on college campuses.

Kentucky and Virginia Resolves

In response to the Alien and Sedition Acts, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolves. They argued that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional and that each state had a right to declare them null and void.

Kerner Commission

Late in the 1960s, a special presidential commission headed by Illinois Governor Otto Kerner concluded that the black ghetto riots of the previous three years were the consequence of white racism.

Kerouac, Jack

Kerouac is recognized as the exemplar and prototype of the "beat" school of post-World War II literature. He wrote "On the Road" (1957), the novel considered to be the founding testament of the "beat generation" of the 1950s.

Keynes, John Maynard

Keynes was a British economist who greatly influenced many New Deal advisors to President Roosevelt. Keynes argued that the world depression could be conquered if governments would adopt deficit spending--reducing interest rates and taxes and increasing expenditures in order to stimulate consumption and investment.

Khomeini (Ayatollah)

Khomeini was a revered Iranian religious leader who was returned from exile to take control of the Iranian government when the shah was overthrown in 1979. He was strongly anti-American.

Khrushchev, Nikita

Khrushchev was premier of the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s. **King George's War**

This was the third Anglo-French war in North America (1744-1748), and was part of the European conflict known

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as the War of the Austrian Succession. During the North American fighting, New Englanders captured the French fortress of Louisbourg, only to have it returned to France after the peace negotiations.

King, Martin Luther, Jr.

King, a Baptist minister, emerged as the national leader of the civil-rights movement during the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955. He advocated nonviolent resistance as a protest strategy. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968.

King Philip's War

English encroachment on native lands sparked this conflict in New England (1675-1676) between Narragansetts, Wampanoags, and other Indian peoples against English settlers.

King William's War

The first Anglo-French conflict in North America (1689-1697), King William's War represented the American phase of Europe's War of the League of Augsburg. The conflict ended in negotiated peace that reestablished the balance of power.

kingmaker

In American political jargon, a kingmaker is a political manipulator who, usually from behind the scenes, organizes the successful election of his chosen candidate. Mark Hanna was the kingmaker behind William McKinley's election to the presidency in 1896.

Kinsey, Alfred

Alfred Kinsey's "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" (1948) showed that premarital sex, marital infidelity, homosexuality, and various forms of "perversion" were far more common than most people suspected. This "Kinsey Report" was liberating to many, both male and female, and contributed to the sexual revolution.

Kissinger, Henry

Kissinger was secretary of state from 1973 to 1976, but he played a major role in formulating U.S. foreign policy during both Nixon presidencies. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the Paris Peace Accords, which ended America's involvement in the Vietnam War in 1973.

kitchen debate

In 1959, Vice President Nixon engaged in a heated argument with Soviet Premier Khrushchev during the tour of a kitchen in a model American home set up in a Moscow fair. The incident established Nixon's credentials as being tough on communism.

kiva

A kiva is a Pueblo Indian ceremonial structure, usually circular and underground.

Knights of Labor

The Knights of Labor was organized in 1869 and headed by Uriah Stephens and Terence Powderly. It enjoyed brief success as a national labor organization, especially in the 1880s. It combined the roles of labor union and reform society, and its basic demand was for an eight-hour day. It declined when its advocacy of the eight-hour workday led to violent strikes in 1886.

Know-Nothing party

The Know-Nothing (American) party was a nativist, anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic political party organized in the early 1850s in response to the recent flood of Catholic immigrants from Ireland and Germany. The party enjoyed some success in local and state elections in 1854.

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Korean War

In the war between North Korea and South Korea (1950-1953), the People's Republic of China fought on the side of North Korea and the United States and other nations fought on the side of South Korea under the auspices of the United Nations.

Korematsu v. United States

In 1944, the Supreme Court upheld the government's policy of detaining Japanese Americans in internment camps, even when there was no specific evidence that they posed a danger to American security. The Court justified the policy as a military necessity in wartime.

Ku Klux Klan

Southerners who objected to congressional Reconstruction policies founded several secret terrorist societies, the Ku Klux Klan was one of these. It was organized in Tennessee in 1866 and became a vigilante group dedicated to driving blacks out of politics by using intimidation and violence.

Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871

This law held the perpetrators responsible for denying a citizen's civil rights and allowed the federal government to prosecute and send military assistance if states failed to act.

Kursk Salient

This was the site of the largest tank battle in World War II (July 1943), when Germans failed to throw back Soviet forces that had pushed a huge bulge or salient into German lines.

-L-

La Follette, Robert

La Follette, an uncompromising foe of corruption in government, became reform governor of (and later senator from) Wisconsin. He had faith in people's ability, once informed, to do the right thing. He fathered the Wisconsin Idea of including scholars and experts in the administration of state government.

Ladies' Home Journal

When Edward Bok became editor of the "Ladies' Home Journal" in 1889, he revolutionized the mass-circulation field for the magazine. The magazine offered advice columns, articles on child and home care and current events, and reproduced art works. The editor campaigned for women's suffrage, conservation, and other reforms.

Ladies' Memorial Associations

These women's organizations were formed in the South after the Civil War to commemorate Confederate soldiers.

laissez-faire

Laissez-faire means literally "to let alone." The phrase is commonly used to refer to a policy of no governmental interference in the economy or one's personal pursuit of material wealth. In practice, it opposes governmental regulation, but has no quarrel with government promotion of, or aid to, economic development.

Lancaster, Treaty of

In this 1744 negotiation, Iroquois chiefs sold Virginia land speculators the right to trade at the Forks of the Ohio. Although the Iroquois had not intended this to include the right to settle in the Ohio Country, the Virginians assumed that it did. Ohio Valley Indians considered this treaty a great grievance against both the English and the Iroquois.

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Land Grant College Act

This law passed by Congress in July 1862 awarded proceeds from the sale of public lands to the states for the establishment of agricultural and mechanical (later engineering) colleges; the grants were awarded at the rate of 30,000 acres for each member that state had in Congress. The law was named after its sponsor, Congressman Justin Morrill of Vermont.

Land Ordinance of 1785

The Ordinance of 1785 provided for the surveying and selling of America's western territories; it created the grid system of surveys by which all subsequent public land was made available for sale. It favored speculative land development companies, but it promoted nationalism.

Landon, Alf

Landon, governor of Kansas, was the Republican presidential nominee in 1936. He and his party were defeated in a landslide victory for Democrat Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal.

landsmanshaften

These Jewish associations provided social and economic services for their members.

large policy

America's growing foreign trade, Darwinian social theory, conquest of the western frontier, strategic and military interests, and the European examples of colonial acquisition all influenced some leaders to call for a larger role (a "large policy") for the United States in world affairs in the late nineteenth century.

Las Gorras Blancas

Las Gorras Blancas ("the White Caps") were Hispanic villagers in New Mexico who disguised themselves and employed violent tactics to resist Anglo capitalist disruptions of their traditional life.

Last of the Mohicans, The

"The Last of the Mohicans" (1826) was one of James Fenimore Cooper's most successful in a series of tales of Indians and settlers that presented a vivid, if romanticized picture of frontier life. It, like many romantic novels, expressed a reverence for nature and the freedom of the individual.

Laws Divine, Morall and Martiall

This harsh code of laws in force in Virginia between 1609 and 1621 was designed to use military discipline to bring order to the struggling colony.

League of Armed Neutrality

This association of European powers (Russian, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, and Sicily) formed between 1780 and 1782 to protect their rights as neutral traders against British attempts to impose a blockade on its enemies. Britain declared war on the Dutch on December 20, 1780, in an effort to cut off their trade with the United States.

League of Freedom

This African-American organization formed in Boston in 1851 to protect blacks against the Fugitive Slave Act.

League of Nations

The League of Nations was President Wilson's fourteenth point in his plan for a "peace without victory." He proposed the League as an international peacekeeping organization, and it was incorporated into the 1919 Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I. But questions about League membership caused the U.S. Senate to refuse to ratify the treaty and to reject U.S. membership in the League.

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League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

This organization for Hispanic Americans formed in 1928 to fight segregation and promote equal rights and opportunities.

League of Women Voters

This group formed in 1920 from the National American Women Suffrage Association to encourage informed voting and social reforms.

Lease, Mary Elizabeth

Lease was a prominent Populist speaker noted for her rallying cry to farmers to "raise less corn and more hell."

Leaves of Grass

"Leaves of Grass" (1855) was romantic poet Walt Whitman's collection of poems notable for their use of free verse and American slang, and for their theme of optimism and confidence.

Lecompton Constitution

Kansas territorial delegates elected under questionable circumstances wrote this proslavery draft in 1857 and presented it with a request for admission to statehood. It generated a controversy that divided the Democratic Party. It was rejected by two governors, supported by President Buchanan, and decisively defeated by Congress. Kansas was ultimately admitted as a free state in 1861.

Lee, Ann

Ann Lee founded the Shaker communities. She believed herself to be Christ returned to earth. She came to New York from England in 1774 and died in 1784, but her movement continued to expand for decades.

Lee, Robert E.

General Lee was the commander of the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia and a brilliant tactician. He led the Confederate armies at Antietam and Gettysburg. He surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, in 1865.

legal tender

This term refers to an attribute of money that results from legislation declaring it to be, as in the case of modern United States currency, "legal tender for all debts public and private." Creditors must therefore accept it at face value.

Leisler's Rebellion

Jacob Leisler seized control of New York's government in the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution in England in 1688. He was arrested and executed in 1690.

Lend-Lease Act

Arguing that aiding Britain would help America's own defense, President Roosevelt in 1941 asked Congress for a \$7 billion lend-lease plan. This would allow the president to sell, lend, lease, or transfer war material to any country whose defense he declared as vital to that of the United States.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Martin Luther King, Jr., was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, after leading a civil-rights demonstration in 1963. There he wrote his now famous "Letter" that explained why blacks were impatient for civil rights and racial equality.

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Levittown

Levittowns were large post-World War II housing developments built by William Levitt and Sons outside New York and Philadelphia.

Lewis and Clark Expedition

President Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory and beyond to the Pacific Coast. Their expedition (1803-1806) brought back a wealth of data about the country and its resources.

Lewis, John L.

Lewis was president of the United Mine Workers Union in the 1930s, and he took full advantage of Section 7a of the NIRA to expand his union's membership. He and others formed the Committee for Industrial Organization in the AFL, which in 1938 became the separate CIO with Lewis as its president.

Lewis, Sinclair

Lewis was probably the most popular novelist of the 1920s. He portrayed the shallow ignorance and bigotry of small-town America in "Main Street," and the boorish boosterism of America's small businessman in "Babbitt." He was the first American novelist to win a Nobel Prize.

Leyte Gulf

Together with the Battle of the Philippine Sea (June 1944), the Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 1944) completed the destruction of Japanese sea power in the Pacific. Leyte Gulf is in the Philippines.

Liberal Republicans

In 1872, Republican reformers, alarmed by the corruption and scandals in the Grant administration, organized the Liberal Republican party and nominated Horace Greeley for president. They were laissez faire liberals who opposed legislation that benefited any particular group.

Liberator, The

"The Liberator," the abolitionist newspaper, was published by William Lloyd Garrison. In its columns, Garrison called for the immediate abolition of slavery and the treatment of blacks as equals.

Liberty Association

This African-American organization formed in Chicago in 1851 to patrol the city to spot slave catchers.

Liberty bonds

These interest-bearing certificates were sold by the U.S. government to finance the American World War I effort.

Liberty party

New York businessmen Arthur and Lewis Tappan organized the Liberty party. They broke with William Lloyd Garrison over issues of abolitionists' involvement in politics and the role of women in the movement. The party nominated James Birney for president in 1840 and 1844, but he garnered few votes.

lily-white policy

When Theodore Roosevelt, no less and no more a racist than his contemporaries, ran for president on the Progressive party ticket in 1912, he pursued a "lily-white" policy. That is, he wooed the white voters in the South, hoping to break the strength of the Democratic party there.

Limited Test Ban Treaty

This 1963 agreement between the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union was designed to halt atmospheric and underwater tests of nuclear weapons.

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Lincoln, Abraham

Lincoln was a one-term congressman from Illinois during the Mexican War. His debates with Senator Stephen Douglas in 1858 propelled him to national attention and the Republican nomination for president in 1860. He won the election and led the Union during the Civil War, during which he issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln-Douglas debates

In the senate race in Illinois in 1858, Senator Stephen Douglas and Republican Abraham Lincoln conducted a series of debates. These debates focused on the implications of the Dred Scott decision and the future of slavery in America. Lincoln won wide acclaim in the North for his views. Douglas won reelection.

Lindbergh, Charles

Lindbergh was the first person to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean, going from New York to Paris in 1927. His feat gave a major boost to commercial flying.

Little Bighorn

In June, 1876, Colonel George A. Custer and all his men were killed (Custer's Last Stand) by Sioux Indians at the Battle of Little Bighorn in southern Montana.

localism

This belief, prevalent during much of the nineteenth century, held that local concerns took precedence over national concerns and that people and institutions should generally resolve issues without the involvement of the national government.

Lodge, Henry Cabot

Massachusetts Republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, a personal and political enemy of President Woodrow Wilson as well as an intense nationalist and partisan, organized the reservationists who opposed U.S. membership in the League of Nations.

London Company

The London Company was a joint-stock company chartered in 1606 and was responsible for founding the first permanent English settlement in America; Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

Lone Star Republic

After rebelling from Mexico in 1835, Texas established a government of its own. Known as the "Lone Star Republic," Texas continued to function as an independent nation until its voluntary annexation by the United States in 1848.

Lonely Crowd, The

Alarmed by the sheepish conformity of the 1950s, sociologist David Riesman wrote "The Lonely Crowd" (1952) to draw a distinction between "inner-directed" rugged individualists, who were worthy of admiration, and "other-directed" conformists.

Long, Huey

Louisiana Senator Long was a left-wing critic of the New Deal, contending it did too little to help the poor. He advocated a "Share Our Wealth" program to transfer wealth from the rich to the poor. He was assassinated in 1935.

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long- and short-haul inequity

To recover losses forced on them by stiff competition, railroad companies varied their rates according to the level of competition in an area. Because of this, it frequently cost more to ship a product a short distance than a longer one.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow, author of "Paul Revere's Ride" and "Song of Hiawatha" effectively captured the exuberance, optimism and self-confidence of the romantic age.

loose construction

Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton held a loose construction of the Constitution (implied powers) claiming that Congress had the authority to pass all laws that were proper. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson held a strict construction of the Constitution claiming Congress was limited to making only laws that were necessary.

Lord Baltimore

The Calvert family, English Catholics, established the proprietary colony of Maryland in 1634 as a haven for English Catholics and for their own economic advantage.

Lords of Trade

Charles II created this standing committee of the Privy Council in 1675, to oversee colonial affairs.

lost cause

Many white Southerners applied this phrase to their Civil War defeat; they viewed the war as a noble cause but only a temporary setback in the South's ultimate vindication.

lost generation

The "lost generation" was the bright young generation of artists and writers, disillusioned by the brutality of World War I and alienated by the materialism and conformity of the new mass culture, who became critics of modern society's manners, morals, and materialism. Many Americans among them became expatriates, leaving the United States to live in Europe.

Louisiana Purchase

In 1803 the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleonic France for \$15 million. The purchase secured U.S. control of the Mississippi River and nearly doubled the size of the nation.

Lowell, Francis Cabot

Lowell headed the Boston Associates whose Waltham textile mills added a new dimension to the factory system, mass production.

Loyalists

Loyalists (sometimes called Tories) hesitated to take up arms against England. They may have been as much as one-third of the colonists in 1776. Many were royal appointees, Anglican clergymen, or Atlantic merchants. They were poorly organized and of limited help to British armies, but the Patriots persecuted them.

Loyalty Review Board

In 1947, President Truman responded to allegations that his administration was full of communist sympathizers by creating the Loyalty Review Board. The board made sympathy with any "subversive" organization on its list grounds for dismissal from government employment. Those charged were not allowed to cross-examine their accusers.

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Lucas, Eliza

Lucas introduced the indigo as a cash crop on her South Carolina plantation. Indigo was a blue dye used in the British woolens industry. Parliament paid a bonus for its cultivation.

Lusitania

In May 1915, the British passenger ship "Lusitania" was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland. One hundred twenty-eight Americans were among the dead. President Wilson demanded Germany pay an indemnity to victims' families and promise to stop attacking passenger ships. Germany agreed to pay an indemnity.

Luther, Martin

Luther was the German Protestant reform leader who challenged the authority of the Roman Catholic church in the early sixteenth century.

lyceum

Lyceums were locally sponsored public lectures that were quite diverse in topics and in speakers. Many early nineteenth-century literary figures were popular lecturers on the lyceum circuit.

lynching

A lynching is an execution, usually by a mob, without a trial.

-M-

MacArthur, Douglas

General Douglas MacArthur commanded Allied troops in the Pacific during World War II. He was forced to surrender the Philippines in 1941 and was thereafter obsessed with its recapture, which he accomplished in 1944. He later commanded the American occupation of Japan and United Nations troops in the Korean War.

Macon's Bill No. 2

In 1810 Macon's Bill No. 2 replaced the ineffective Non-Intercourse Act. It removed all restrictions on commerce with France and Britain, but it authorized the president to reapply non-intercourse to either European power if one of them ceased violating American neutral rights.

Madison, James

Madison proposed the Virginia plan to the Constitutional Convention, coauthored the Federalist Papers, and helped Jefferson organize the Republican party. He wrote the Virginia Resolves and became president in 1809.

Mahan, Alfred Thayer

In the 1880s, naval Captain Mahan applied the lessons from his "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History" to argue that the United States needed a strong navy, coaling stations, annexation of Hawaii, bases in the Caribbean, and a Central American canal, all of which would ensure the United States' future as a world power.

Mahanism

Mahanism refers to the ideas advanced by Alfred Thayer Mahan, stressing U.S. naval, economic, and territorial expansion.

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Mailer, Norman

Mailer, who became a sharp and irreverent critic of modern American life, published one of the best novels to emerge from the experience of World War II, "The Naked and the Dead" (1948).

Maine

The United States battleship "USS Maine," sent by President McKinley to Cuba in 1898, was mysteriously blown up in Havana harbor. Popular sentiment in the United States held that the Spanish were responsible, and the incident led to the Spanish-American War. No one knows what actually happened.

Maine Law

In 1851, Maine passed the first effective law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. This was the culmination of a movement led by Neal Dow.

Manhattan Project

In May 1943, the United States began its effort to create an atomic bomb, an undertaking code-named the Manhattan Project, under the management of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II. By 1945, nearly \$2 billion had been spent on the project.

Manifest Destiny

Manifest destiny was the belief of nineteenth-century Americans that their nation's territorial expansion was inevitable and ultimately a good thing, even for those being conquered. This conviction helped Americans justify the aggressive acquisition of new territories in the 1840s and later in the 1890s.

Mann, Horace

Horace Mann was, with Henry Barnard, a leader of the common school movement in early nineteenth-century America. He became the first secretary of the Massachusetts School Board. He promoted public education for all children.

Marbury v. Madison

In 1803 the Supreme Court ruled the Judiciary Act of 1789 unconstitutional. The "Marbury v. Madison" case established the precedent for judicial review of federal laws.

Marshall Plan

In 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall proposed a massive economic aid program to rebuild the war-torn economies of European nations. The plan was motivated both by humanitarian concern for the conditions of those nations' economies and by fear that their economic dislocation would promote the spread of communism in Europe, particularly Western Europe; also known as the European Recovery Program.

Marshall, John

Marshall was Chief Justice of the United States from 1801 to 1835. His rulings constantly upheld the sanctity of contracts and the supremacy of federal legislation over the laws of the states.

Marshall, Thurgood

Marshall was the NAACP lawyer that challenged the "separate but equal" doctrine in 1954. He moved the Supreme Court to rule in "Brown v. Board of Education" that segregation was inherently unequal and psychologically damaging to both black and white children. He later became a member of the Supreme Court.

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martial law

At times during the Civil War, President Lincoln applied martial law, the substitution of military power for ordinary civil authority, in certain areas of high antiwar dissent or pro-southern sympathies.

Marxian socialists

Marxian socialists advocated government ownership of the means of production. They argued that the interests of capital (ownership and management) were incompatible with those of labor.

Massachusetts Government Act

In 1774 the British Parliament passed this law directed at Massachusetts in response to the Boston Tea Party; one of the Coercive or Intolerable Acts. It provided for an appointed rather than an elected upper house of the legislature and restricted the number and kind of town meetings that a community might hold.

massive retaliation

The "New Look" military policy of the Eisenhower-Dulles foreign policy was to threaten "massive retaliation" with nuclear attack for any act of aggression by a potential enemy.

Mather, Cotton

Mather, a Puritan minister, was Massachusetts's resident expert on demonology and a vindictive proponent of the execution of Salem's accused witches. He also recommended inoculation during the 1721 smallpox epidemic in Boston.

matrilineal

Matrilineal societies are those in which family descent is traced through the mother's line.

Mayflower Compact

The Mayflower Compact was an agreement among the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation (1620) to establish a body politic and to obey the rules of the governors they chose. The compact was signed by all adult males before their ship reached land.

Maysville Road veto

In 1830, President Jackson vetoed a bill providing federal aid for the construction of the Maysville Road because the route was wholly within Kentucky. Jackson generally favored internal improvements, but preferred that local projects like this be left to state funding.

McCarran Internal Security Act

In 1950, Congress passed the McCarran Act making participation in any effort to create a totalitarian government in America illegal, required the registration of all communist organizations, banned suspected communists from defense work, and denied immigration to anyone from a communist country.

McCarthy, Eugene

Minnesota Senator McCarthy ran against President Johnson for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. He challenged Johnson's policy on the war in Vietnam and was supported by many liberal Democrats.

McCarthy, Joseph

In the early 1950s, Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy conducted a witch-hunt of government employees that he charged with being communists or communist sympathizers. His unscrupulous tactics have been labeled "McCarthyism"--smearing someone's reputation by telling a "big lie" about them.

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McClellan, George

President Lincoln appointed General McClellan commander of Union forces in 1861. Lee's forces repelled his army in the Peninsular Campaign in 1862. Lincoln replaced him when he failed to take advantage of the Confederate withdrawal from Antietam in 1862. Northern Democrats nominated him for president in 1864, but Lincoln won reelection.

McClure's

"McClure's" magazine gave progressive muckraker journalists like Lincoln Steffens and Ida Tarbell their start.

McCormick, Cyrus

McCormick developed a mechanical, horse-drawn reaper that multiplied several times over the acreage of wheat that a farmer could harvest in a given time.

McCoy, Joseph

McCoy was an Illinois cattle dealer who established Abilene, Kansas, as the railhead of the long drive on the Chisholm Trail from south Texas in 1867.

McCulloch v. Maryland

In "McCulloch v. Maryland" (1819), the Supreme Court ruled that the second Bank of the United States was constitutional, thus affirming the doctrine of implied powers. The case also determined that "the power to tax involves the power to destroy," thus state governments could not tax a federal agency like the Bank.

McGovern, George

South Dakota Senator McGovern was the Democratic nominee for president in 1972. He was opposed to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. He was defeated in a landslide reelection of President Nixon.

McKinley Tariff Act

This Republican enactment of 1890 sharply raise tariff rates to protect American manufacturers but thereby provoked a political backlash against the GOP.

McKinley, William

New York Republican Senator William McKinley won the presidential election in 1896. He was a noted expert on tariff policy (he was pro-protectionist) and was a solid supporter of the gold standard. He won reelection in 1900, but was assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz in 1901.

McNary-Haugen bill

The McNary-Haugen bill passed Congress in 1927 and again in 1928. It proposed a plan to raise farm prices by having the government purchase price-depressing farm surpluses and sell them in foreign markets. Farmers would pay an "equalization fee" for losses the government might incur in the sale. President Coolidge twice vetoed the bill as unconstitutional and contrary to the free-enterprise system.

me generation

By the 1960s, most Americans were more preoccupied with their own immediate interests and less willing to suspend judgment and follow leaders. They were also less willing to look on others as better qualified to decide what they should do. This focus on individual gratification and away from social responsibility characterized the "me generation."

Meade, George G.

General Meade commanded the victorious Union forces at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. This was the turning point battle of the Civil War.

US History Glossary

Medicaid

The 1965 Medicare Act provided for grants to the states to help pay the medical expenses of poor people under the age of sixty-five.

Medicare

The 1965 Medicare Act provided Social Security funding for hospitalization insurance for retired people, and a voluntary plan to cover doctor bills paid in part by the federal government.

Mellon, Andrew

Mellon was secretary of the treasury in the 1920s. He supported low taxes for the rich, higher tariffs, a return to laissez-faire policies, and cutting government expenses through more efficient administration. His policies balanced the federal budget and reduced the national debt.

Melville, Herman

Novelist Herman Melville was acutely aware of the existence of evil in the world and his works reflected that insight. His classic "Moby Dick" dealt symbolically with the problem of good and evil, courage and cowardice; and with faith, stubbornness and pride.

Memorial Day Massacre

The Memorial Day Massacre was a murderous attack on striking steelworkers and their families by Chicago police in 1937.

mercantilism

Mercantilism was a loose system of economic organization designed, through a favorable balance of trade, to guarantee the economic self-sufficiency of the British empire and the growth of its wealth and power. Mercantilists advocated possession of colonies as places where the mother country could acquire raw materials not available at home.

Mesabi range

The Mesabi mountain range (Minnesota) is one of the world's richest stores of iron ore. When railroads made the ore cheap to transport, Pittsburgh became the steel capital of the nation.

mestizo

A mestizo is a person of mixed Spanish and Indian ancestry.

Mexican Cession of 1848

The Mexican Cession of 1848 was the ceding of New Mexico and Alta California to the United States by Mexico as a result of the U.S. victory in the Mexican War. See also Guadalupe Hidalgo, Treaty of.

Mexican War

The Mexican War was fought between the United States and Mexico from May 1846 to February 1848. See also Mexican Cession of 1848 and Guadalupe Hidalgo, Treaty of.

middle passage

The term middle passage referred to the voyage between West Africa and the New World slave colonies.

Middletown study

The Middletown study was a sociological study of small-town America (Muncie, Indiana) in the 1920s. Among other things, the study exposed the pervasive racism and racial segregation in northern towns.

US History Glossary

Milan Decree

Napoleon's Berlin and Milan decrees supported his Continental System that was designed to isolate England economically. They made U.S. neutral vessels liable to seizure if they traded with Britain or submitted to Britain's maritime rules.

Miles, Nelson A.

General Miles, a noted Indian fighter, criticized the Sand Creek massacre of helpless Cheyenne Indians as a foul and unjustifiable crime.

Military Reconstruction Acts

The Military Reconstruction Acts were the first major legislation in the period known as Congressional Reconstruction. Passed in March 1867 over President Johnson's veto, these laws divided the ten remaining ex-Confederate states into five military districts each headed by a general who was charged to conduct voter registration drives among blacks and bar whites who had held office before the Civil War and who had supported the Confederacy. The remaining voters would elect a constitutional convention to write a new state constitution that guaranteed universal male suffrage. If a majority of voters ratified both the new constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment, their state would be readmitted into the Union.

Millet, Kate

Millet, author of "Sexual Politics" (1970), called for a sexual revolution to end traditional sexual assumptions. She denounced male supremacy and the expectations of female domesticity.

Millis, Walter

Historian Walter Millis wrote "The Road to War: America, 1914-1917" (1935). He argued that the United States was dragged into World War I, a war he thought could have been avoided, by British propaganda, Allied purchases of American arms, and President Wilson's pro-British bias.

Minh, Ho Chi

Ho Chi Minh was North Vietnam's intensely nationalist, and communist, leader during the Vietnam War. He died in 1970.

Minutemen

The Minutemen were special companies of militia formed in Massachusetts and elsewhere beginning in late 1744. These units were composed of men who were to be ready to assemble with their arms at a minute's notice.

Miranda v. Arizona

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in "Miranda v. Arizona" that those accused of committing a crime had the right to have a lawyer present while being questioned by law authorities.

mission system

The mission system was a chain of missions established by Franciscan monks in the Spanish Southwest and California that forced Indians to convert to Catholicism and work as agricultural laborers.

missionary diplomacy

President Wilson's approach to foreign policy was well intentioned and idealistic: to help other nations achieve stable democratic governments and improved standards of living. His diplomatic mission was to spread the gospel of democracy. He could not always live up to his ideals.

US History Glossary

Missouri Compromise

In 1820, after angry debate in Congress, Missouri entered the Union as a slave state, and Maine was admitted as a free state to preserve the balance of slave and free states in the Union. Also, slavery was banned from that part of the Louisiana Territory north of 36° 30'.

Moby Dick

Herman Melville who, like Nathaniel Hawthorne, had a pessimistic view of human nature, wrote "Moby Dick" (1851). It was a powerful novel that dealt with the problems of good and evil, courage and cowardice; and with faith, stubbornness, and pride.

Model Cities Program

The Model Cities Program was an effort to target federal funds to upgrade public services and economic opportunity in specifically defined urban neighborhoods between 1966 and 1974.

Molasses Act

This law passed by Parliament in 1733 taxed sugar products from foreign sources in order to encourage British colonists to buy sugar and molasses only from the British West Indies.

Mondale, Walter

Mondale was vice president from 1977 to 1981. He was the Democratic party candidate for president in 1984 and made a highly unusual (and unpopular) promise to raise taxes if elected. He was not elected.

Monroe Doctrine

At the suggestion of Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, President Monroe announced in the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 that the American continents were no longer open to colonization, and the United States would look with disfavor on any attempt to extend European control over independent nations in the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, the United States would not interfere in the internal affairs of European nations.

Monroe, James

Monroe was elected president in 1816 and served two terms. He was a weak leader, but his presidency succeeded in achieving several important foreign policy goals with Britain and Spain. He announced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823.

Montgomery bus boycott

In 1955, leaders of the black community in Montgomery, Alabama, organized a boycott of the city's buses to protest the racial policy of requiring blacks to ride in the back of the bus. Clergyman Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as the leader of the boycott.

Moody, Dwight L.

Moody was a lay evangelist who urged slum dwellers to cast aside their sinful ways. He preached that faith in God would enable the poor to transcend the material difficulties of life.

Moral Majority

In 1979, the Reverend Jerry Falwell found Moral Majority to combat "amoral liberals," drug abuse, "coddling" of criminals, homosexuality, communism, and abortion. The Moral Majority represented the rise of political activism on the part of organized religion's radical right.

moratorium

A moratorium is a period of delay. October 15, 1969, was Vietnam Moratorium Day, declared by student antiwar leaders. It produced an unprecedented outpouring of antiwar protest.

US History Glossary

Morgan, J. Pierpont

Morgan was a financial banker and masterful reorganizer of businesses, especially railroads. He also bought out Andrew Carnegie and organized the U.S. Steel Company.

Mormons

The Mormons were the most important of the religious communes founded in the early nineteenth century. Joseph Smith founded the religion in western New York in the 1820s based on the revelations in a sacred book he called the Book of Mormons. Mormons were resented because of their unorthodox religious views and exclusivism. They finally located near Great Salt Lake (Utah) in the 1840s where they have flourished ever since.

Morrill Land Grant Act

This law passed by Congress in July 1862 awarded proceeds from the sale of public lands to the states for the establishment of agricultural and mechanical (later engineering) colleges; the grants were awarded at the rate of 30,000 acres for each member that state had in Congress. The law was named after its sponsor, Congressman Justin Morrill of Vermont.

Mott, Lucretia

Like many women who began their public careers in the abolitionist movement, Mott subsequently turned to advocate women's rights. She and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention for women's rights in 1848.

muckrakers

Muckrakers were progressive investigative journalists who exposed the seamy side of American life at the turn of the twentieth century. They were named by President Roosevelt who disapproved of their "raking in the muck."

Mugwumps

In the 1884 presidential election, a group of eastern Republicans, disgusted with corruption in the party, campaigned for the Democrats. These Mugwumps thought corruption brought inefficiency to government, but were conservative on the money question and government regulation.

Muhammad Reza Pahlavi

Muhammad Reza Pahlavi was the shah (king) of Iran from 1941 to 1979. He was forced to flee Iran when revolutionary followers of religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini took control of the government.

Muller v. Oregon

In the 1918 Supreme Court case "Muller v. Oregon," Louis Brandeis, lawyer for the Consumers' League, prepared a brief stuffed with economic and sociological evidence showing that long working hours were dangerous to the health of women and society. The Court's decision encouraged states to enact legislation to protect women and limit child labor.

Mulligan letters

The 1884 presidential election campaign produced considerable mud-slinging, including the Mulligan letters controversy. The letters exposed Republican candidate James G. Blaine's corrupt dealing with the railroads. He lost the election to Democrat Grover Cleveland.

multinational corporation

Multinational corporations are business firms based elsewhere that produce goods in Asia and Latin America to take advantage of low labor costs. Such practices increase corporate profits, but pose a problem for American workers whose jobs are being exported.

US History Glossary

Munich Conference

At a conference in Munich, Germany, in 1938, Britain and France yielded to Hitler's demands and persuaded Czechoslovakia to surrender the Sudetenland to Germany. It was looked upon by some as an act of appeasement that merely encouraged further German aggression.

Munn v. Illinois

In "Munn v. Illinois," the Supreme Court ruled that a business that served a public interest (like a railroad or grain elevator) could be regulated by state laws. The decision seemed to hold that Granger laws were constitutional.

My Lai

My Lai was a tiny Vietnamese hamlet where, in 1970, frustrated U.S. troops massacred dozens of Vietnamese, including women and children. It raised further questions about the morality of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

-N-

Naismith, James

Naismith invented the game of basketball.

Nashville

When Panamanians rose in revolt against the Colombian governors in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt, interested in a canal route through Panama, ordered the naval cruiser "USS Nashville" to help the rebels. The revolution succeeded, and Panama became independent and immediately negotiated a canal agreement with the United States.

Nasser, Gamal Abdel

Egyptian leader Nasser drifted to the communist orbit in the mid-1950s. He nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956 when the United States withdrew promised aid to build the Aswan dam on the Nile. His action provoked the Suez crisis.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The federal agency was created in 1958 to manage American manned and unmanned space flights and exploration.

National American Woman Suffrage Association

This organization, formed in 1890, to coordinate the ultimately successful campaign to achieve women's right to vote.

National and Community Service Trust Act

This 1994 legislation created a pilot program for a domestic Peace Corps for young Americans.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

This national interracial organization founded in 1910 was dedicated to restoring African-American political and social rights.

National Association of Colored Women

This group founded in 1896 served as an umbrella organization for black women's clubs that worked to improve the lives of black women, especially in the rural South.

US History Glossary

National Banking Act

The National Banking Act, passed in 1863 to help finance the Union war effort, gave the country a uniform currency. Under the act, banks that invested one-third of their capital in U.S. bonds received federal charters. They then could issue currency up to 90 percent of the value of those bonds. This federal currency soon drove state bank notes out of circulation.

National Black Convention

This prominent gathering of northern black leaders in 1853 was called to protest the Fugitive Slave Act.

National Endowment for the Arts

This federal agency created in 1965 funds research, public programs, and museum exhibits dealing with the performing arts, visual arts, and design arts.

National Endowment for the Humanities

This federal agency created in 1965 funds research, publications, and museum exhibits dealing with history, literature, and related fields.

National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry

The Grange was founded in 1867 by Oliver H. Kelley to provide social and cultural benefits for isolated farmers. It eventually became politically active, especially in support of railroad regulation laws called Granger laws.

National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)

This 1933 law created the National Recovery Administration and, in Section 7a, guaranteed workers the rights to organize unions and bargain collectively.

Nationalists

This group of leaders in the 1780s spearheaded the drive to replace the Articles of Confederation with a stronger central government.

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)

This federal board established in 1935 enforced workers' rights to organize, supervise union elections, and oversee collective bargaining.

national malaise

A malaise is a feeling of discomfort or uneasiness. In 1977, President Carter stated that a "national malaise" had sapped the people's energy and undermined civic pride.

National Organization for Women (NOW)

This group organized in 1966 to expand civil rights for women.

National Origins Act

The 1929 National Origins Act was the culmination of immigration restriction laws in the 1920s that established a quota system to regulate the influx of immigrants to America. The system heavily favored immigrants from Britain and northern Europe, while sharply restricting the "new" immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and Asia. It reduced the annual total of immigrants.

National Recovery Administration (NRA)

This federal agency was established in 1933 to promote economic recovery by promulgating codes to control production, prices, and wages.

US History Glossary

National Republicans

The National Republicans were a loosely organized political party that opposed President Jackson and his policies. It unsuccessfully ran John Quincy Adams for the presidency in 1828 and Henry Clay in 1832. It coalesced with other anti-Jacksonians in the 1830s to create the Whig party.

National Security Council (NSC)

Created in 1947, the formal policymaking body for national defense and foreign relations consists of the president, the secretary of defense, the secretary of state, and others appointed by the president.

National Security Council Paper 68 (NSC-68)

This policy statement committed the United States to a military approach to the Cold War.

National War Labor Board

This government agency supervised labor relations during World War I, guaranteeing union rights in exchange for industrial stability.

National Women's Party

This political organization formed in 1916 campaigned aggressively first for women suffrage and thereafter for the Equal Rights Amendment.

National Women's Political Caucus

This political organization formed in 1971 helped elect women to local, state, and federal offices.

National Women's Suffrage Association

The NWSA, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, was a progressive women's rights organization that campaigned for women's right to vote and the unionization of women workers.

nationalism

Colonists developed a sense of national unity because unity offered the only hope of winning the Revolutionary War. Unlike most modern revolutions, for Americans the desire for independence antedated any intense national feeling.

nationalists

In the mid-1780s proponents of a constitutional convention, like Alexander Hamilton, were nationalists who believed only centralization of government would save the nation from disintegration.

nativist

Nativists were those Americans who feared that large-scale immigration might alter the basic political and social character of the United States.

NATO

In 1948, the United States, Canada, and ten European nations formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military mutual-defense pact. General Eisenhower was the first commander of NATO forces. The Soviet Union countered NATO with the formation of the Warsaw Pact--a military pact among those European nations within its own sphere of influence.

naturalism

Naturalist writers expressed a pessimistic view of human nature--human beings were helpless animals whose fate was determined by their environment. The naturalist's attention to the dark side of life focused on primitive emotions--lust, hate, and greed.

US History Glossary

Naturalization Act of 1798

One of the Alien and Sedition Acts, this law passed by Congress in 1798 extended the residency requirement of alien residents for U.S. citizenship from five to fourteen years.

natural rights

This political philosophy maintains that individuals have an inherent right, found in nature and preceding any government or written law, to life and liberty.

Navigation Acts

The Navigation Acts were passed by Parliament to implement mercantilistic assumptions about trade. They were intended to regulate the flow of goods in imperial commerce to the greater benefit of the mother country. The Navigation Act of 1651 called for imperial trade to be conducted using English or colonial ships with mainly English crews, and the Navigation Act of 1696 closed the loopholes in earlier mercantilist legislation and also created vice-admiralty courts in the colonies.

NDEA

Nazi is the truncated form of the name of the National Socialist German Workers' party, led by Adolf Hitler, which ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945.

NDEA

The 1958 National Defense Education Act (NDEA) provided an opportunity and stimulus for college education for many Americans. It allocated funds for upgrading work in the sciences, foreign languages, guidance services, and teaching innovation.

necessary and proper clause

The elastic clause in the Constitution grants Congress the right to pass all laws "necessary and proper" to carry out the powers specifically granted to Congress by the Constitution. This clause was the source of Hamilton's implied powers doctrine.

Neighborhood Union

This organization founded by Lugenia Burns Hope, a middle-class black woman in Atlanta in 1908 and modeled on similar efforts in the urban North, provided playgrounds, a health center, and education for young urban blacks.

Neighborhood Youth Corps

This antipoverty program recruited young people from low-income areas for community projects.

neoconservative

A neoconservative was an advocate of or participant in the revitalized conservative politics of the 1980s and 1990s, calling for a strong government role in defense and foreign policy and a limited role in social and economic policy.

neoliberal

An advocate of or participant in the effort to reshape the Democratic party for the 1990s around a policy emphasizing economic growth and competitiveness in the world economy.

Neutrality Act of 1935

Reacting to their disillusionment with World War I and absorbed in the domestic crisis of the depression, Americans backed Congress's several neutrality acts in the 1930s. The 1935 act forbade loans or the sale of munitions to belligerents in a war. Later, the embargo on munitions was expanded to include civil wars.

US History Glossary

New Age

This term applies to a wide range of ideas and practices that seek to enhance individual potential and spiritual well-being outside the boundaries of traditional religion.

New Deal

The New Deal was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's plan for, and active government response to, the Great Depression. It called for experimentation in providing relief for individuals, recovery of the economy, and reform of the American system.

New England Immigrant Aid Society

The New England Immigrant Aid Society was founded with plans to transport antislavery settlers to Kansas Territory in 1854. Although they were few in numbers, the New Englanders together with midwestern antislavery settlers were active and conspicuous in Kansas Territory's politics.

New England Non-Resistant Society

This pacifist organization founded by Garrisonian abolitionists in 1838 was opposed to all authority resting on force.

New Freedom

In the 1912 presidential campaign, Democratic nominee Woodrow Wilson argued for a "New Freedom" contending that the government could best serve the public interest and provide social justice by breaking up the trusts and restoring competition to the economy.

New Frontier

"New Frontier" was the tag attached to President John Kennedy's domestic and foreign policies. Kennedy hoped to revitalize the national economy, extend the influence of the United States abroad, and "get the country moving again."

New Harmony

This short-lived utopian community established in Indiana in 1825 was based on the socialist ideas of Robert Owen, a wealthy Scottish manufacturer.

new immigration

America's "new" immigrants in the late nineteenth century came predominantly from southern and eastern Europe. They came in unprecedented numbers, were usually poor peasants, and were usually non-Protestant.

New Jersey Plan

James Madison offered the Constitutional Convention the Virginia plan calling for proportional representation in Congress. James Paterson's New Jersey plan, hoping to protect the less populous states, called for equal representation for each state in a unicameral legislature. The controversy was resolved in the Great Compromise.

New Lights

During the Great Awakening churches sometimes split between the congregants who supported the incumbent minister (Old Lights), and those who favored the revivalism of itinerant preachers like George Whitefield (New Lights).

New Nationalism

In 1912, running on the Progressive party ticket, Theodore Roosevelt campaigned on a comprehensive progressive platform for economic and social legislation which he termed the New Nationalism. It called for expanding federal power to regulate big business and enacting social-justice legislation.

US History Glossary

New Republicanism

New Republicanism referred to Dwight Eisenhower's vision of the Republicans as a relatively moderate party of the political center.

New York Central Railroad

The New York Central originally ran from Albany to Buffalo. Cornelius Vanderbilt expanded the line so that by 1877, it had become a network of lines stretching from New York City to the upper Middle West.

New York draft riots

In July 1863, whites infuriated by the Conscription Act rampaged through New York City. Most rioters were Irish laborers who feared for their jobs. As the protest escalated into class and racial warfare that had to be quelled by federal troops, over 100 people were killed.

Newlands Act

The 1902 Newlands Act funneled the income from federal land sales in the West into federal irrigation projects--a keystone in President Roosevelt's favorite progressive concern, conservation.

Niagara Movement

The Niagara Movement was an impatient response in 1905 to Booker T. Washington's advocacy of black accommodation to white prejudice. More militant blacks called for equal opportunity, equal justice, and an end to segregation. The Niagara Movement led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

nickelodeons

Nickelodeons were early movie houses. They were so named because admission cost a nickel.

Nine-Power Treaty

At the Washington Naval Conference, all participants agreed to respect China's independence and to maintain the Open Door in Asia.

NIRA

A keystone of the early New Deal, the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA, 1933) permitted manufacturers to establish industry wide codes of "fair business practices"--setting prices and production levels. It also provided for minimum wages and maximum working hours for labor. In addition, the NIRA guaranteed (in Section 7a) labor the right to organize and bargain collectively. It was declared unconstitutional in "Schechter v. United States" in 1935.

Nisei

Nisei were U.S. citizens born of immigrant Japanese parents.

Nixon, Richard M.

California Congressman Nixon was elected vice president in 1952 and 1956, but lost the 1960 presidential election to Kennedy. He won the presidency in 1968 and 1972, but resigned in disgrace during the Watergate scandal in 1974.

NLRB

The 1934 National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) created the National Labor Relations Board to supervise union elections and designate winning unions as workers' official bargaining agents. The board could also issue cease-and-desist orders to employers who dealt unfairly with their workers.

US History Glossary

No taxation without representation

It was an established British constitutional principle that a subject could not be taxed without his consent (manifested by his representation in Parliament). Colonists stood by this principle to protest British tax policies in the 1760s.

Non-importation

Initiated in response to the taxes imposed by the Sugar and Stamp Acts, this tactical means of putting economic pressure on Britain by refusing to buy its exports to the colonies was used again against the Townshend duties and the Coercive Acts. The non-importation movement popularized resistance to British measures and deepened the commitment of many ordinary people to a larger American community.

Non-Intercourse Act

In 1808 Congress replaced the Embargo Act with the Non-Intercourse Act. It forbade U.S. trade only with Britain and France, and authorized the president to end non-intercourse with either nation if it stopped violating U.S. neutral rights.

Nonpartisan League

This radical farmers' movement in the Great Plains states after 1915 sought to restrain railroads, banks, elevators, and other major corporations.

Nordic

"Nordic" is an anthropological term that refers to the Caucasian peoples of northern Europe and their descendants. Most of the "old" immigrants to America (pre-1890) were northern and western European, or from Britain (Anglo-Saxon).

Noriega, Manuel

General Noriega, strongman leader of Panama, was indicted in the United States for drug trafficking. President Bush sent U.S. troops to Panama to capture Noriega and deliver him to the United States for trial.

normalcy

Warren Harding coined the word normalcy meaning "normality" during the 1920 presidential campaign. The term is identified with his (and the public's) desire to abandon the "abnormal" crusading spirit of progressivism and wartime sacrifice that had demanded so much of his generation.

Norris, George

In 1910, George Norris led progressive insurgents in the House of Representatives, to strip Speaker Joseph Cannon of his control of the Rules Committee. Thereafter, party caucuses made committee appointments. This curtailed some of the arbitrary power of the Speaker of the House.

Norris, George W.

Nebraska Senator Norris, a public-power enthusiast, helped block plans to turn over government-built hydroelectric power plants at Muscle Shoals, Alabama to private capitalists. He sponsored the 1933 Tennessee Valley Authority Act.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

This agreement reached in 1993 by Canada, Mexico, and the United States substantially reduced barriers to trade.

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North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company

This insurance company founded in Durham, North Carolina, in 1898 eventually became the largest black-owned business in the nation.

North, Oliver

In 1989, Marine Colonel North, an aide to President Reagan's national security advisor, was found guilty of destroying government documents in order to mislead Congress and obstruct its investigation of the Iran-Contra affair. The verdict was later overturned on a technicality.

North Star, The

The North Star was the antislavery newspaper established by Frederick Douglass in Rochester, New York, in 1847.

Northern Securities case

In 1902, President Roosevelt ordered the Justice Department to bring suit against the Northern Securities Company, a railroad monopoly. The Supreme Court dissolved the company, ruling that it violated the Sherman Antitrust Act. The case helped earn Roosevelt the title of "trustbuster."

Northwest Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established governments in America's northwestern territories, established a procedure for their admission to statehood, and prohibited slavery north of the Ohio River. This legislation passed by Congress under the Articles of Confederation provided the model for the incorporation of future territories into the Union as coequal states.

NOW

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 by feminists calling for equal employment opportunities and equal pay for women. NOW also came to advocate an equal rights amendment, changes in divorce laws, and legalization of abortion.

nuclear family

A nuclear family is a one-family household consisting of parents and their children (and servants). Puritan families were nuclear and patriarchal, that is, the father was boss.

nuclear freeze

Nuclear freeze refers to the proposal that the United States and the Soviet Union should stop further production and deployment of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

One consequence of the Cuban missile crisis was the signing (by 100 nations) of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963. It banned all atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. Among the major nations, only France and China did not sign the treaty.

nullification

In his 1828 "South Carolina Exposition and Protest," John C. Calhoun argued that if an act of Congress violated the Constitution, a state could interpose its authority and nullify the law--declare it legally void or inoperative--within its own boundaries.

US History Glossary

Nullification Crisis

In 1832 a South Carolina convention nullified the Tariff of 1832. President Jackson responded by threatening the use of federal troops to compel South Carolina to obey federal law. Congressional leaders worked out a Compromise Tariff of 1833 calling for gradual reduction of tariff rates. South Carolina then withdrew its Nullification Ordinance and the crisis passed.

Nye, Gerald P.

In 1934, North Dakota Senator Gerald Nye headed a Senate investigation into banking and the munitions industries. He concluded that they had conspired to drag the United States into World War I for their own profit. He labeled munitions manufacturers "merchants of death." His committee's report fed the isolationist mood of Americans in the mid-1930s.

-O-

O'Connor, Sandra Day

O'Connor was the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was an atomic-energy installation during World War II. Production of uranium 235 there contributed to the creation of the atomic bomb.

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

This federal agency coordinated many programs of the War on Poverty between 1964 and 1975.

Office of Price Administration (OPA)

This federal agency during World War II fixed price ceilings on all commodities, controlled rents in defense areas, and rationed scarce goods such as sugar, fuel, and automobile tires.

Office of Scientific Research and Development

This federal agency established in 1941 mobilized American science on behalf of national defense.

Oglethorpe, James

Oglethorpe was a founding trustee of the Georgia colony in 1733. He hoped to make Georgia a reformed society free of slavery, strong drink, and unequal land ownership.

Ohio Gang

President Harding filled many appointive positions with old political and personal friends from Ohio, his home state. This "Ohio Gang," headed by his attorney general, Harry Daugherty, soon became involved in corruption and numerous scandals, abusing their office for personal profit.

old-age revolving pensions

In response to the pitiful state of thousands of elderly persons during the Great Depression, Dr. Francis Townsend proposed an old-age revolving pension plan. It would make government payments of \$200 a month to anyone unemployed and over sixty years of age with the stipulation that they spend it all in thirty days. The spending was supposed to stimulate the economy. New Dealers rejected the plan as too expensive.

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old stock

The term old stock refers to European ethnic groups prominent in the eighteenth-century United States, especially English, Dutch, German, and Scots-Irish.

Olive Branch Petition

This petition, written largely by John Dickinson and adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 5, 1775, represented a last effort of peace. The petition avowed America's loyalty to George III and requested that he protect them from further aggression. Congress continued military preparations, and the king never responded to the petition.

Omaha Platform

This 1892 platform of the Populist party repudiated laissez-faire and demanded economic and political reforms to aid distressed farmers and workers.

One World

Wendell Willkie, the 1940 Republican presidential candidate, wrote "One World" after a world tour in 1942. The book called for the end of American isolationism and the assumption of an active role in international affairs.

Oneida Community

John Humphrey Noyes and his followers founded this utopian community in upstate New York in 1848.

OPEC

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a cartel of mostly Middle East Arab nations, united behind an Arab boycott and cut off oil sales to the West in 1973. This greatly increased the cost of oil and caused consternation throughout the industrial world.

Open Door policy

In a series of "Open Door" notes in 1899, Secretary of State John Hay set forth American objectives in China: free trade and recognition of the territorial integrity of China. This marked a significant departure from the United States' tradition of isolationism.

open shop

An open shop is a factory or business that employs workers whether or not they are union members; in practice, such a business usually refuses to hire union members and follows antiunion policies.

Operation BARBAROSSA

Operation Barbarossa was Adolf Hitler's surprise attack on the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941. The attack was a "surprise" because Hitler and the Soviet leader, Josef Stalin, had cooperated previously on several ventures.

Operation OVERLORD

Operation Overlord was the U.S. and British invasion of Normandy (France) in June 1944 during World War II.

Operation TORCH

Operation Torch describes the U.S. and British landings in French North Africa in November 1942 during World War II.

Order of the Heroes of America

This loosely knit group of pro-Unionists in the Piedmont and mountain sections of North Carolina who demonstrated for peace and sometimes violently opposed Confederate authorities during the Civil War.

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Orders in Council

Britain's orders in council (1807) were a series of edicts blockading most European ports and barring from them all foreign vessels unless they first stopped at a British port and paid customs duties. The orders ignored U.S. claims to neutral rights.

Ordinance of 1784

This act passed but never put into effect by Congress under the Articles of Confederation embodied the proposals of Thomas Jefferson for dividing the public domain into states and immediately granting settlers the right of self-government.

Oregon Trail

This overland trail of more than 2,000 miles carried American settlers from the Midwest to new settlements in Oregon, California, and Utah.

Organization Man

William Whyte's book "The Organization Man" (1956) described the competitive corporate world where many Americans made their living. It focused on the need for executives to subordinate their personal interests to the requirements of "the organization" and conform to corporate standards.

Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) was a western-hemisphere mutual-defense treaty signed in 1947. OAS decisions are reached by a two-thirds majority vote; the United States has no veto or special position.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

This cartel of oil-producing nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America gained substantial power over the world economy in the mid- to late 1970s by controlling the production and price of oil.

Ostend Manifesto

The Ostend Manifesto (1854) was a confidential dispatch to the U.S. State Department from U.S. ambassadors in Europe (specifically, Ostend, Belgium). It suggested that if Spain refused to sell Cuba to the United States, the United States would be justified in seizing the island. Northerners claimed it was a plot to expand slavery and the Manifesto was disavowed.

Oswald, Lee Harvey

Oswald was the accused assassin of President Kennedy. He was killed by Jack Ruby before he could be tried. Doubts still persist about Oswald's motives and whether or not he acted alone.

Otis, James

Otis, a Boston lawyer, argued that writs of assistance were unconstitutional under British law, and therefore void. He was one of the first colonists to openly suggest that Parliament's authority over the colonies was not absolute.

Ottoman Empire

By the early twentieth century this old Turkish Empire, still ruled by a sultan, controlled much of the near and middle east including Palestine, Syria, and present day Iraq and Kuwait.

Owen, Robert

Owen was a British utopian socialist who believed in economic and political equality, and he considered competition debasing. He founded New Harmony, Indiana, a commune where members challenged sexual and religious mores of Jacksonian America. It became a costly failure.

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Pacific Railway Act

The 1862 Pacific Railway Act established the pattern for government land grants to railroads. It gave five square miles of public land to railroad construction companies for each mile of track laid. Money earned from sale of the land encouraged railroad construction and provided public services, but that came at the cost of the system's abuse and corruption.

Padrone system

The "padrone" system was a contract labor arrangement used for recruiting European immigrants for labor in American industry.

Paine, Thomas

Paine was an English revolutionary pamphleteer who wrote "Common Sense." This best seller rallied Americans to support independence and adopt a republican form of government for the new nation.

Paleo-Indians

The Paleo-Indians were the first human inhabitants of the Americas, who crossed the land bridge from Asia perhaps as long as fifty thousand years ago and survived by hunting large mammals.

Palmer Raids

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, concerned that the United States was in danger of a communist takeover in 1919, ordered a series of roundups and raids on suspected communists. The raids, a product of the postwar Red Scare, clearly violated the civil liberties of many innocent people.

Pan-American Conference

The Pan-American Conference (1889) was a disappointment to Secretary of State James Blaine. He wanted a trade-reciprocity agreement with Latin American nations that would stimulate the marketing of U.S. goods, but the conference merely created a Pan-American Union to promote commercial and cultural exchanges.

Panic of 1819

Between 1819 and 1823 the United States suffered its first nation-wide economic depression. The depression was caused by a fall in cotton prices and the contraction of credit. The Panic led to demands for more democracy in government, hostility toward banks, and a growing split in the Republican party.

Panic of 1837

The Panic of 1837 was in part a consequence of President Jackson's Specie Circular. The Panic passed quickly, but in 1839 falling cotton prices and state defaults on debts frightened investors and a general economic depression began that lasted until 1843.

Panic of 1857

A boom in the American economy ended in the Panic of 1857. When grain prices fell, demand for railroad services and manufactures fell off. The upper Mississippi Valley was hardest hit, but the Panic did not last long and it hardly affected the South at all.

Pan-Indian resistance movement

This movement called for the political and cultural unification of the Indian tribes in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

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Paris, Treaty of

The 1898 Treaty of Paris ended the Spanish-American War and transferred the Spanish colonies of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States while recognizing the independence of Cuba.

Paris, Treaty of

The 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War). Its principal feature was France's loss of nearly all of its North American empire, retaining only its West Indian possessions.

Parson's Cause

The Parson's Cause was a series of developments (1758-1763) that began when the Virginia legislature modified the salaries of Anglican clergymen, who complained to the crown and sued to recover damages. British authorities responded by imposing additional restrictions on the legislature. Virginians, who saw this as a threat, reacted by strongly reasserting local autonomy.

parity

The Agricultural Adjustment Act (1933) was designed to give subsidies to farmers in order to lift agricultural prices to "parity" with industrial prices based on the 1909 to 1914 ratio of the two. It meant that the price farmers received for their goods (their income) would pay for as much factory goods as the same amount of income they earned from farm goods paid for factory goods in 1909 to 1914.

party caucus

A party caucus is a meeting of party leaders to decide questions of policy or to select candidates running for office.

patent medicines

Patent medicines were trademarked concoctions, often of little medicinal value, available for purchase without a physician's prescription.

patriarchal

A patriarchal society is one in which family descent is traced through the father's line.

patriot

The term patriot usually refers to Americans during the Revolutionary period whose resistance to British measures included a willingness to resort to arms and, ultimately, a commitment to American independence. However, many Loyalists were also patriotic in their allegiance to Great Britain.

patronage

Patronage is the power to appoint individuals to government positions.

patroonship

Patroonship refers to the grant of a vast estate of land in New Netherlands, offered by Dutch authorities as a way to attract settlers. Very few patroonships were actually created.

Patton, George

General Patton was commander of the U.S. Third Army. He conducted successful armored campaigns in North Africa and Western Europe during World War II.

Paul, Alice

Paul was the dynamic radical feminist who led the Women's party's campaign for an equal-rights amendment to the Constitution in the 1920s.

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Paxton Boys

The Paxton Boys' uprising was a revolt by western Pennsylvania farmers in 1763. It was triggered by eastern indifference to Indian attacks on the frontier and by the western district's underrepresentation in the Pennsylvania assembly.

Payne-Aldrich Tariff

Although President William Howard Taft personally favored downward revision of U.S. tariffs, he still signed the protectionist Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. His action alienated many congressional progressives from his administration.

payroll tax

The Social Security Act (1935) set up an old-age and unemployment insurance system funded partly by a tax on workers' wages and partly by a tax on payrolls paid by employers.

payroll-deduction

During World War II, Congress adopted a payroll-deduction system to collect income taxes. Employers withheld workers' taxes from paychecks and turned the money over to the government.

Peace Corps

The Peace Corps was an invention of the Kennedy administration designed to mobilize American idealism and technical skills to help developing nations.

peace dividend

The government funds that many Americans anticipated becoming available through lower defense costs resulting from the decline of world tensions at the end of the Cold War in Europe in 1989 were called the "peace dividend." It failed to materialize.

Peace of Paris, 1783

These treaties signed in 1783 by Great Britain, the United States, France, Spain, and the Netherlands ended the Revolutionary War. The British agreed to extend the colonies their independence and to transfer their trans-Appalachian territories to the new United States. Prewar debts owed by the inhabitants of one country to those of the other were to remain collectible, and Congress was to urge the states to return property confiscated from Loyalists. British troops were to evacuate United States territory without removing slaves or other property. And, in a separate agreement, Britain relinquished its claim to East and West Florida to Spain.

peace without victory

Hoping to mediate a conclusion to World War I before the United States could be dragged in, President Wilson in June 1917 offered terms for a "peace without victory." The terms were similar to what became Wilson's Fourteen Points, and both belligerents ignored them.

peaceful coexistence

In the mid-1950s, Soviet Premier Khrushchev spoke of the possibility of the capitalist and communist systems, the Soviet Union and the United States, living in "peaceful coexistence" with one another.

Peale, Charles William

Peale, an early nineteenth-century artist, helped found the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and did much to encourage American artists.

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Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor was the U.S. naval base in Hawaii that was attacked by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. The surprise attack drew the United States into World War II.

peculiar institution

The term "peculiar institution" was a common reference to southern slavery. Here, the word peculiar means unique or distinctive to the South.

Pell mell

President Thomas Jefferson took an informal approach to the ceremonial responsibilities of his office; a demeanor he thought appropriate to the leader of a republic. At state dinners he ignored protocol and invited his guests to sit wherever there was an empty chair—pell mell.

Pendleton Civil Service Act

The 1883 Pendleton Act brought civil service reform to federal employment, thus limiting the spoils system. It classified many government jobs and required competitive examinations for these positions. It also outlawed forcing political contributions from appointed officials.

Peninsula Campaign

In the spring of 1862, Union general George B. McClellan launched his Civil War campaign with Richmond as its objective; it failed despite superior numbers of federal troops.

Penn, William

Penn was the Quaker proprietor of Pennsylvania who offered his colony as a refuge for persecuted Quakers. He treated Indians fairly, and his well-advertised colony became the most economically successful in English North America.

Pennsylvania Dutch

The Pennsylvania Dutch were actually German Mennonites who migrated to colonial Pennsylvania. They formed a politically influential faction in the Pennsylvania assembly. Their nickname derives from the German word for German, "Deutsche."

Pentagon Papers

The Pentagon Papers were classified Defense Department documents on the history of the United States' involvement in Vietnam, prepared in 1968 and leaked to the press in 1971.

Pequot War

The Pequot War was a conflict between English settlers (who had Narragansett and Mohegan allies) and Pequot Indians over control of land and trade in eastern Connecticut. The Pequots were nearly destroyed in a set of bloody confrontations, including a deadly English attack on a Mystic River village in May 1637.

Perestroika

Russian for "restructuring," this term applied to Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to make the Soviet economic and political systems more modern, flexible, and innovative.

Perkins, Frances

Franklin Roosevelt's secretary of labor, Frances Perkins, was the first woman cabinet member. She helped draft New Deal labor legislation.

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Perot, Ross

Texas billionaire Ross Perot ran as an independent candidate for president in 1992 and won 19 percent of the popular vote. He ran again in 1996 with less success.

Pershing, John J.

General "Black Jack" Pershing was the commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), U.S. troops who served in Europe in World War I. He had earlier served in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine insurrection, and had commanded the military excursion into Mexico in 1916.

pet banks

Following his victory in the Bank War, President Jackson decided to withdraw federal funds deposited in its vaults. Secretary of Treasury Roger Taney then re-deposited the funds in several state banks that Jackson's enemies dubbed "pet" banks.

Petersburg

During the Civil War, Petersburg was a key Confederate rail and supply center that guarded the Confederate capital of Richmond 30 miles to the north; it was besieged by Union forces from June 1864 to March 1865.

Philadelphia Convention

Responding to calls for a stronger and more energetic national government, 55 delegates met in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 to draft a new constitution to replace the ineffective Articles of Confederation.

Pickering, John

District judge John Pickering, who clearly was insane, was removed from office during President Jefferson's first term attack on the Federalist dominated federal judiciary.

Pierce, Franklin

Pierce was a dark horse candidate who won the Democratic party presidential nomination from Lewis Cass and James Buchanan in 1852. He defeated the Whig candidate, Winfield Scott in the election. He was not a strong leader.

pietists

Pietists were Protestants who stressed a religion of the heart and the spirit of Christian living.

Pike, Zebulon

Pike's expedition explored the upper Mississippi Valley and the Colorado region in 1805-1807 where he discovered Pike's Peak. It also explored the upper reaches of the Rio Grande.

Pilgrims

The Pilgrims were English Separatists who drafted the Mayflower Compact and established Plymouth Plantation in 1620. They viewed themselves as spiritual wanderers.

Pinchot, Gifford

Pinchot, the nation's chief forester and an avid conservationist, became involved in a dispute with President Taft's secretary of the interior, Richard Ballinger, in 1910. The dispute centered around the disposition of public domain in Alaska which Ballinger wanted to cede to mining interests, a move Pinchot opposed. Taft backed his secretary and earned the enmity of many pro-conservation progressives in Congress.

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Pinckney's Treaty

In Pinckney's Treaty (also known as the Treaty of San Lorenzo), Spain granted the United States free navigation of the Mississippi River and the right of deposit at New Orleans. It also settled the boundary dispute between Spanish Florida and the United States on terms favorable to the United States, placing the boundary at the 31st parallel.

Pinckney, Thomas

Pinckney negotiated the Treaty of San Lorenzo (Pinckney's Treaty) with Spain in 1795. It opened the Mississippi River to American trade and guaranteed Americans the right of deposit at New Orleans.

Pitt, William

Pitt became the war minister for England in 1757 during the French and Indian War. He was a brilliant strategist who poured the full resources of the British empire into defeating the French in this Great War for the Empire.

plantation

Plantations were large (commonly 1000 to 2000 acres), usually well-managed farms in the antebellum South. They used slave labor to produce the most profitable cash crop, cotton. They were very profitable business enterprises.

Platt Amendment

The Platt Amendment (to the Cuban Constitution) authorized U.S. intervention in Cuba to protect American interests. Cuba pledged not to make foreign treaties that might compromise its independence, and it granted naval bases to the United States at Guantanamo Bay.

Plessy v. Ferguson

In "Plessy v. Ferguson" (1895) the Supreme Court ruled that racially segregated places of public accommodation (like schools) were constitutional if they were of equal quality. This "separate but equal" doctrine led quickly to wholesale segregation, and equal facilities were rarely provided for blacks. The doctrine was overturned in 1954.

Plymouth Company

The Plymouth Company was one of two joint-stock companies chartered in 1606 to establish English colonies in America. Composed of merchants from England's western ports, the company organized the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620.

pocket veto

The president can keep a bill from becoming law by leaving it unsigned. President Lincoln pocket vetoed the Wade-Davis bill in 1864 because he preferred his more moderate ten percent plan for Reconstruction.

Poe, Edgar Allan

Poe was one of the most imaginative romantics of the early nineteenth century. He was fascinated with mystery, fright, and the occult. Poe wrote "The Raven."

pogroms

Government-directed attacks against Jewish citizens, property, and villages in tsarist Russia, pogroms began in the 1880s and were a primary reason for Russian Jewish migration to the United States.

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political boss

Late nineteenth-century political "bosses" headed political "machines"--loose-knit neighborhood organizations headed by anti-reform and often corrupt political bosses. They often provided useful services for their constituents (usually immigrants ignorant of democratic processes), in return for political support.

political platform

A political party's "platform" expresses the party's position on major issues (each issue is a "plank" in the platform). In the late nineteenth century, party platforms often equivocated on the issues in order to attract as many independents to the party as possible.

Polk, James K.

Polk, a dark horse candidate, was elected president in 1844 on a platform of territorial expansion. His election secured the annexation of Texas in 1845. The Mexican War, fought during his term, resulted in the United States' acquisition of New Mexico and California in 1848.

poll taxes

Poll taxes were used by southern states to deprive blacks of the vote despite the Fifteenth Amendment. Voters were required to pay a tax when they went to the polls. Most blacks and many poor whites could not or chose not to pay the tax, thus they could not vote.

Pollock, Jackson

Pollock led the post-World War II New York school of abstract expressionists in American art. He composed highly abstract and utterly subjective designs by dripping paint on a canvas in a wild tangle of color.

polygamy

The founder of the Mormon faith, Joseph Smith, authorized polygamy, the marriage of males to more than one wife at a time, among his followers. Polygamy was shocking to non-believers and the Mormons were persecuted for their unorthodox behavior.

Pontiac's Rebellion

Along with Neolin of the Delawares, Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, tried to hold back white advancement into the trans-Appalachian frontier in 1763-1766. Fearful of their fate at the hands of the British after the French had been driven out of North America, the Indian nations of the Ohio River Valley and the Great Lakes area united to oust the British from the Ohio-Mississippi Valley. The rebellion failed and they were forced to make peace in 1766.

poor white trash

Poor white trash was the pejorative term applied to the poor farmers of the pine barrens and remote valleys of the Appalachians who lived in ignorance and squalor on subsistence land. They inhabited the lowest class for whites in the antebellum South.

Popè

Popè was a Pueblo Indian leader who led a revolt against Spanish authority in New Mexico in 1680. The revolt was only temporarily successful, but, to avoid future revolts, the Spanish learned to moderate their policies toward their Indian charges.

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Popular Sovereignty

Popular sovereignty was the term applied to the principle of allowing the people of a territory to decide for themselves whether to ban or to permit slavery in their territory; an idea hatched by Michigan Senator Lewis Cass in 1848. He urged it as a solution to the question of slavery in the territories. It called for Congress to organize territories without mention of slavery, thus leaving it to settlers within the territories to determine the status of slavery among them.

Populist (or People's) Party

Also known as the People's Party, the Populist Party held its first national convention in Omaha in 1892. Combining disgruntled farmers workers engaged in several industries (especially mining and timber), and social reformers, the Populists emerged as a major party in the plains states and in the West. In 1892 the Populists nominated James B. Weaver for president; in 1896, they struck an unofficial truce with the Democratic Party in support of William Jennings Bryan for president.

Port Huron Statement

The Port Huron Statement (1962) was the founding document of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The Statement expressed youths' concern with racial bigotry, the atomic bomb, and self-indulgent wealth and power. It advocated participatory democracy as a way to make government and corporations socially responsible.

Potsdam Conference

At Potsdam, Germany, in April 1945, Allied leaders divided Germany and Berlin into four occupation zones, agreed to try Nazi leaders as war criminals, and planned the exacting of reparations from Germany. In the Potsdam Declaration, the United States also declared its intention to democratize the Japanese political system and reintroduce Japan into the international community and gave Japan an opening for surrender.

Pragmatism

The philosophy of pragmatism, closely identified with William James, held that in a world of constant change (evolution), absolutes were difficult to justify, and that abstract concepts were useful only in terms of their practical effects. Pragmatism inspired much of the reform movement of late nineteenth century America, but it also seemed to suggest that the end justifies the means and to promote materialism.

praying towns

Praying towns were villages established in Massachusetts for Indian converts to Christianity. The inhabitants were expected to follow an English way of life as well as the Puritan religion.

predestination

Predestination was the Puritan belief that God had predetermined who was among the saved, thus, what a person did on Earth had no effect on his or her fate after death. This supported a doctrine of grace--that salvation came as a gift of God.

preparedness

Preparedness refers to the military buildup in preparation for possible U.S. participation in World War I.

preservation

Preservation refers to the protection of forests, land, and other features of the natural environment from development or destruction, often for aesthetic appreciation.

Presidio

The Presidio was a military post established by the Spanish in the Southwest.

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Prince Henry

Henry was the Portuguese prince who established a school of navigation to codify and improve navigational knowledge in the early fifteenth century. He was known as "the Navigator."

Princip, Gavrilo

In June 1914, Princip, a Serbian nationalist, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. This incident precipitated the outbreak of World War I in Europe.

privateer

Because the United States had no navy when the War of 1812 began, Congress commissioned several hundred merchant ships, or privateers, to arm themselves and attack British commerce.

privileged sanctuaries

Early in the Korean War, General MacArthur advocated conquering North Korea, bombing its privileged sanctuaries on the Chinese side of the Yalu River, and deploying Nationalist Chinese troops from Formosa to the Chinese mainland. His recommendations were well in advance of what civilian and military leaders, including President Truman, were willing to do.

Proclamation of 1763

The British proclaimed a new western policy in the Proclamation of 1763. No settlers were allowed to cross the Appalachian divide, termed the "Proclamation Line." It was much resented by land hungry American colonists and proved unenforceable.

Proclamation of Neutrality

When war broke out between England and France in 1793, President Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality committing the United States to be friendly and impartial toward both England and France.

Progress and Poverty

Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty" in 1879. It was an attack on the maldistribution of wealth in the United States. He advocated a single tax on land as the solution to the growing gap between rich and poor.

Progressive Era

The period of the twentieth century before World War I, the Progressive Era saw many groups seeking to reshape the nation's government and society in response to the pressures of industrialization and urbanization.

progressive individualism

President Hoover's philosophy for the New Era of American prosperity was called progressive individualism. He believed that American capitalists had learned to curb their selfishness and could be expected to enter into voluntary trade associations that would create codes of business practices and ethics, and regulate competition.

progressivism

Progressivism is the label historians attach to a highly variegated movement for social change that climaxed between the Spanish-American War and World War I. Its origins lay in the effort to control big business, provide social justice, and clean up corruption and inefficiency in government.

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Prohibition movement

The prohibitionists succeeded in getting Congress to pass the Eighteenth Amendment (1918) which banned the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages in the United States. While it was in effect, Prohibition reduced national consumption of alcohol, but it was poorly enforced and easily evaded in the cities. It was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment in 1933.

Prohibition party

The Prohibition party is a venerable third party still in existence that has persistently campaigned for the abolition of alcohol but has also introduced many important reform ideas into American politics.

proletarian mob

Many so-called urban reformers (usually middle class) resented the boss system of machine politics in major cities because it gave political power to what they called the "proletarian mob"--recent immigrants who were unschooled in democratic institutions.

proletariat

The term proletariat usually identifies the class-conscious workers of an industrialized economy. America's industrial workers, for a variety of reasons, tended not to be class-conscious.

proportional representation

Delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 debated having a national legislature chosen on the basis of equal representation with each state having equal voting strength, or proportional representation with each state's representation based on the size of its population. The debate ended in the Great Compromise.

proprietary colony

A proprietary colony was created when the English monarch granted a huge tract of land to an individual or group of individuals, who became "lords proprietor." Many lords proprietor had distinct social visions for their colonies, but these plans were hardly ever realized. Examples of proprietary colonies are Maryland, Carolina, New York (after it was seized from the Dutch), and Pennsylvania.

proprietor

Also known as lords proprietors, proprietors were recipients of great landed estates from the English monarchs. Maryland, founded in 1632, and all English colonies in America founded after the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660 were proprietary colonies. Proprietors hoped to earn a profit from the colonies they founded.

protective tariff

Congress passed the first protective tariff act in 1816. Protective tariffs were designed to protect America's infant industries from the competition of less expensive foreign imports, thus making the nation's economy more self-sufficient.

Protestant Reformation

The Protestant Reformation was a sixteenth century effort to reform and challenge the authority of the Roman Catholic church. It tended to promote nationalism and the fortunes of the business classes in Europe.

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provincial congress

A provincial congress was an extralegal, Revolutionary representative body that conducted government and waged the Revolution at the state level in the period between the breakdown of royal authority and the establishment of regular legislatures under new state constitutions. Many members of these congresses had been members of the old colonial assemblies; the Massachusetts General Court and the Virginia House of Burgesses, in fact, transformed themselves into provincial congresses or conventions. (The terms were used interchangeably at first).

provincials

Colonists were provincials in that they took a narrow view of British imperial concerns and only reluctantly complied with imperial policy.

psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud's ideas affected the thinking and behavior of the progressives. They saw in his psychoanalytic theories an advocacy of a revolution in manners and morals, including the ending of the double standard relating to sex, and the rejection of Victorian morality.

Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935

This law gave the Securities and Exchange Commission extensive regulatory powers over public utility companies.

Public Works Administration (PWA)

This federal agency under Harold Ickes provided work relief by building schools, hospitals, roads, and other valuable projects during the 1930s.

Pueblo Revolt

Religious conflict and excessive Spanish demands for tribute sparked this rebellion in 1680 of Pueblo Indians in New Mexico against their Spanish overloads.

pugilist

A pugilist is a boxer. John L. Sullivan, who became the world's heavyweight champion in 1882, was the most famous boxer of his day.

Pulitzer, Joseph

Pulitzer, publisher of the "New York World" was the first newspaper publisher to reach a truly mass audience. He did it with a combination of sensationalism, solid political and financial coverage, and civic crusading.

Pullman strike

The strike at the Pullman railroad car company in Chicago was the most important strike of the late nineteenth century. It was provoked by wage cuts. Eugene V. Debs organized the strike, but it was broken when President Cleveland sent federal troops to keep the trains running.

Puritans

Puritans were moderate English religious dissenters who believed that Queen Elizabeth's reforms of the Church of England had not gone far enough in improving the church, particularly in ensuring that church members were among the saved, and who objected to the ritual and governing structure of the Anglican church. Many migrated to Massachusetts Bay after 1630 to establish a religious commonwealth.

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putting-out system

In this system of manufacturing, merchants furnished households with raw materials for processing by family members.

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Radical Republicans

The Radical Republicans in Congress, headed by Thaddeus Stevens and Benjamin Wade, insisted on black suffrage and federal protection of the civil rights of blacks. They gained control of Reconstruction in 1867 and required the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment as a condition of readmission for former Confederate states.

Railroad Administration

This federal agency operated and modernized the nation's railways to improve transportation related to the World War I war effort.

Raleigh, Walter

Raleigh was an English courtier who attempted an English settlement on Roanoke Island in 1587. The colony failed for lack of supplies.

Randolph, A. Philip

Randolph was an African American leader and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters union. In 1941 he threatened a march on Washington if black workers were not guaranteed equal employment opportunities. President Roosevelt responded with Executive Order 8802, prohibiting discrimination in hiring for plants with defense contracts.

Rappites

Rappites, followers of George Rapp, were a communal group that settled in Pennsylvania in 1804. They were millennialists, they renounced marriage and sex, and they took every word of the Bible literally.

rapprochement

In the aftermath of the War of 1812, the United States and Britain negotiated several friendly agreements regarding the U.S.-Canadian border. This rapprochement (coming together) meant that for years no serious trouble would mar Anglo-American relations.

ratification

The process by which members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 submitted their proposed national constitution to specially elected state conventions for approval. This process bypassed existing state legislatures, many of which seemed reluctant to grant power to a new national government above them, yet avoided a direct popular referendum, which some members of the Constitutional Convention feared. This mechanism allowed those in favor of the new national constitution first to influence the voters, then to influence delegates to the special conventions. (2) The process by which amendments to the United States Constitution are accepted or rejected. Ratification of any amendment to the national constitution requires a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress and approval by three-fourths of the existing state legislatures. (3) The process by which individual states constitutions were approved or are amended. This process almost always involves direct public referenda.

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Raven, The

Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven" (1845) was an enormously popular work that reflected the author's preoccupation with mystery, fright, and the occult.

Ray, James Earl

Ray pleaded guilty to assassinating Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968. He was sentenced to ninety-nine years in prison.

Reagan, Ronald

Reagan, a former governor of California, was elected president in 1980 and 1984. His administration was devoted to reducing the scope of federal activity, particularly in social welfare areas. It was also committed to lowering taxes and increasing the strength of America's armed forces.

Reaganomics

"Reaganomics" was the label pinned on President Reagan's policies of tax cuts, reduced federal spending and regulation, and a tight-money policy.

realism

Realism was a literary genre that emerged in the late nineteenth century. It was the product of industrialism, Darwinian evolution, and scientific empiricism. Realist novelists undertook the examination of complex social problems and were painstaking in their fashioning of multidimensional characters in real life situations.

rebates

In the cutthroat competition of late nineteenth-century railroading, some railroads increased the volume of freight they carried by giving shippers rebates--reduced rates for large shipments. It was a policy open to abuse.

recall

The term recall refers to the process of removing an official from office by popular vote, usually after using petitions to call for such a vote.

reconcentration camps

When Spanish General Valeriano Weyler became governor of Cuba in 1896, he herded the rural population into "reconcentration" camps to prevent them from giving aid or recruits to the rebels fighting for Cuban independence from Spain.

Reconquista

During this long struggle (ending in 1492), the Spanish Christians reconquered the Iberian peninsula from Muslim occupiers, who first invaded in the eighth century.

Reconstruction

During the Reconstruction era (1865-1877), the resolution of two major issues--the status of the former slaves and the terms of the Confederate states' readmission into the Union--dominated political debate.

Reconstruction Acts

The 1867 Reconstruction Acts divided the South into five military districts, each governed by a general. It required southern states to guarantee black suffrage, and it disfranchised many former Confederates. Southern states were required to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment as a condition of their readmission to the Union.

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Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)

In 1932 President Hoover agreed to the creation of the RFC, a federal agency which would loan money to banks, railroads, and insurance companies in an effort to stimulate the depressed economy and save the entities from bankruptcy. These were loans, not gifts or grants, and they offered no direct relief to individuals.

Red Scare

This post-World War I public hysteria over Bolshevik influence in the United States was directed against labor activism, radical dissenters, and some ethnic groups.

Red-baiting

The term Red-baiting refers to accusing a political opponent of sympathizing with or being "soft on" Communism.

Redeemers

Redeemers were Southern Democrats who wrested control of governments in the former Confederacy, often through electoral fraud and violence, from Republicans beginning in 1870.

Redemptioners

Redemptioners were similar to indentured servants, except that redemptioners signed labor contracts in America rather than in Europe, as indentured servants did. Shipmasters sold redemptioners into servitude to recoup the cost of their passage if they could not pay the fare upon their arrival.

redlining

Redlining refers to refusing mortgage loans and insurance to properties in designated inner-city neighborhoods.

Reed, Thomas

Ultra-conservative Thomas "Czar" Reed was a long-time Speaker of the House in the late nineteenth century. He ruled the House with an iron hand.

Re-export trade

In the "Essex" case (1805) a British judge declared that U.S. ships could not circumvent the Rule of 1756 by using the re-export trade. To get around the Rule of 1756, U.S. merchants had been first shipping foreign goods to a U.S. port, then re-exporting them to England and Europe as "neutral" goods.

referendum

A referendum is the submission of a law, proposed or already in effect, to a direct popular vote for approval or rejection.

Reformation

The Reformation was the sixteenth-century movement to reform the Catholic Church that began with Martin Luther's critique of church practices in 1517. The Reformation ultimately led to the founding of a number of new Protestant Christian religious groups.

Regulators

Regulators were vigilante groups active in the 1760s and 1770s in the western parts of North and South Carolina. The South Carolina Regulators attempted to rid the area of outlaws; the North Carolina Regulators sought to protect themselves against excessively high taxes and court costs. In both cases, westerners lacked sufficient representation in the legislature to obtain immediate redress of their grievances. The South Carolina government eventually made concessions; the North Carolina government suppressed its Regulator movement by force.

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Rehnquist, William

President Reagan appointed Rehnquist Chief Justice of the United States in 1986.

removal

President Jackson viewed Indians as savages who were incapable of self-government. He pursued a policy of removing Indians from the path of westward settlement. By 1840 most eastern tribes had been relocated to lands west of the Mississippi River.

Renaissance

The Renaissance was the major cultural movement in Europe during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that began in the city-states of Italy and spread to other parts of the continent. Sharing a "rebirth" of interest in the classical civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome, many artists of the period produced notable works in painting, sculpture, architecture, writing, and music.

repartimiento

In the Spanish colonies, repartimiento referred to the assignment of Indian workers to labor on public works projects.

Report on Manufacturers

In 1791 Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton issued a bold call for economic planning. His Report on Manufacturers called for tariffs and subsidies to encourage investment in American manufacturing. Congress rejected this proposal.

Report on Public Credit

In 1791 Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton recommended that Congress fund the national debt at par and assume the states' debts. He was trying to establish the financial credit of the new national government.

republican

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 agreed that the United States should have a republican form of government drawing its authority from the people and remaining responsible to them. They agreed that ordinary citizens should share in the process of selecting those who were to make and execute the laws.

Republicanism

Republicanism was a complex, changing body of ideas, values, and assumptions, closely related to country ideology, that influenced American political behavior during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Derived from the political ideas of classical antiquity, Renaissance Europe, and early modern England, republicanism held that self-government by the citizens of a country, or their representatives, provided a more reliable foundation for the good society and individual freedom than rule by kings. The benefits of monarchy depended on the variable abilities of monarchs; the character of republican government depended on the virtue of the people. Republicanism therefore helped give the American Revolution a moral dimension. But the nature of republican virtue and the conditions favorable to it became sources of debate that influenced the writing of the state and federal constitutions as well as the development of political parties.

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Republican party

1) (Jeffersonian) One of the original two political parties, the Republican party was organized by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson and generally stood for states' rights, an agrarian economy and the interests of farmers and planters over those of financial and commercial groups, strict construction, and friendship with France and support for the cause of the French Revolution.

2)The Republican Party organized in 1855 in response to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was a party composed of northerners who opposed the territorial expansion of slavery. It also adopted most of the Whig's economic program. The party nominated John C. Fremont for president in 1856 and Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Republican party (Jeffersonian)

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Requerimiento

The "Requerimiento" was a lengthy document read to New World Indians by conquistadors. It demanded that the Indians recognize the sovereignty of the Spanish monarch or face utter destruction.

Rerum novarum

Pope Leo's encyclical, "Rerum novarum," criticized the greedy excesses of capitalism, defended the right of labor to form unions, and stated the government's duty to care for the poor. The statement made the inner-city Catholic churches more conscious of their social mission.

rescate

Rescate referred to the procedure by which Spanish colonists would pay ransom to free Indians captured by rival natives. The rescued Indians then became workers in Spanish households.

reservationists

Many senators had reservations about the wisdom of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. They wanted to modify the treaty to protect their own political interests and to assure American sovereignty in world affairs. They were particularly suspicious of the treaty's creation of a League of Nations.

Resettlement Administration

This federal agency was established in 1935 to provide financial assistance and social services to displaced tenants and farm workers.

Revenue Act of 1935

This law established a more progressive tax system by setting graduated taxes on corporate income and increasing the top tax rates on personal income.

Rhode Island system

During the industrialization of the early nineteenth century, the Rhode Island system referred to the recruitment of entire families for employment in a factory.

right of deposit

The right of deposit--storing goods in Spanish New Orleans while awaiting ocean-going transportation to eastern and European markets--was vital to western settlers. Spain conceded the right in the Treaty of San Lorenzo (Pinckney's Treaty) in 1795.

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right of privacy

In 1965, the Supreme Court affirmed a personal right of privacy (freedom from certain public or governmental intrusion into one's affairs) in "Griswold v. Connecticut." The Court struck down a Connecticut law that banned the use of contraceptives by married couples.

right of revolution

The Declaration of Independence justified the colonists' revolt against Britain by an appeal to the abstract right of a people to revolt against a tyrannical government.

Rockefeller, John D.

Rockefeller was an unusually skillful business organizer. He founded Standard Oil Company and the Standard Oil Trust, which dominated American oil refining. Like others of his ilk, he sought to stabilize his industry, reduce competition, and maximize profits.

Roe v. Wade

In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in "Roe v. Wade" that women had a constitutional right to have an abortion during the first three months (trimester) of pregnancy and established guidelines for abortion in the second and third trimesters. The decision provoked a vigorous "right-to-life" movement that opposed abortion.

romanticism

Early nineteenth-century literary romantics believed that change and growth were the essence of life, for individuals and for institutions. They valued feeling and intuition over reason and pure thought, and they stressed the differences between individuals, rather than their similarities.

Romer v. Evans

This U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1996 overturned an antigay measure adopted in Colorado.

Rommel, Erwin

German General Erwin Rommel commanded the elite Afrika Korps in North Africa in World War II. He had great expertise in armored warfare (tanks) and was nicknamed "the desert fox."

Roosevelt Corollary

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt announced as a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, that the United States had a right to intervene in the internal affairs of Latin American nations should those nations become unstable. Through it, the United States assumed the role of a hemispheric policeman.

Roosevelt revolution

This label identifies the New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the transformation they effected on government. His New Deal vastly expanded the power and responsibility of the federal government such that the widespread suffering of another Great Depression is not likely to be repeated.

Roosevelt, Eleanor

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the president, was a force for civil rights and a spokeswoman for better treatment and equal employment opportunities for African Americans and women in the depression years of the 1930s.

Roosevelt, Franklin D.

Former New York's governor Franklin Roosevelt was elected president in 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944. He organized the New Deal's broadening of government authority to deal with the Great Depression and lead the nation throughout World War II.

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Roosevelt, Theodore

President Theodore Roosevelt was the leader of national progressivism at the turn of the twentieth century. He supported regulation of big business, conservation of natural resources, and a "square deal" for ordinary people. He greatly expanded the role and authority of the presidency in the national government.

Rosenberg, Julius and Ethel

In the early 1950s, the Rosenbergs were accused of espionage and supplying atomic-bomb secrets to the Soviet Union. They were tried, convicted, and executed.

rotation

The Jacksonian principle of rotation-in-office rationalized the dismissal of experienced government employees from their jobs by arguing that no one had any intrinsic right to hold an appointed office; that, if left in office too long, they would become indifferent toward public interests and tend toward incompetence and corruption.

Rough Riders

The Rough Riders were Colonel Teddy Roosevelt's volunteer unit in the Cuban theater of the Spanish-American War. They charged up the San Juan heights near Santiago to help capture that city.

Royal African Company

The Royal African Company was an English joint-stock company founded in 1672 and devoted to the slave trade. It made slaves more readily available to English colonists in America.

Rule of 1756

The Rule of 1756 was a British maritime regulation stating that neutral nations could not trade in wartime with ports normally closed to them by mercantilistic restriction in time of peace. John Jay accepted this British definition of America's neutral rights in the Jay Treaty of 1795.

Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

This federal agency transformed American rural life by making electricity available in areas that private companies had refused to service.

Rural free delivery

RFD refers to the government delivery of mail directly to farmsteads rather than merely to village post offices to which rural residents would then have to travel to retrieve their mail.

Rush-Bagot Agreement

In the 1817 Rush-Bagot Agreement the United States and Britain agreed to limit naval forces on the Great Lakes. Eventually, as an outgrowth of this decision, the entire border was demilitarized, a remarkable achievement.

Rustbelt

The term rustbelt referred to the states of the Midwest and Northeast affected adversely by the decline of manufacturing in the 1970s and 1980s; named for the image of machinery rusting in abandoned factories.

Ruth, Babe

Ruth was baseball's most outstanding star in the 1920s. He changed the game from a pitcher's duel to a hitter's game. He set a record for home runs in a season that stood for thirty-five years.

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Sacajawea

Sacajawea was a Shoshone Indian woman who acted as an interpreter and guide to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Sacco and Vanzetti

Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian immigrants and anarchists. They were arrested for murder, and were tried mostly on the basis of their radicalism and alien status, not on clear facts of the case. They were found guilty and executed. The case was a cause celebre among American liberals.

"Sack of Lawrence"

The Sack of Lawrence referred to the vandalism and arson committed by a group of proslavery men in Lawrence, the free-state capital of Kansas Territory.

Sagebrush Rebellion

This political movement in the western states in the early 1980s that called for easing of regulations on the economic use of federal lands and the transfer of some or all of those lands to state ownership.

sailing packet

Sailing packets were regularly scheduled sailing ships that greatly facilitated the movement of goods and passengers across the Atlantic in the mid-nineteenth century. They accelerated the tendency for trade to concentrate in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

saint

A Puritan who had experienced religious conversion and had been admitted to membership in a Puritan church was referred to as a saint.

salient

A "salient" is an outward projecting part of a line of defense. The "bulge" in the Battle of the Bulge (1945) in World War II was a German salient projecting fifty miles into Allied lines in Belgium.

SALT

In 1972, the United States and Soviet Union signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). They agreed to stop making nuclear ballistic missiles and to reduce the number of antiballistic missiles in their arsenals.

SALT II

In 1979, a second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union. When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, President Carter withdrew the treaty from the Senate ratification process.

salutary neglect

England's policy in the early eighteenth century, "salutary neglect" involved a relaxed and indifferent enforcement of the Navigation Acts in the colonies.

Sand Creek Massacre

Also known as the Chivington Massacre, the Sand Creek Massacre occurred in Colorado in 1864. A party of state militia commanded by John Chivington annihilated a Cheyenne Indian community in an unprovoked, vicious, and bloodthirsty raid, with his orders to "kill and scalp all, big and little."

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Sandinistas

The Sandinistas were Nicaraguan leftists who successfully undermined the Somoza dictatorship in 1979. Their name derives from a revered rebel leader from Nicaraguan history.

Sanger, Margaret

Sanger was the leading American proponent of birth control in the 1920s. Her publication and distribution of birth-control literature violated the anti-obscenity Comstock Act, which banned the distribution of information about contraception from the mails, but she persisted.

Santa Fe Ring

The Santa Fe Ring was a group of lawyers and land speculators who dominated New Mexico Territory in the late nineteenth century and amassed great wealth through political corruption and financial chicanery.

Santa Fe Trail

The Santa Fe Trail was an overland trail across the Southern Plains from St. Louis to New Mexico that funneled American traders and goods to Spanish-speaking settlements in the Southwest.

Saturday Night Massacre

On Saturday, October 20, 1973, President Nixon abruptly dismissed his attorney general and an assistant in order to have Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox fired. The event caused an outburst of public indignation and calls for Nixon's impeachment.

scalawags

Scalawags were white southern Republicans--mainly small landowning farmers and well-off merchants and planters--who cooperated with the congressionally imposed Reconstruction governments set up under the Reconstruction Acts for diverse reasons.

Scarlet Letter, The

Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" (1850), a grim, yet sympathetic analysis of adultery, was one of his many depictions of New England culture and history.

Schechter v. U.S.

In 1935, the Supreme Court ruled in "Schechter v. United States" (also known as the "sick chicken case") that the NIRA was unconstitutional. The court ruled that the NIRA gave too much legislative power to the executive branch and code authorities.

Schlafly, Phyllis

Schlafly rallied conservatives and traditionalists to oppose ratification of the equal rights amendment (ERA). The campaign succeeded.

Scopes trial

Also called the "monkey trial," the 1924 Scopes trial was a contest between modern liberalism and religious fundamentalism. John T. Scopes was on trial for teaching Darwinian evolution in defiance of a Tennessee law. He was found guilty and fined \$100.

Scotch-Irish

The Scotch-Irish were Presbyterian immigrants from northern Ireland and Scotland who migrated to the colonial backcountry in the early eighteenth century. They felt little loyalty to England.

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Scott, Thomas A.

Scott organized the Pennsylvania Railroad that originally linked Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. He forged it with lines running west to Chicago and other Midwestern cities, and expanded it eastward to New York City and Baltimore.

Scott, Winfield

General Scott was placed in command of the campaign to capture Mexico City during the Mexican War. After an amphibious landing at Veracruz, Scott's army marched overland and captured Mexico City in September 1847.

Scripps, Edward W.

Scripps was the first publisher to amass a chain of newspapers.

SDS

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was founded in 1962. It was a popular college-student organization, a vehicle to protest the shortcomings of American life from their perspective. It advocated political activism to protest the Vietnam War, racial bigotry, and other problems.

search and destroy

Search and destroy was a U.S. military tactic in South Vietnam, using small detachments to locate enemy units and then massive air, artillery, and ground forces to destroy them.

search for order

The phrase "search for order" summarizes the goal of early-twentieth-century progressives. They put a premium on order, efficiency, cooperation, and organization as solutions to the complex problems brought by industrialization.

SEATO

In 1954, Secretary of State Dulles oversaw the creation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). The alliance was a mutual-defense pact among the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and Pakistan.

SEC

The 1934 Securities and Exchange Act required all stock exchanges to be licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); later, commodity exchanges and investment trusts were included. It was designed to regulate the issue of new securities, the conduct of stockbrokers, and stock-market speculation.

secession

The concept of secession was based on the logic of John C. Calhoun. In his compact theory of government, states retained the essence of their sovereignty when they joined the Union, and they had constitutional authority to leave, or secede from the Union when it served their interests to do so. South Carolina seceded in 1860.

Second Bank of the United States

Congress chartered the Second Bank of the United States in 1816. The Bank had extensive regulatory powers over currency and credit. It came under heavy criticism during the Panic of 1819. In 1832, President Jackson vetoed a bill to re-charter the bank, and thus provoked the Bank War.

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Second Continental Congress

The Second Continental Congress gathered in May 1775. It was immediately faced with the pressure of rapidly unfolding military events. It organized the Continental Army and commissioned George Washington to lead it, then began requisitioning men and supplies.

second front

The opening of a second front was a major controversy among the Allies in World War II. The Soviets wanted a British-American invasion of Western Europe as early as 1942 to relieve Russia of the pressure of invading German armies. Britain wanted to delay the second front, capture North Africa, and invade the "soft underbelly" of Europe through Italy. The British preference prevailed and the second front was not opened until D-Day in June 1944.

Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening began as an emotional counteroffensive to the deism identified with the French Revolution. Second Great Awakening ministers assaulted Calvinism by stressing the mercy, love, and benevolence of God. They emphasized the ability of people to control their own fate, even achieve their own salvation.

Second New Deal

The policies adopted by the Roosevelt administration from 1935 to 1937 that emphasized social and economic reform comprised the Second New Deal.

second party system

The second party system referred to the national two-party competition between Democrats and Whigs from the 1830s through the early 1850s.

Second Treaty of Fort Laramie

The Second Treaty of Fort Laramie acknowledged the U.S. defeat in the Great Sioux War in 1868 and supposedly guaranteed the Sioux perpetual land and hunting rights in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana.

Second Vatican Council (Vatican II)

This 1965 meeting of the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church liberalized many church practices.

Secret Six

This group of prominent New England abolitionists financially supported John Brown's scheme to attack the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, and foment a slave rebellion in the South.

sectionalism

The War of 1812, Panic of 1819, and Missouri Crisis agitated political relations among the North, South, and West after 1820. The three sections divided over such issues as tariff policy, slavery, land policy, banking, and internal improvements.

Security Council

As created at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, the United Nations Security Council was the locus of authority in the new organization. It had five permanent members (U.S., Soviet Union, China, France, and Great Britain) and six others elected for two-year terms. Permanent members were given veto power over UN action.

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Sedition Act

This law passed by Congress in 1798 provided fines and imprisonment for anyone found guilty of saying or writing anything false or malicious about the government or one of its officers; one of the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Sedition Act of 1918

The wartime Sedition Act loosely defined sedition and invited repression of freedom of speech for dissenters. Under the act, Socialist Eugene V. Debs was sent to prison for making an antiwar speech.

segregation

Segregation was a system of racial control that separated the races, initially by custom but increasingly by law during and after Reconstruction.

Selective Service Act of 1917

This law established the military draft for World War I.

Selective Service System

This federal agency coordinated military conscription before and during the Vietnam War.

selectmen

Selectmen are groups of men (usually seven) selected annually to run local affairs in New England towns.

self-determination

As the Civil War began in 1861, southerners claimed the right of self-determination, the right to establish their own independent government. Since the majority of southerners desired independence for the Confederacy, they believed the North's effort to prevent their secession was contrary to its own professed belief in democracy.

Seneca Falls Convention

The Seneca Falls Convention was held in 1848. It drafted the Declaration of Sentiments, patterned on the Declaration of Independence, but declared that "all men and women are created equal."

separate spheres

In the middle-class family of early nineteenth-century America, the wife, who had earlier shared in the family's enterprise, now left earning a living entirely to her husband. His sphere was public, hers was private, singularly devoted to the care of her husband and children.

Separatists

An offshoot branch of Puritanism, separatists were radical religious dissenters who rejected membership in the Church of England, on the grounds that the Church was too corrupt to be reformed; it was critical, then, that they separate from the Church to save their souls. They drafted the Mayflower Compact and founded Plymouth Plantation in 1620.

settlement house

Settlement houses were community centers located in poor urban districts of major cities. They were usually run by single, young, college-educated women. They tried to Americanize immigrant families and provided social services and a political voice for their neighborhoods.

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Seven Days' Battles

These weeklong series of fierce engagements in June and July 1862 along Virginia's peninsula resulted in a Federal retreat during the Civil War.

Seven Sisters

The Seven Sisters were the leading women's colleges of the late nineteenth century. They were Vassar, Wellesley, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Bryn Mawr, Barnard, and Radcliffe. Prevailing attitudes about women's role in society limited their graduates to careers in nursing, teaching, and social work.

Seven Years' War

This conflict (1756-1763) pitted France, Austria, and Russia against England and Prussia; in 1762, Spain entered the war on France's side. Often called the first "world war" because fighting occurred in Europe, India, the Philippines, and North America. The American phase was known as the French and Indian War.

Seventeenth Amendment

This Constitutional change in 1913 established the direct popular election of U.S. senators.

seventeenth parallel

The 1954 Geneva Conference divided Vietnam temporarily into a communist-controlled North Vietnam and a non-communist South Vietnam along the seventeenth parallel. Reunion elections were supposed to be held in 1956, but, because of objections by South Vietnam and the United States, they were never held.

severalty

In the Dawes Severalty Act (1887) Indian tribal lands were split up into individual land allotments. Provisions were made for Indian education and eventual citizenship. The law led to corruption, exploitation, and the weakening of Indian tribal culture. It was reversed in 1934.

Seward, William

New York Senator William Seward appealed to a "higher law" than the Constitution to oppose the Fugitive Slave Act. In the 1850s he helped found the Republican party. In the 1860s he served as President Lincoln's secretary of state.

Shakers

The Shakers, a religious commune founded by Ann Lee, practiced celibacy because they believed the millennium was imminent. Shakers made a special virtue of simplicity.

Share Our Wealth

Louisiana Senator Huey Long criticized the New Deal as too half-hearted in its effort to help the poor. He proposed a "Share Our Wealth" redistribution program calling for the confiscation of fortunes and heavy taxes on millionaires. He proposed the money be used to provide the poor with homesteads, annual incomes, pensions, and to pay for educational and veterans benefits.

sharecropping

During Reconstruction, southerners adopted the sharecropping system. In it, the landowners provided land, tools, housing, and seed to a sharecropping farmer who provided his labor. The resulting crop was divided between them (i.e., shared).

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Shays' Rebellion

Daniel Shays, a veteran of the Battle of Bunker Hill, led an armed rebellion of western Massachusetts farmers to prevent state courts from foreclosing on debtors unable to pay their taxes. The rebellion convinced nationalists that to suppress or inhibit such rebellions, the nation needed a stronger national government.

Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act of 1921

This was the first federal social welfare law; funded infant and maternity health care programs in local hospitals.

Sherman Antitrust Act

The 1890 Sherman Antitrust Act, the nation's first antitrust act, made any concentration (monopoly) in restraint of trade illegal. This already weak law was emasculated when the Supreme Court ruled in "U.S. v. E. C. Knight" (1895) that manufacturing was excluded from the antitrust law. The Sherman Act was often used to break up labor unions.

Sherman Silver Purchase Act

This 1890 law required the government to increase silver purchases sharply, but other provisions restricted its inflationary effect; its repeal in 1894 caused a political uproar.

Sherman's march to the sea

In September 1864, General William Sherman's army captured Atlanta and began marching toward Savannah on the Georgia coast. His march to the sea was designed to defeat the enemy's forces, destroy its economic resources, and break its will to resist.

Sherman, William

Union General Sherman's forces captured Atlanta in 1864, then marched through Georgia to the sea at Savannah. He is known for his remark that "[War] is . . . hell."

Shiloh Church

Shiloh Church was the site of a Union victory along the Tennessee-Mississippi border in April 1862 that enabled Federal forces to capture Corinth, Mississippi, an important rail junction, during the Civil War.

Silicon Valley

Silicon Valley is the region of California between San Jose and San Francisco that holds the nation's greatest concentration of electronics firms.

Simms, William Gilmore

Simms was an unusually versatile and prolific southern romantic who wrote scores of novels, essays, poems, and biographies. His work is often melodramatic and overly reverential toward early nineteenth-century America's planter class.

Sinclair, Harry

Sinclair bribed Secretary of the Interior Fall to lease oil reserves in Teapot Dome, Wyoming, to his Mammoth Oil Company. He was convicted of jury tampering and contempt of the Senate.

Sister Carrie

"Sister Carrie" was author Theodore Dreiser's first and most famous novel. Firmly set in the genre of naturalism, the novel treated the subject of sex so forthrightly that it was withdrawn after its publication.

US History Glossary

sit-down strike

In a sit-down strike, workers barricade themselves inside the factories. The objective is to shut down the factory by not allowing employers to continue production with strikebreakers. Sit-down strikes were popular with industrial unions in the 1930s, but not with employers or the public.

sit-in

A sit-in was a nonviolent resistance technique associated with the civil-rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. It was used effectively by blacks protesting racism in public lunch counters in the South in the early 1960s.

Sixteenth Amendment

This Constitutional revision in 1913 authorized a federal income tax.

Slater, Samuel

Slater was an English immigrant who, in 1790, set up the first factory in the United States. It was a textile factory in Rhode Island. He is sometimes called the "father of the the American factory system."

Slaughterhouse cases

Slaughterhouse cases were a group of cases resulting in one sweeping decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1873 that contradicted the intent of the Fourteenth Amendment by decreeing that most citizenship rights remained under state, not federal, control.

Slave codes

Sometimes known as "black codes," this series of laws passed mainly in the southern colonies in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries defined the status of slaves and codified the denial of basic civil rights to them. Also, after American independence and before the Civil War, state laws in the South defining slaves as property and specifying the legal powers of masters over slaves.

slave power

Slave power was a key concept in abolitionist and northern antislavery propaganda that depicted southern slaveholders as the driving force in a political conspiracy to promote slavery at the expense of white liberties.

slave stereotypes

Slave owners developed contradictory stereotypes (racial images) of slave nature ranging from lazy and subservient to super potent and aggressive, and from nurturing and faithful to wanton and seductive.

slavery

Slavery was the system of labor codified into law in the English colonies after 1650. It was lifetime inheritable servitude. The English successfully enslaved only black Africans.

Slidell, John

President Polk commissioned Slidell to offer to purchase California and New Mexico from Mexico. He was also to try to purchase the territory then in dispute between Texas and Mexico north of the Rio Grande. Mexico rejected both offers.

slum

A slum is a poor neighborhood with many dwellings in bad repair.

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Smith, Alfred E.

In 1928, New York's Democratic governor Alfred Smith was the first Catholic to be nominated for the presidency by a major party. Herbert Hoover soundly defeated him, but the distribution of the vote suggested a major realignment in national parties was occurring.

Smith, John

Smith was a soldier of fortune who, as governor, supplied the early Jamestown settlement with leadership, without which the colony would have quickly perished.

Smith, Joseph

In the 1820s, Smith founded the Mormon religion based on his discovery and translation of the Book of Mormon. He was murdered by a mob in 1844.

SNCC

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) became a radical black-rights group that was scornful of integration and interracial cooperation. Its leader, Stokely Carmichael, was an advocate of black separatism.

Social Darwinism

Natural scientist Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was thought by some to apply to business and social relationships. The "fittest" business or individual would succeed if left unrestricted. Social Darwinism promoted the values of competition and individualism.

Social Gospel

The Social Gospel that was preached by many urban Protestant ministers focused on improving living conditions for the city's poor rather than on saving souls. They advocated civil service reform, child labor laws, government regulation of big business, and a graduated income tax.

socialism

Socialism is a social order based on government ownership of industry and worker control over corporations as a way to prevent worker exploitation.

Socialist Party of America

This political party formed in 1901 with a strong representation from immigrants and provided a political outlet for worker grievances, but fared poorly beyond a few local elections in industrial areas.

Social Security Act

The 1935 Social Security Act established a system of old-age, unemployment, and survivors insurance funded by wage and payroll taxes. It did not include health insurance and did not originally cover many groups and individuals, especially the poor and minorities.

Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children

This female benevolent organization was founded in New York City in 1797 to assist widows and orphans.

soft social sciences

As the need for specialized training in a more complex society arrived, Americans began to make significant contributions to both the relatively new soft social sciences like psychology, political science, and sociology and the traditional hard sciences like chemistry and physics.

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Soil Conservation Service

Created in 1935, this branch of the Department of Agriculture undertook conservation projects on individual farms as well as on a broader national basis.

solid South

The term "solid South" referred to the one-party (Democratic) political system that dominated the South from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Sons of Liberty

The Sons of Liberty were extralegal organizations that agitated in resistance to the Stamp Act in 1765 and continued to speak, write and demonstrate against British measures until independence. They frequently resorted to threats and the use of violence to dramatize their protest. Their actions often intimidated stamp distributors and British supporters in the colonies.

sound money

This misleading slogan referred to a conservative policy of restricting the money supply and adhering to the gold standard.

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)

SEATO was the mutual defense alliance signed in 1954 by the United States, Britain, France, Thailand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

The SCLC was the black civil rights organization founded in 1957 by Martin Luther King Jr. and other clergy.

Southern Farmers' Alliance

The Southern Farmers' Alliance was the largest of several organizations that formed in the post-Reconstruction South to advance the interests of beleaguered small farmers.

Southern Homestead Act

This largely unsuccessful law passed in 1866 gave blacks preferential access to public lands in five southern states.

Southern Manifesto

This document signed by 101 members of Congress from southern states in 1956 argued that the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* itself contradicted the Constitution.

southern strategy

President Nixon adopted a special strategy to seek political support from conservative southern Democrats in the 1972 campaign. For example, he stopped further federal efforts to force school desegregation and he attempted to appoint southern-conservative "strict constructionists" to the Supreme Court.

Southwest Ordinance of 1790

This legislation passed by Congress set up a government with no prohibition on slavery in U.S. territory south of the Ohio River.

Spanish-American War

The Spanish-American War was a brief 1898 conflict in which the United States defeated Spanish forces in Cuba and the Philippines and forced Spain to relinquish control over Cuba and cede the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and other territories to the United States.

US History Glossary

speakeasy

With the coming of Prohibition, the speakeasy replaced the saloon. It was a supposedly "secret" bar or club that illegally served "bootleg" liquor.

Specie Circular

In 1836, President Jackson issued the Specie Circular to halt a speculative land mania fueled by the easy availability of paper currency issued by state banks. The Circular provided that purchasers must pay for public land in gold and silver. It abruptly halted the speculative boom.

spheres of influence

A sphere of influence is usually taken to be a geographical area over which a nation exercises control, particularly economic control. Around 1900, Japan and various European nations were carving China into spheres of influence. The United States, through the Open Door notes, called for free trade and recognition of the territorial integrity of China.

Spock, Benjamin

Dr. Spock wrote "Baby and Child Care" (1946), a book that became the bible for raising the children of the baby boom. Spock insisted that raising children successfully required both professional skills and loving care.

spoils system

The spoils system, a term usually used derisively, identifies the practice of elected officials who appoint loyal members of their own party to public office. Jackson was accused of initiating the spoils system (which he called rotation-in-office) when he was elected to the presidency in 1828.

Sputnik

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first man-made earth satellite, "Sputnik." It was a tremendous technological achievement and stimulated an embarrassed and frightened United States to redouble its efforts to win the "space race."

Squanto

Squanto was an English-speaking Indian who helped the Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation by showing them where to fish and how to cultivate corn.

squatter's rights

Squatters had the right to buy land from its legal owner without paying for the improvements they made on it. Squatters were those who settled on frontier land before it was legally claimed.

stagflation

Stagflation referred to the economic condition of the 1970s in which price inflation accompanied slow economic growth.

Stalin, Joseph

Stalin was premier of the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1953. He was one of the Big Three in the Allied coalition with Churchill and Roosevelt during World War II.

Stalwarts

Led by New York Senator Roscoe Conkling, the Stalwart, anti-reform faction on the Republican party believed in the blatant pursuit of the spoils of office. Their main party rivals were the more circumspect Half-Breeds.

US History Glossary

Stamp Act

The 1765 Stamp Act was the first purely direct (revenue) tax Parliament imposed on the colonies. It was an excise tax on printed matter, including legal documents, publications, and playing cards, and the revenue produced was supposed to defray expenses for defending the colonies. Americans opposed it as "taxation without representation" and prevented its enforcement; Parliament repealed it a year after its enactment.

Stamp Act Congress

In October 1765, delegates sent by nine colonies met in New York City to adopt the Declaration of Rights and Grievances and petition against the Stamp Act.

Standard Oil Company

John D. Rockefeller organized Standard Oil in Cleveland in 1870. Through ruthless competition and superb organization, the Standard Oil Trust controlled 90 percent of oil refining in the United States by 1879.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady

Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the Seneca Falls Convention for women's rights in 1848. She campaigned for women's right to vote, own property, attend college, and enter the professions.

States' Rights

The states' right perspective favored the rights of individual states over rights claimed by the national government.

status quo ante bellum

In the 1814 Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812, Britain and the United States simply agreed to end the state of hostilities and reestablish the status quo ante bellum--the way things were before the war.

statute of limitations

A statute of limitations is a law that sets a time limit after which a person cannot be prosecuted for an alleged crime. In 1948, the statute of limitations prevented the prosecution of Alger Hiss for espionage; instead, he was tried and convicted of perjury.

stay law

In the mid-1780s several states yielded to demands of debtors to enact stay laws that were designed to make it difficult to collect debts. Farmers were especially supportive of the laws because deflation lowered prices on their products, thus lowering their incomes and their ability to pay taxes as well.

Steffens, Lincoln

Steffens was a muckraking journalist, an investigative and crusading reporter who exposed the graft and corruption of boss and machine politics in city and state government.

Steinbeck, John

Novelist John Steinbeck wrote "The Grapes of Wrath" which brilliantly portrayed the plight of millions impoverished by the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Stevens, John L.

Stevens, U.S. minister to Hawaii, helped stage a coup that overthrew the nationalist government of Queen Liliuokalani. The coup leaders, American sugar growers, then applied for annexation of Hawaii by the United States.

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Stevens, Thaddeus

Pennsylvania Congressman Thaddeus Stevens was the leader of the Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives during the Civil War and Reconstruction. He insisted on making emancipation a war goal, and granting full political and civil rights to blacks.

Stevenson, Adlai

Illinois Governor Stevenson was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for president in 1952 and 1956. He later was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during the Cuban missile crisis.

Stimson Doctrine

When Japan invaded Manchuria (northern China) in 1931 and set up the puppet state of Manchukuo, U.S. Secretary of State Stimson issued a doctrine announcing that the United States would not recognize the legality of Japan's action nor extend recognition to Manchukuo. The Stimson Doctrine irritated the Japanese.

Stono Rebellion

Spanish officials' promise of freedom for American slaves who escaped to Florida inspired this uprising of South Carolina slaves against whites in 1739.

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)

This agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1991 substantially reduced the number of long-range nuclear weapons held by each side.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher

Stowe, wife and daughter of abolitionists, wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in response to the Fugitive Slave Act. The emotional story presented slaves as real people and evoked sympathy for slaves among previously disinterested northerners. It was a best seller.

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)

Popularly known as "Star Wars," President Reagan's strategic defense initiative (SDI) proposed the construction of an elaborate computer-controlled defense system capable of destroying enemy missiles in outer space where they would do no harm.

strict accountability

In February 1915, President Wilson warned the Germans that he would hold them to "strict accountability" for any loss of American lives or property resulting from their submarine warfare and its violation of neutral rights at sea.

strict construction

Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson held a strict construction of the Constitution claiming Congress was limited to making only laws that were necessary. Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton held a loose construction of the Constitution (implied powers) claiming that Congress had the authority to pass all laws that were proper.

Strong, Josiah

A social Darwinist, Strong wrote "Our Country," a racist and religious justification for American expansion. He argued that the Anglo-Saxon people were divinely ordained to dominate mankind--a case of survival of the fittest.

Stuart, Gilbert

Stuart is best known for his many studies of George Washington. He was probably the most technically accomplished of the early nineteenth-century portrait painters.

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Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

This black civil rights organization founded in 1960 drew heavily on younger activists and college students.

Sturges v. Crowninshield

In the case of "Sturges v. Crowninshield" (1819), the Supreme Court ruled that debts were contracts, thus a state could not make bankruptcy laws retroactive to debts incurred before the laws were passed.

submarine warfare

Knowing they were no match for the British fleet on the surface of the sea, Germany turned to submarines (U-boats) to threaten British shipping. The Germans' use of unrestricted submarine warfare was a major cause of U.S. intervention in World War I.

subtreasury plan

In response to low cotton prices and tight credit, in 1892 the Omaha platform of the new Populist party adopted a subtreasury plan that would have farmers hold their crops off the market when prices were low. The federal government would make low-interest greenback loans to the farmers secured by the withheld crops stored in government warehouses (or "subtreasuries"). When prices rose, farmers could sell their crops and pay back their loans.

Suffolk Resolves

With these militant resolves adopted in September 1774, representatives from the towns in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, including Boston, responded to the Coercive Acts. They termed the Coercive Acts unconstitutional, advised the people to arm, and called for economic sanctions against Britain. The First Continental Congress endorsed these resolves.

suffrage

Suffrage is the right to vote in a political election.

Sugar Act

The 1764 Sugar Act initiated prime minister George Grenville's plan to place tariffs on some colonial imports as a means of raising revenue needed to finance England's expanded North American empire. It also called for more strict enforcement of the Navigation Acts.

Sullivan, John L.

Sullivan, who won the world's heavyweight championship in 1882, was the most popular professional boxer of his day.

Sullivan, Louis

Sullivan, a leading architect of skyscrapers in the late nineteenth century, stressed the need for building designs that followed function. His works combined beauty, modest cost, and efficient use of space.

summit conference

A summit conference is one involving the heads of state of conferring nations. That is, the nations' top leaders get together. In 1955, a summit conference between Eisenhower and Khrushchev in Geneva generated a "spirit of Geneva" that reduced world tensions.

Sumner, Charles

Sumner was an abolitionist senator from Massachusetts who, in 1856, was brutally beaten by a proslavery congressman for his "Crime Against Kansas" speech, an abusive blast against proslavery politicians.

US History Glossary

Sun Belt

The Sun Belt consists of Florida and the states of the Southwest. The population increase in those states has been the major demographic trend of recent decades.

Superfund

This federal fund was created to clean up the nation's most severely contaminated industrial and toxic waste sites.

supply-side economics

The theory of supply-side economics claims that tax cuts leave people with more money, and that they will invest some of that money rather than spend it all on consumer goods. These investments will stimulate economic growth and, ultimately, produce more revenue for the government despite the lower tax rates. This is historically related to the "trickle-down" theory.

Survival of the fittest

Survival of the fittest is a view of social policy derived from Charles Darwin's natural selection and evolutionary theory (social Darwinism). It helped justify ruthless competition and rugged individualism in business and personal relationships.

Sussex pledge

After the French channel steamer "Sussex" was sunk by a German submarine in May 1916, protests pressured Germany to pledge to stop sinking merchant vessels with submarine warfare.

Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

This U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1971 upheld cross-city busing to achieve the racial integration of public schools.

sweatshops

Sweatshops are small, poorly ventilated shops or apartments crammed with workers, often family members, who piece together garments.

swing around the circle

In the 1866 election campaign, President Johnson traveled widely trying to rally public support for his Reconstruction program. His "swing around the circle" failed as many Republicans won election.

-T-

Taft-Hartley Act

The anti-union Taft-Hartley Act (1947) outlawed the closed shop and secondary boycotts. It also authorized the president to seek injunctions to prevent strikes that posed a threat to national security.

talented tenth

African-American leader William E. B. Du Bois believed that an elite "talented tenth" of the nation's blacks--those with aspiration, thrift, ability, and character--would save the race from the discrimination and prejudice of whites.

US History Glossary

Tallmadge Amendment

When Missouri applied for statehood in 1819, Pennsylvania Congressman James Tallmadge introduced an amendment calling for the gradual abolition of slavery in Missouri. It failed to pass Congress, but it generated an angry debate between northern and southern leaders that raged for months.

Tammany Hall

Tammany Hall was New York City's Democratic party machine, dating from well before the Civil War. Under the leadership of corrupt political manipulators like "Boss" Tweed and Richard Croker, it evolved into a powerful political machine after 1860 and used patronage and bribes to control the city administration for decades.

Tampico incident

In April 1914, some U.S. sailors were arrested in Tampico, Mexico. President Wilson used the incident to send U.S. troops into northern Mexico. His real intent was to unseat the Huerta government there. After the Niagara Falls Conference, Huerta abdicated and the confrontation ended.

Taney, Roger

Taney was Chief Justice of the United States from 1836 to 1864. His court made significant rulings that encouraged economic development, enforced the Fugitive Slave Law, and opened the territories to slavery. He opposed Lincoln's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War.

Taos Revolt

This uprising of Pueblo Indians in New Mexico broke out in January 1847 over the imposition of American rule during the Mexican War; the revolt was crushed within a few weeks.

Tariff Act of 1798

This law placed a duty of 5 percent on most imported goods, and was designed primarily to generate revenue and not to protect American goods from foreign competition.

Tariff of 1816

In 1816, Congress passed the nation's first protective tariff. It was designed to protect textile factories, because the British were dumping cloth in the United States at bargain prices in their attempt to regain markets they had lost during the War of 1812.

Tariff of Abominations

In 1828, Congress revised the protective tariff law by generally raising tariff rates. Anti-tariff southerners were appalled by this Tariff of Abominations. Vice-President John C. Calhoun was provoked to write the "South Carolina Exposition and Protest"--a defense of the doctrine of nullification.

Taylor, Zachary

Taylor was the commander of American armies in northern Mexico during the Mexican War. In 1848 he was elected president as a Whig candidate. He died in office in 1850.

Tea Act of 1773

This act of Parliament permitted the East India Company to sell tea through agents in America without paying the duty customarily collected in Britain, thus reducing the retail price. Americans, who saw the act as an attempt to induce them to pay the Townshend duty still imposed in the colonies, resisted this act through the Boston Tea Party and other measures.

US History Glossary

Teapot Dome

Teapot Dome was a government oil reserve in Wyoming under the navy's control. It became involved in a scandal when President Harding's secretary of the interior, Albert Fall, leased the reserves to private oil companies in return for a bribe.

Tecumseh

The Shawnee chief Tecumseh organized an Indian confederacy to try to defend Indian land and culture in the Ohio country. In 1811 his confederacy was shattered at the Battle of Tippecanoe. Tecumseh was killed at the Battle of the Thames during the War of 1812.

tejano

A person of Spanish or Mexican descent born in Texas.

Teller Amendment

In the Teller Amendment, the United States pledged that it did not intend to annex Cuba and that it would recognize Cuban independence from Spain after the Spanish-American War.

temperance

Temperance, moderation in the use of alcoholic beverages, attracted many advocates in the early nineteenth century. They waged a national crusade against drunkenness. Advocates used both moral appeals and the coercive power of law to successfully reduce consumption of intoxicating beverages.

ten percent plan

This plan devised by President Lincoln in 1863 promised a quick and moderate method for readmitting the seceding states to the Union; it required 10 percent of a state's prewar voters to swear allegiance to the Union and a new state constitution that banned slavery. Many congressional Republicans considered this standard too thin to support a general reconstruction of the Union and responded with the Wade-Davis Bill.

tenement

Tenements are four- to six-story residential dwellings, once common in New York and certain other cities, built on a tiny lot without regard to providing ventilation or light.

Tenure of Office Act

The 1867 Tenure of Office Act prohibited the president from removing any official who had been appointed with the consent of the Senate without obtaining Senate approval. President Johnson challenged the act in 1868 when he dismissed Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. For this, the House of Representatives impeached Johnson.

termination

Termination was the federal policy of withdrawing official recognition from American Indian tribes and dividing tribal assets among the tribe's members.

Tet offensive

In February 1968, the North Vietnamese and Vietcong (communist guerrillas) in South Vietnam launched a major offensive, hoping to provoke widespread rebellion in the country. The effort failed, but the psychological impact on South Vietnam and the United States made it a great victory for the Vietcong and North Vietnam. The United States thereafter reversed its policy of escalation and began to Vietnamize the war.

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Teutonic

The now discredited theory of the Teutonic origins of democracy held that the roots of democracy were to be found in the customs of the ancient Germanic tribes of northern Europe (Teutons). It provided ammunition for those who favored restricting the "new" immigration and for those who argued that blacks were inferior beings.

Third International

This international organization of Communist parties was created in 1919 under Bolshevik control.

Third world

This is a term applied to nations that were aligned with neither the Communist bloc (the "second world") nor the West (the "first world").

Thirteenth Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment (1865) freed the slaves. Ironically, by negating the Three-fifths Clause in the Constitution, it had the effect of increasing the representation of the southern states in Congress. Congressional Republicans balked at this.

Thomas Amendment

During the Missouri Crisis (1819-1821), Illinois Senator Jesse Thomas, hoping to prevent further conflict, got Congress to adopt his proposal to ban slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of 36° 30' (excluding Missouri).

Thoreau, Henry David

Thoreau, like Emerson, was a leading literary romantic and Transcendentalist in the early nineteenth century. He admired raw nature and the simple life, and he valued the freedom of the self-reliant individual. He wrote "Walden" and "Civil Disobedience."

Thorpe, Jim

Thorpe, a Sac and Fox Indian, won several events in the 1912 Olympic Games, was a football all-American, and played professional baseball. He was perhaps the United States's greatest all-around athlete of the twentieth century.

Three-fifths Compromise

The Founding Fathers agreed that three-fifths of all slaves should be counted for purposes of both deciding a state's obligation for a direct federal tax, and for determining its population for representation in the House of Representatives.

Thurmond, Strom

South Carolinian J. Strom Thurmond was the presidential candidate of the States' Rights (Dixiecrat) party in 1948. Dixiecrats were conservative southern Democrats who objected to President Truman's strong push for civil-rights legislation.

tight-money policy

A tight-money policy calls for raising interest rates to make money harder to borrow, thus reducing the amount of money in circulation. It is used by the Federal Reserve Board to combat inflation.

Tilden, Samuel

New York's Governor Tilden was the Democratic party's nominee for president in 1876. He lost the election by a single electoral vote when an electoral commission gave twenty disputed votes to Rutherford B. Hayes.

US History Glossary

time zones

Owners of the transcontinental railroads to help standardize their operations devised America's four time zones (Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific) in 1883.

Toleration Act

The Toleration Act was passed in Maryland in 1649. It granted freedom of religion to all professing Christians. It was designed to protect the Catholic minority who controlled the government from the Protestant majority of the population.

Tonnage Act of 1789

This act established a duty levied on the tonnage of incoming ships to U.S. ports; tax was higher on foreign-owned ships to favor American shippers.

Tordesillas, Treaty of

This treaty negotiated by the pope in 1494 resolved the territorial claims of Spain and Portugal. It drew a north-south line approximately 1,100 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, granting all lands west of the line to Spain and all lands east of the line to Portugal. This limited Portugal's New World empire to Brazil but confirmed its claims in Africa and Asia.

Tories

Tories (sometimes called Loyalists) hesitated to take up arms against England. They may have been as much as one-third of the colonists in 1776. Many were royal appointees, Anglican clergymen, or Atlantic merchants. They were poorly organized and of limited help to British armies, but the Patriots persecuted them. The term derived from late-seventeenth-century English politics when the Tory party supported the Duke of York's succession to the throne as James II. Later the Tory party favored the Church of England and the crown over dissenting denominations and Parliament.

town meeting

The town meeting was the usual form of local government in colonial New England. Town businesses was decided at a semiannual meeting where most male adults could select a representative to the assembly and decide issues related to land, taxes, the minister's salary, and provisions for the poor.

Townsend, Francis

Dr. Townsend was the author of the old-age revolving pension plan, which called for a guaranteed monthly income for the unemployed elderly on the condition they spend the total income within thirty days to stimulate the economy. New Dealers rejected this plan in favor of the Social Security Act.

Townshend, Charles

Townshend was the English Chancellor of the Exchequer who persuaded Parliament to impose a new series of trade taxes on the American colonies in 1767, the Townshend duties. He held a very low opinion of the colonists.

Townshend Duty Act

This act of Parliament, passed in 1767, imposed duties on colonial tea, lead, paint, paper, and glass. Designed to take advantage of the supposed American distinction between internal and external taxes, the Townshend duties were to help support government in America. The act prompted a successful colonial non-importation movement.

US History Glossary

Trail of Tears

The Trail of Tears defined the route of the tragic removal of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia to Indian Territory under severe conditions in 1838.

Transcendentalism

Transcendentalism was the fullest expression of early nineteenth-century romanticism. It was a mystical, intuitive way of looking at life that subordinated facts to feelings. Transcendentalists argued that humans could transcend reason and intellectual capacities by having faith in themselves and in the fundamental benevolence of the universe. They were complete individualists.

Transcontinental Treaty

In the Transcontinental Treaty (Adams-Onís Treaty) ratified in 1821, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams gained a favorable western boundary of the Louisiana Territory to the Pacific. Also, the United States purchased Florida, but temporarily surrendered its claim to Spanish Texas.

Treaty of Ghent

The Treaty of Ghent, Belgium, in 1814 ended the War of 1812. Britain and the United States agreed to end the state of hostilities. Neither side made any major concessions. With Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, the war issues had simply evaporated.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican War in 1848. Mexico was forced to relinquish the modern state of California, as well as all land north of the Rio Grande and Gila Rivers. In return, the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million and assume the \$3.25 million claims of American citizens against Mexico.

Treaty of Paris (1765)

The Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian War (Great War for the Empire). France abandoned nearly all its territorial claims in North America.

Treaty of Paris (1783)

In the Treaty of Paris of 1783, England recognized the independence of the thirteen rebellious colonies in North America, thus formally ending the War of the American Revolution. England also relinquished land claims east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes.

Treaty of Portsmouth

In the 1905 Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire), President Theodore Roosevelt mediated the settlement of the Russo-Japanese War. The Japanese were embittered by the settlement, which gave them a smaller amount of territory and financial indemnity than they expected.

Treaty of San Lorenzo

In the Treaty of San Lorenzo (also known as Pinckney's Treaty), Spain granted the United States free navigation of the Mississippi River and the right of deposit at New Orleans. It also settled the boundary dispute between Spanish Florida and the United States on terms favorable to the United States.

Treaty of Tordesillas

This treaty was negotiated between Spain and Portugal in 1494. Portugal agreed to concentrate its activities in Africa and the East, leaving New World exploration and settlement (except for Brazil) to Spain.

US History Glossary

Treaty of Washington

In the 1871 Treaty of Washington, the United States and Britain decided to arbitrate the "Alabama" claims dispute dating from the Civil War. The "Alabama" was a British-built Confederate naval cruiser that sank tons of Union shipping. The British agreed to pay reparations.

Trent affair

In 1861, a U.S. naval vessel intercepted a British ship, the "Trent," and removed two Confederate envoys. This was a clear violation of international law. The British objected and threatened war, but the crisis passed when Lincoln released the two Confederates.

Triangle Shirtwaist factory

The tragic death of 150 women employees at New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory in 1911, caused by locked doors and the absence of fire escapes, led to the passage of stricter building codes and factory-inspection laws to protect workers.

triangular trade

The misnamed triangular trade was a series of indirect routes used to conduct trade between the colonies and England. The trade ultimately carried raw materials to England and manufactured goods to the colonies.

Tripartite Pact

In this alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan signed in September 1941, each nation agreed to help the others in the event of an attack by the United States.

Trist, Nicholas P.

Trist, chief clerk in the State Department, was sent to negotiate a peace treaty with a defeated Mexico in 1847. Before he could open negotiations he was summoned to return, but he ignored the order and stayed to negotiate the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Trotter, William Monroe

Like his Harvard classmate W. E. B. Du Bois, Trotter was a caustic critic of Booker T. Washington's call for black accommodation to white prejudice. He led a delegation of African Americans to Washington, D.C., to protest the government's segregation policy.

Truman Doctrine

In 1947, President Truman asked Congress to appropriate money for aid to the Greek and Turkish governments then under threat by communist rebels. Arguing for the appropriations, Truman asserted his doctrine that the U.S. was committed to support free people resisting subjugation by communist attack or rebellion. The Truman Doctrine implemented the containment doctrine.

Truman, Harry S

Missouri Senator Truman was elected vice president in 1944. He succeeded to the presidency when Roosevelt died in 1945 and was involved in many key decisions ending World War II and in the early Cold War. It was his decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. He was elected president again in 1948 and decided to send troops to Korea in 1950.

trust

A trust, sometimes inaccurately made synonymous with a monopoly, was a business management device designed to centralize and make more efficient the management of diverse and far-flung business operations. John D. Rockefeller organized the first trust, the Standard Oil Trust.

US History Glossary

trustbuster

President Theodore Roosevelt became known as a trustbuster for his crusades against American Tobacco and Northern Securities, but this was an exaggeration. He saw large business concentrations in need of government regulation, not destruction.

Tse-tung, Mao

Mao was the leader of the communist movement in China in the 1940s. His Red Army overthrew the nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek in 1949 and established the People's Republic of China.

Turner, Frederick Jackson

Turner, one of the first professional historians, proposed in his "frontier thesis" that the development of American individualism and democracy was not imported from Europe, but was born and nurtured in the nation's continuous frontier experience.

Turner, Nat

In 1831, Nat Turner, a Virginia slave, led a brief, but bloody slave revolt against local whites. When his revolt failed, Turner was captured, tried, and executed. The revolt terrified southern whites.

turnpike

Turnpikes, paved roadways, were built as private business ventures in the early nineteenth century. Promoters charged tolls for the use of the pikes to recover their costs of construction and make a profit. Some were built by states, and the federal government financed the National Road. Turnpikes were one kind of internal improvement.

Tuskegee Institute

In 1881 Booker T. Washington founded this educational institution in rural Alabama to train blacks in agricultural and industrial skills.

TVA

The 1933 Tennessee Valley Authority Act authorized the building of federally owned dams and power plants on the Tennessee River, and the sale of fertilizer and electricity to individuals and local communities. In addition, its programs for flood control, soil conservation, and reforestation helped raise the standard of living of millions of people in the Tennessee River Valley.

TVA yardstick

The Tennessee Valley Authority, among other things, was designed to provide a yardstick or a standard of measurement, whereby the efficiency--and thus the rates--of private power companies could be tested for fairness.

Twain, Mark

Author Mark Twain (born Samuel Clemens) wrote several books that caught the spirit of the Gilded Age. His works combined real depth with a comic genius that exposed the pretentiousness and meanness of human beings. They were very popular and have lasting appeal.

Tweed, William Marcy

William Marcy "Boss" Tweed was the leader of New York's Tammany Hall and the most notorious of all late nineteenth-century corrupt politicians. He extracted millions from graft-ridden city contracts. He was lampooned by cartoonist Thomas Nast, and eventually jailed.

US History Glossary

Twelfth Amendment

The Twelfth Amendment, ratified in 1804, provided for separate balloting in the Electoral College for president and vice-president.

Twenty-one Demands

In 1915, Japan presented China with twenty-one demands that would have given Japan special privileges and challenged the United States' Open Door policy in China. President Wilson protested and Japan modified its demands.

Tyler, John

When President Harrison died in 1841, Tyler became the first vice-president to succeed to the presidency. He never got along well with other leaders in the Whig party who tried to get him to endorse Clay's American System. He was not re-nominated in 1844.

-U-

U-2 plane

A planned four-power summit conference in 1960 was canceled when the Soviets, to the embarrassment of the United States, shot down an American U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union and captured its pilot.

U.S.A.

"U.S.A." was a trilogy written by John Dos Passos, trying to capture the mood of the Great Depression. An utterly realistic work by a disillusioned liberal, it expressed an anti-capitalist and pessimistic point of view.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1852) in response to the Fugitive Slave Act. In it she presented slaves as real people to a northern audience that was moved by the trials and tribulations of Uncle Tom and his family. Many heretofore disinterested northerners now began to question the justness of slavery.

Underground Railroad

This support system set up by antislavery groups in the Upper South and the North assisted fugitive slaves in escaping the South.

Underwood-Simmons Tariff Act

This 1913 reform law lowered tariff rates and levied the first regular federal income tax.

undocumented aliens

"Undocumented aliens" is a euphemism for illegal immigrants living in the United States.

unicameral legislature

A unicameral legislature is a legislative body composed of a single house.

Union League

The Union League was a Republican party organization in northern cities that became an important organizing device among freedmen in southern cities after 1865.

union shop

Although it outlawed the closed shop, the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act allowed union shop contracts that required new workers to join the union after accepting employment.

US History Glossary

United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC)

This organization was founded in 1892 to preserve southern history and honor its heroes; it reflected the growing role of middle-class white women in public affairs.

United Nations

During World War II, the "United Nations" was the name adopted by the United States, Britain, and their allies against Germany and Italy; after 1945, an international organization joined by nearly all nations.

United States v. Cruikshank

In this 1876 case, the U.S. Supreme Court nullified the Enforcement Act of 1870, overturning the convictions of whites accused of violence against blacks in Louisiana and declaring that the Fifteenth Amendment did not sanction federal interference in matters that were clearly reserved for the states.

United States v. Nixon

In "United States v. Nixon" (1974), the Supreme Court ruled that President Nixon was required to turn over to the Watergate special prosecutor sixty-four White House audiotapes that the prosecutor had subpoenaed.

universal manhood suffrage

Universal manhood suffrage referred to the right of all male U.S. citizens to vote; a key element of Radical Republican policy in the South after 1867.

Universal Negro Improvement Association

Founded by black nationalist Marcus Garvey, the UNIA was popular with poor urban blacks. It advocated a "Back to Africa" movement and stimulated racial pride among African Americans.

University of Chicago

Founded and financed by John D. Rockefeller in 1892, the immediately prestigious University of Chicago raided the nation's colleges for top-flight faculty and offered a first-class higher education.

upland cotton

Green seed or upland cotton flourished throughout the South, but, until Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793, it had little commercial value. The cotton gin enabled a more cost effective cleaning of the fiber and made its cultivation enormously profitable.

upward mobility

Upward mobility indicates a person or group's economic or social improvement. In late nineteenth-century America, general economic growth and compulsory public education boosted the upward mobility of many Americans.

U.S. Sanitary Commission

This private, voluntary medical organization founded in May 1861 was dedicated to tending Union wounded and improving soldier comfort and morale during the Civil War.

utopian

A utopianist is an idealist who envisions the possibility of a perfect society. Both the National Labor Union and Knights of Labor were utopian rather than practical labor unions.

US History Glossary

-V-

Vallandigham, Clement

The most notorious domestic foe of Lincoln's war policies in the Civil War was Ohio Congressman Clement Vallandigham, a Peace Democrat. He urged that the war be ended by negotiation. He was temporarily jailed, banned to the Confederacy, went to Canada, and returned to campaign against Lincoln in 1864.

Valley Forge

General George Washington's continental troops were quartered from December 1777 to June 1778 in this area of Pennsylvania approximately 20 miles northwest of Philadelphia, where while British forces occupied Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. Approximately 2,500 men, about a quarter of those encamped there, died of hardship and disease.

Vance, Cyrus

Vance was secretary of state in the Carter administration. He was a strong supporter of détente between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1979 he resigned in protest against the handling of the hostage crisis in Iran.

vast wasteland

In the 1960s, FCC commissioner Newton Minow labeled American television a "vast wasteland" devoted to uninspired programming and crass commercials.

Veblen, Thorstein

Veblen, a late nineteenth-century economist, accused big business and government of corrupting higher education by stressing practical values over humanistic, and using universities for business and political purposes.

Versailles, Treaty of

This treaty ended World War I and created the League of Nations.

vertical integration

The term vertical integration refers to the consolidation of numerous production functions, from the extraction of the raw materials to the distribution and marketing of the finished products, under the direction of one firm.

Vesey, Denmark

Vesey was a South Carolina free black who, in 1822, organized a slave revolt. The plan was exposed and the revolt never occurred, but its exposure frightened southern whites.

vice-admiralty courts

Vice-admiralty courts were royal courts established in the colonies to handle maritime cases and enforce the Acts of Trade. The enlarged role of these bodies, which operated without juries, was considered a grievance.

Vicksburg

Vicksburg was a key Mississippi River port and rail junction that fell in July 1863 to a brilliant Union campaign by Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the Army of Tennessee, during the Civil War.

US History Glossary

Viet Cong

Viet Cong were the Communist rebels in South Vietnam who fought the pro-American government established in South Vietnam in 1954.

Vietnamization

"Vietnamization" was the war policy adopted by presidents Johnson and Nixon after the Tet offensive in 1968. It was an effort to build up South Vietnamese forces so that American troops could be withdrawn from Vietnam.

Villa, Pancho

Villa, a Mexican "bandit" who opposed the Carranza government, raided Columbus, New Mexico, in 1916. This provoked U.S. military intervention in Mexico. The army chased Villa, but was withdrawn before he could be found.

Vincennes, Treaty of

In this 1804 treaty Americans claimed that Indian leaders ceded most of southern Indiana to the United States.

Virginia Company

The Virginia Company was one of two joint-stock companies chartered in 1606 to establish English colonies in America. Also known as the London Company, it organized the founding of the Virginia Colony. The company went bankrupt in 1624, and a year later Virginia became a royal colony.

Virginia Plan

James Madison offered the Constitutional Convention the Virginia plan calling for proportional representation in Congress. James Paterson's New Jersey plan, hoping to protect the less populous states, called for equal representation in Congress for each state. The controversy was resolved in the Great Compromise.

virtual representation

Parliament argued that colonists were virtually represented in Parliament because every member of Parliament stood for the interests of the empire. Colonists insisted that since they did not actually elect voting members of Parliament to represent their interests, Parliament did not represent them.

VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America, VISTA was the "domestic Peace Corps" of the 1960s that gave individuals an opportunity to work on behalf of low-income communities in the United States.

Volcker, Paul

Volcker was appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve Board in 1978. He believed in the conservative monetarist solution to inflation that called for a tight-money policy. This meant high interest rates.

Volstead Act

This 1920 law defined the liquor forbidden under the Eighteenth Amendment and gave enforcement responsibilities to the Prohibition Bureau of the Department of the Treasury.

Voting Rights Act

This 1965 legislation overturned a variety of practices by which states systematically denied voter registration to minorities.

US History Glossary

-W-

Wade-Davis bill

Congress passed the Wade-Davis bill in 1864 as a substitute for Lincoln's ten percent plan. It required a majority of voters in a southern state to take a loyalty oath in order to begin the process of Reconstruction and guarantee black equality. It also required the repudiation of the Confederate debt. The president exercised a pocket veto, and it never became law.

wage and price controls

In 1970, Congress authorized President Nixon to regulate wages and prices as a way to combat inflation. In 1971, Nixon imposed a ninety-day wage and price freeze and set up a commission to regulate wages and prices when the freeze ended.

Wagner Act

Officially the National Labor Relations Act and sometimes called Labor's Magna Charta, the 1935 Wagner Act gave workers the right to organize and bargain collectively. It also created the National Labor Relations Board to supervise union elections and stop unfair labor practices by employers.

Wald, Lillian

Wald was a leading settlement house worker who agitated for laws to regulate women and child labor, and for better schools. She wrote "The House on Henry Street" to describe the dedication and challenge of settlement house work.

Walden

"Walden" (1854) was Henry David Thoreau's story of his experiment in living simply. It is an indictment of the acquisitive social behavior and unthinking conformity of the average American of his time.

Wallace, George

Alabama Governor Wallace was an avowed segregationist and a leading spokesman against the civil-rights movement. He ran for president in 1968 on the American Independent party ticket. He was critically wounded in an assassination attempt in 1972 while campaigning for the Democratic party's presidential nomination.

Wallace, Henry A.

Wallace was Franklin Roosevelt's secretary of agriculture in the 1930s and was elected vice president in 1940. He unsuccessfully ran for president on the Progressive party ticket in 1948.

Waltham System

The Boston Associates developed the Waltham System of employing young unmarried women as workers in their New England textile mills. The women lived in boardinghouses and their proper behavior was strictly policed. By 1840, for economy reasons, the women were replaced by immigrant laborers.

War Hawks

The War Hawks were young congressional leaders who, in 1811 and 1812, called for war against Great Britain as the only way to defend the national honor and force the British to respect America's neutral rights.

War Industries Board (WIB)

This federal agency reorganized industry for maximum efficiency and productivity during World War I.

US History Glossary

War Labor Board

President Wilson created the War Labor Board in 1917 to settle labor disputes during World War I. It prevented many strikes, set wages-and-hours standards, and compelled employers to deal with labor leaders, thus promoting labor unions.

War Manpower Commission

This federal agency was established in 1942 to allocate workers among the armed services, defense industries, and essential civilian industries.

War of 1812

The United States and Britain fought this war from June 1812 to January 1815 largely over British restrictions on American shipping.

War of the Austrian Succession

This small conflict between Britain and Spain began in 1739 and widened into a larger European war in 1740 (lasting until 1748) when the king of Prussia attacked lands claimed by Austria's ruling family; known in America as King George's War.

War of the League of Augsburg

This European conflict (1688-1697) pitted France against Spain, Sweden, the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch republic, various German principalities, and, in 1689, England. The principal aim was to halt the growing power of France's Louis XIV. In America, this was known as King William's War.

War of the Spanish Succession

This European conflict (1702-1713) began in a struggle between the king of France and the Holy Roman emperor over claims to the Spanish throne. England, Holland, and the Holy Roman Empire fought France and Spain in a war known in America as Queen Anne's War.

War on Poverty

This set of programs introduced by Lyndon Johnson between 1963 and 1966 was designed to break the cycle of poverty by providing funds for job training, community development, nutrition, and supplementary education.

War Production Board

This federal agency was established in 1942 to coordinate defense production and allocate scarce resources to serve the war effort.

Ward, Lester Frank

Ward's "Dynamic Sociology" questioned the theory of evolution and argued that society could be reformed by cold calculation. He believed that people were not helpless subjects of their environment, but could control it through government regulation and social planning. His ideas eventually demolished social Darwinism and laid the theoretical basis for the modern welfare system.

Warhol, Andy

Warhol was a leader of the pop art school that satirized the vapidness, crudeness, and violence of American life. Warhol was most famous for his creative portraits of mundane objects.

US History Glossary

Warren Commission

After President Kennedy's assassination in 1963, an official investigation conducted by a commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. The conclusion has been disputed ever since.

Warsaw Pact

The Warsaw Pact was the military alliance of the Soviet Union and Communist nations in eastern Europe from 1955 to 1989.

Washington, Booker T.

Washington was a former slave who founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881. He believed blacks could advance by their own efforts and white help, and by accommodating to white prejudice. Whites considered him a "reasonable" spokesman of black interests in America.

Washington, George

Washington, a Virginia planter, was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1775. He was also the president of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and the first president of the United States (1789-1797).

Washington Naval Conference

In 1921, Secretary of State Hughes called a conference to reaffirm the Open Door policy in Asia and place limitations on naval construction. The conference achieved some of his goals, but only for a brief time.

Washington Temperance Societies

These temperance associations dominated by mechanics and laborers first formed in Baltimore in 1840.

Washingtonians

The Washingtonians was an organization of reformed drunkards. The group set out to reclaim alcoholics through testimonials to the evils of strong drink.

Watergate

A complex scandal involving attempts to cover up illegal actions taken by administration officials and leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974.

Watson, John B.

Watson was a child-care expert and behavioral psychologist who advocated a strict upbringing for children. He expressed the view that children are made, not born, that they are shaped by the stimuli of their environment.

Watts

In 1965, the first of what was to be many black ghetto riots over the following decade broke out in Watts, a poor section of Los Angeles. The National Guard had to be called to restore order, and after six days of rioting, thirty-four persons had been killed.

waving the bloody shirt

"Waving the bloody shirt" was a campaign tactic used by post-Civil War Republicans to remind northern voters that the Confederates were Democrats. The device was used to divert attention away from the competence of candidates and from serious issues. It was also used to appeal to black voters in the South.

US History Glossary

Weather Underground

This fringe group of former members of Students for a Democratic Society, 1969-1970, emphasized confrontation and violence.

Weaver, James B.

Iowa reformer James B. Weaver was nominated for president by the Populist party in 1892. He won a million votes, but the party failed to unite black and white farmers in the South or to attract significant support from labor.

Webster, Noah

Webster, later famous for his dictionary, authored several textbooks, all of which celebrated American nationalism.

Webster-Ashburton Treaty

The 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty settled the controversy over the Maine-Canada boundary. The treaty allowed Canada to build a military road from Halifax to Quebec while the United States got most of the disputed territory.

Webster-Hayne debate

In 1830, South Carolina Senator Robert Hayne tried to forge an alliance of the South and West based on a cheap land policy and low tariffs. Senator Webster accused Hayne of dis-unionism and argued that the Constitution was a compact of the American people, not of the states, and that it was perpetual and indissoluble.

Weld, Theodore Dwight

Weld was the spokesman for a moderate view of abolitionism. He supported the "immediate" abolition of slavery gradually achieved, and, unlike William Lloyd Garrison, was willing to engage in political activity to accomplish that goal.

welfare capitalism

This paternalistic system of labor relations emphasized management responsibility for employee well-being. While providing some limited benefits, its function was primarily to forestall the formation of unions or public intervention.

Wesley Houses

Wesley Houses were organizations modeled after the settlement houses of the North that began appearing in southern cities under the auspices of the Methodist Church in the 1890s to serve working-class neighborhoods.

West, Benjamin

West was the first and most highly regarded American artist of the early nineteenth century.

Western Federation of Miners

This large and radical union of western miners formed in Butte, Montana, in 1893 to coordinate local unions' resistance to corporate threats to workers' wages, working conditions, and health.

Westmoreland, William

General Westmoreland was the commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. He devised and pursued an unsuccessful strategy of attrition.

US History Glossary

wetbacks

"Wetbacks" is a term used, usually pejoratively, to refer to Mexican immigrants who enter the United States illegally. The term derives from the fact that a part of the U.S.-Mexican border is the Rio Grande, sometimes swum by Mexican immigrants to avoid border checkpoints for legal immigration. These immigrants are also called "mojados."

Weyler, Valeriano

General "Butcher" Weyler was the Spanish governor of Cuba whose harsh reconcentration camp policy provoked outrage in America and steered Cuban rebels' resolve against him. Americans saw in Cuba's anti-Spanish rebels a reflection of their own revolutionary ancestors' struggle against the British.

Whig party

This political party formed in the mid-1830s in opposition to the Jacksonian Democrats that favored a strong role for the national government in promoting economic growth. Whigs were spiritual descendants of Hamiltonian nationalism.

Whigs

The name used by advocates of colonial resistance to British measures during the 1760s and 1770s. The Whig party in England unsuccessfully attempted to exclude the Catholic Duke of York from succession to the throne as James II; victorious in the Glorious Revolution, the Whigs later stood for religious toleration and the supremacy of Parliament over the crown.

Whiskey Rebellion

Western Pennsylvania farmers violently resisted paying the whiskey tax imposed by Hamilton's financial program. In 1794 they threatened to destroy Pittsburgh. Washington and Hamilton marshalled the full force of the army to suppress the rebellion, but the rebels had dispersed by the time the army arrived.

Whistler, James

Whistler's portrait of his mother ("Whistler's Mother") is probably the most famous painting by an American. He was an eccentric, but he was also talented and versatile, proficient in both realistic and romantic art.

white backlash

As the civil-rights movement and black discontent became more militant in the 1960s, and seemed to be rewarded with government largesse, many whites, previously sympathetic or indifferent, became infuriated with black radicalism.

White League

The White League was one of several military organizations operating openly and in concert with the Democratic party in the South to thwart black voting rights during Reconstruction.

Whitefield, George

Whitefield was an Anglican minister with great oratorical skills. His emotion-charged sermons were a centerpiece of the Great Awakening in the American colonies in the 1740s.

Whitman, Walt

Whitman was the most romantic and by far the most distinctive American writer of the early nineteenth century. His "Leaves of Grass," a collection of free verse poetry, disclosed his ear for common speech and Americans' confidence in themselves.

US History Glossary

Whitney, Eli

Whitney, a skilled and prolific inventor, invented the cotton gin in 1793. It almost immediately transformed southern agriculture and revitalized slavery. Whitney also was successful in manufacturing rifles for the government by employing the idea of interchangeable parts.

Wide Awakes

This group of red-shirted, black-caped young men paraded through city streets in the North extolling the virtues of the Republican party during the 1860 presidential election campaign.

Wilderness Act

Also known as the Wilderness Areas Act, this 1964 law designated certain federal lands as parts of the National Wilderness Preservation System, consisting originally of 9.1 million acres.

Williams, Roger

Williams was a Puritan minister who was banished from Massachusetts Bay for his heretical ideas of extreme separatism and separation of church and state, and his insistence that the colony's land must be purchased from the Indians.

Willkie, Wendell

Willkie led the private-business community's opposition to the TVA. In 1940 he was the Republican nominee to oppose Franklin Roosevelt's bid for reelection to a third term. He focused his unsuccessful campaign on the president's increasingly interventionist foreign policy.

Wilmot Proviso

In 1846 Pennsylvania Congressman David Wilmot introduced an amendment (proviso) to an appropriations bill that provided for banning slavery from any territory the United States might acquire from Mexico as a result of war. It never passed Congress, but the Proviso generated a great debate on the authority of the federal government to ban slavery from the territories.

Wilmot, David

Wilmot was a Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania who introduced an amendment (the Wilmot Proviso) to ban slavery from any territory the United States might acquire as a result of the Mexican War. It never passed Congress, but it generated a great debate on slavery in the territories.

WIN

President Ford believed that inflation was the most serious problem facing the economy in the mid-1970s. He called on Americans to wear WIN (Whip Inflation Now) buttons as a sign of their willingness to fight inflation. The campaign failed.

Winthrop, John

Winthrop, a lawyer, served for over 20 years as the elected governor of the Puritan's Massachusetts Bay colony.

Wisconsin Idea

Progressive governor Robert La Follette called on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin to offer its expertise to help him bring progressive change to the state. A widely copied legislative reference library was one of their notable accomplishments. This enlistment of academicians in government came to be known as the Wisconsin Idea.

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Wobblies

Wobblies was the popular name for the members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

woman suffrage

Woman suffrage referred to the right of women to vote, achieved in the Nineteenth Amendment.

Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

This national organization was formed after the Civil War dedicated to prohibiting the sale and distribution of alcohol.

Wood, Leonard

Wood was the military governor of Cuba after the Spanish-American War. He considered U.S. annexation of Cuba as the best solution to unstable conditions there. Instead, Cuba gained nominal independence under the Platt Amendment to its constitution.

Woodstock generation

The term Woodstock generation came to define members of the late 1960s counterculture; named for a rock festival held in New York State in August 1969.

Wool Act

Another part of the British mercantilistic system, the Hat, Iron, and Wool Acts restricted and rechanneled infant colonial manufacturing.

Worcester v. Georgia

In "Worcester v. Georgia" (1832) the Supreme Court ruled that a state government could not govern the Indians or their territory lying within that state. With President Jackson's endorsement, Georgia officials ignored the ruling and forced the Cherokees to leave the state.

work-study program

As part of President Johnson's War on Poverty adopted in the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act, Congress provided appropriations to finance part-time employment for students attending college.

workingmen's movement

The workingmen's movement consisted of associations of urban workers who began campaigning in the 1820s for free public education and a ten-hour workday.

World Bank

Officially the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank is an international organization established in 1945 that assists governments around the world in economic development efforts.

Wounded Knee Massacre

The Wounded Knee Massacre was the U.S. Army's brutal winter massacre in 1890 of 150 Sioux men, women, and children as part of the government's assault on the tribe's Ghost Dance religion.

WPA

Congress created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935 and President Roosevelt placed Harry Hopkins in charge of it. It eventually spent \$11 billion on federal works projects and provided employment for 8.5 million persons. They built roads, bridges, schools, etc., but the WPA also funded projects for thespians, artists, writers, and young people.

US History Glossary

Writ of habeas corpus

A writ of habeas corpus is a court order directing that a detained person be brought to a court to determine the cause of his detention. During the Civil War, to prevent acts of sabotage, President Lincoln sometimes suspended the writ of habeas corpus in certain areas.

Writ of mandamus

A writ of mandamus is a court order requiring a public official to do something. In 1803 William Marbury sued to have his appointment to a federal court delivered by Secretary of State Madison. The Supreme Court in "Marbury v. Madison" (1803) declared that the law empowering it to issue such writs (Judiciary Act of 1789) was unconstitutional.

Writs of assistance

These writs were general search warrants authorized in 1761 that allowed British customs agents looking for smuggled goods to enter colonial homes and warehouses without evidence or specific court orders. The legality of these writs became an important cause of controversy in Massachusetts in 1761 and 1762.

Wyoming Valley

At this Pennsylvania site in June and July 1778, a force comprised of Iroquois Indians and Tories under colonel John Butler routed Patriot defenders and laid waste to settlements during the Revolutionary War.

-X-

X, Malcolm

Black Muslim Malcolm X was a militant advocate of black separatism until 1964. He was assassinated in 1965.

XYZ Affair

The peace commissioners sent to France by President Adams in 1797 were insulted by their French counterparts' demand for a bribe as a condition for negotiating with American diplomats. America's tender sense of national honor was outraged and the affair led Federalists to demand war against France.

-Y-

Yalta Conference

Yalta, a city in the Russian Crimea, hosted a wartime conference in February 1945, where U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin met. The Allies agreed to final plans for the defeat of Germany and the terms of its occupation. The Soviets agreed to allow free elections in Poland, but the elections were never held.

Yankeephobia

"Yankeephobia," literally fear of the United States, reflected Latin Americans' dislike and mistrust of the "Colossus of the North." Military interventions under the Roosevelt Corollary and economic domination under dollar diplomacy fostered Latin American resentment toward U.S. power and wealth.

yellow-dog contracts

Yellow-dog contracts were employment agreements binding workers not to join a union.

US History Glossary

yellow peril

"Yellow peril" was a code used to express the fear many early-twentieth-century Americans, particularly on the West Coast, had of unrestricted Japanese immigration. President Theodore Roosevelt responded to the fear by negotiating a "Gentlemen's Agreement" with Japan to restrict Japanese emigration.

yellow press

The term yellow press, or yellow journalism, referred to the deliberately sensational journalism of scandal and exposure designed to attract an urban mass audience and increase advertising revenues.

Yippies

Yippies were members of the Youth International Party, a fringe group of radical activists, 1968-1972, who emphasized media events. Led by Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman, they were "professional" iconoclasts, ridiculing accepted beliefs and behavior and established authority.

Young America

"Young America" was the confident, Manifest Destiny spirit of Americans in the 1850s. Expansionists began to think about transmitting the dynamic, democratic spirit of the United States to other countries by aiding revolutionaries, opening up new markets, and annexing foreign lands.

Young Men's Christian Association

Lay evangelists like Dwight L. Moody, concerned about the lot of the urban poor, helped establish the YMCA in 1851 to provide recreational facilities for the unfortunate.

Young Plan

The Young Plan (1929) and Dawes Plan (1924) were international arrangements to help European nations pay their war debts to the U.S. and help Germany pay its reparations obligations. The onset of the depression in the 1930s ruined chances that either war debts or reparations would continue to be paid.

Young, Brigham

Young took leadership of the Mormons when Joseph Smith was murdered in 1844. In 1847 he led the Mormons to a religious haven near Great Salt Lake (Utah).

-Z-

Zenger, John Peter

Zenger was an itinerant German printer who wrote critical and ridiculing articles about Pennsylvania's royal governor in the 1730s. He was arrested for seditious libel, but was acquitted in a trial that became a celebrated defense of freedom of the press.

Zimmermann telegram

Was a telegram to Mexico from the German foreign minister was intercepted and published in the United States. In it Germany offered to help Mexico regain territories it had lost to the U.S. in the event the U.S. and Germany went to war. Americans were outraged by this potential threat to their national security.

zoot suit

Zoot suiters were Mexican-born residents in the United States during World War II who wore a distinctive costume consisting of a broad-brimmed hat, long suit coat, and peg-legged pants. American servicemen in cities like Los Angeles sometimes attacked gangs of zoot suiters.