

U.S. HISTORY: ESSENTIAL REGENT VOCABULARY

★ Colonial & Revolutionary America:

1. **Triangular Trade:** exchange of goods and slaves between Africa, Europe, West Indies, and the colonies.
2. **House of Burgesses:** first example of a representative form of government in colonial Virginia.
3. **Mayflower Compact:** agreement signed by Pilgrims before landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts in which colonists consented to be governed by a government they created (self-government).
4. **John Peter Zenger:** journalist whose trial was an early step in establishing the freedom of press in the colonies
5. **Stamp Act:** (1765) law of British Parliament that taxed newspapers, legal documents, and other printed materials; led to the phrase "no taxation without representation".
6. **Declaration of Independence:** the 1776 document stating that the colonies wanted to be free and independent from British rule and provided justification for breaking with parent country (Great Britain).
7. **Proclamation of 1763:** British law that prohibited colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains; purpose was to prevent conflict between Native Americans and colonists following the French and Indian War.
8. **Salutary Neglect:** British policy of ignoring the colonies which allowed them to gain more independence in trade and exercising a larger degree of self-government.
9. **Common Sense:** famous pamphlet written by Thomas Paine; persuaded colonists to seek independence and end their relationship with Great Britain.

★ Constitutional Foundations and U.S. Government:

10. **Articles of Confederation:** the first American constitution that created a weak central (federal) government and gave more power to states.
11. **Federalist Papers:** series of essays written by the founding fathers that urged ratification (approval) of the new Constitution.
12. **U.S. Constitution:** supreme law of the land that outlines the functions of the three branches of government.
13. **Checks and Balances:** each branch of federal government has power to limit the actions of other branches.
14. **Federalism:** power and authority is divided between the national and state governments.
15. **Limited Government:** government is not all powerful; it may only do things people give it the power to do.
16. **Popular Sovereignty:** principle of constitution that people are only source of any and all government power.
17. **Amendments:** modifications or changes to the Constitution (there are 27 amendments in all).
18. **Bill of Rights:** first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution that describe the basic rights of all citizens.
19. **Executive Branch:** part of government that carries out the laws (the president).
20. **Electoral College:** an assembly elected by voters that meets every four years to formally elect the President.
21. **Legislative Branch:** part of the government that makes laws for the nation (Congress).
22. **Judicial Branch:** part of the government that decides if laws are being carried out fairly (the Supreme Court).
23. **Unwritten Constitution:** customs and precedents accepted as a needed part of government although not actually listed in the Constitution.
24. **Marbury v. Madison:** (1803) decision of the Marshall Court (Supreme Court) that established the principle of judicial review (the power to declare laws unconstitutional).

★ Growth & Territorial Expansion of the United States:

25. **Louisiana Purchase:** (1803) land deal with the French that nearly doubled the size of the U.S. and gave it full control of the Mississippi River.
26. **Monroe Doctrine:** (1823) presidential declaration warning the nations of Western Europe not to interfere with newly independent nations in the Western Hemisphere (Latin America).
27. **Trail of Tears:** the forced removal of Cherokee Indians in 1838-1839 to lands west of the Mississippi River (followed the Indian Removal Act).
28. **Seneca Falls Convention:** (1848) women's rights convention where Declaration of Sentiments was issued.
29. **Abolitionism:** movement to end slavery in the U.S.; led to the establishment of the Underground Railroad.
30. **Manifest Destiny:** belief the United States had the right and duty to expand its borders across North America.
31. **Homestead Act:** (1862) law that offered 160 acres of western land to help settle the western frontier.
32. **Reservations:** areas of land set aside by the federal government for Native Americans.
33. **Dawes Act:** (1887) law that sought to "Americanize" Native Americans by dividing their land into private family plots, breaking up tribes and reservations, and assimilating Native Americans into American life.

★ The Civil War & Reconstruction Era:

34. **Missouri Compromise:** (1820) agreement to keep an equal balance of free and slaves states; outlawed slavery in new states and territories north of 36°30' north latitude (one cause of the Civil War).
35. **Civil War:** conflict between the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South) from 1861 to 1865.

36. **Emancipation Proclamation:** presidential decree effective Jan. 1, 1863 that freed slaves in Confederate (southern) territory; considered a turning point of the Civil War.
37. **Reconstruction:** period lasting from 1865 to 1877; an effort to rebuild the southern states and bring southern states to the Union after the Civil War.
38. **Freedman's Bureau:** created during Reconstruction to aid former slaves and help them adjust to freedom by providing an education and other basic necessities.
39. **Ku Klux Klan:** group of white southerners against Radical Reconstruction who challenged attempts at racial equality by intimidating African Americans and promoting white supremacy.
40. **13th Amendment:** (1865) abolished slavery in the United States.
41. **14th Amendment:** (1868) granted U.S. citizenship to African Americans.
42. **15th Amendment:** (1870) gave African American men the right to vote.
43. **Plessy v. Ferguson:** Supreme Court case that legalized segregation as long as African Americans had access to "separate but equal" facilities.
44. **Jim Crow Laws:** laws in the southern U.S. that segregated public facilities by race after the Civil War.
45. **Compromise of 1877:** settled the disputed election of 1876 and ended Reconstruction by withdrawing federal troops from the southern states.

★ **The Gilded Age: Industrialization/Urbanization/Immigration:**

46. **Social Darwinism:** belief the evolutionary idea of "survival of the fittest" applied to society and business.
47. **Monopoly:** type of business that has complete control over a product or service by controlling prices and the amount of competition.
48. **Laissez-Faire:** government policy of not interfering in private business and minimizing regulation (hands-off).
49. **Sherman Anti-Trust Act:** (1890) prohibited monopolies by declaring illegal any business combination or trust "in restraint of trade or commerce".
50. **Jacob Riis:** author and photographer who wrote *How the Other Half Lives* about the harsh living conditions in New York City tenements, crowded multi-family apartment buildings with poor standards of sanitation and safety.
51. **Ellis Island:** place in New York Harbor requiring immigrants to undergo physical examination before entering the United States.
52. **Chinese Exclusion Act:** (1882) law that sharply limited number of Chinese immigrants and barred many Chinese from owning property or working certain jobs.
53. **Gentlemen's Agreement:** informal agreement between the U.S. and Japan that restricted Japanese immigration.

★ **The Progressive Era (1890s-1920s):**

54. **Progressive Era:** reform movement that sought to correct abuses and social conditions in American society.
55. **Hull House:** settlement house and community center organized and founded by Jane Addams to provide social services to the poor and needy neighborhoods.
56. **NAACP:** (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) founded in 1910 by W.E.B. DuBois to advance the cause of African Americans by fighting for equal rights.
57. **Muckrakers:** journalists who tried to improve society by exposing corruption, hazards & social problems.
58. **Interstate Commerce Act:** (1887) regulated railroads and other interstate businesses; set up the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC).
59. **Upton Sinclair:** journalist who wrote *The Jungle* which detailed the dangerous and unsanitary conditions in the meatpacking industry; led to passage of Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act.
60. **Pure Food and Drug Act:** outlawed interstate transportation of impure or diluted foods and the deliberate mislabeling of foods and drugs.
61. **Meat Inspection Act:** required federal inspection of meat processing plants to ensure sanitary conditions.
62. **Federal Reserve System:** central banking system of the U.S. created in 1913 to control interest rates and the money supply.
63. **16th Amendment:** (1913) gave Congress the power to tax income.
64. **17th Amendment:** (1913) allowed for the direct election of U.S. Senators rather than being appointed by state legislatures.

★ **Imperialism -- The United States Becomes a World Power:**

65. **Yellow Journalism:** emphasized sensational stories of crime and scandal; used hyped-up stories to increase newspaper sales and circulation.
66. **USS Maine:** ship sunk by an explosion near Cuba and was the primary cause of the Spanish-American War.
67. **Roosevelt Corollary:** (1904) extension of the Monroe Doctrine claimed the right of the U.S. to intervene in Latin American nations (to act as an "international police power") to ensure stability in the Western Hemisphere.
68. **Panama Canal:** connected the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and allowed for quick movement of navy and merchant ships between them.
69. **"Dollar Diplomacy":** President Taft's foreign policy of encouraging American investment in Latin America.

★ World War I & the "Roaring" 1920s:

70. **Schenck v. United States:** (1919) Supreme Court case that established limits on free speech during wartime; also established the "clear and present danger" test.
71. **Treaty of Versailles:** ended World War I and created the League of Nations; blamed the war on Germany.
72. **League of Nations:** international organization formed after World War I that aimed to promote security and peace for all members and prevent foreign conflicts.
73. **Palmer Raids:** the rounding up of several hundred suspected communists by the attorney general; raids were done to ease the fears of Americans during the "Red Scare" of the 1920s.
74. **18th Amendment** (1919): banned the sale, use, and transportation of alcohol; also known as Prohibition and the Temperance Movement.
75. **19th Amendment** (1920): gave women the right to vote (suffrage).
76. **Flapper:** name for a young woman during the 1920s who had a fondness for dancing and brash actions.
77. **Harlem Renaissance:** African American cultural movement of the 1920s that focused on African American pride through literature, art, music, and dance.
78. **Scopes "Monkey" Trial:** (1925) court case that focused on the issue of teaching evolution in public schools and represented the conflict between science and religion.
79. **Sacco & Vanzetti:** two Italian immigrants, admitted anarchists, convicted of murder and executed in 1927. The two men were likely convicted more for their beliefs and Italian origin than for the crime.

★ Great Depression & New Deal Era:

80. **"Hoovervilles":** makeshift homeless shelters during the early years of the Great Depression.
81. **Bonus Army:** group of World War I veterans who protested in Washington, D.C., to receive their pensions early because of the Great Depression.
82. **Dust Bowl:** name for the Great Plains during the Depression because of large dust storms of dry top soil caused by drought and poor farming methods.
83. **New Deal:** name given to the programs of President Franklin Roosevelt to help people deal with the effects of the Great Depression.
84. **100 Days:** name given to beginning of FDR's presidency when Congress passed many New Deal programs.
85. **FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation):** government program that insured bank deposits for up to \$100,000 (today, bank deposits are insured up to \$250,000).
86. **Wagner Act:** (1935) law passed that aided unions by legalizing collective bargaining and establishing the National Labor Relations Board.
87. **Works Progress Administration (WPA):** New Deal program that gave the unemployed work in building construction and arts programs.
88. **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA):** New Deal program that built dams, set up schools and health centers.

★ World War II: At Home & Abroad:

89. **Lend-Lease Act:** (1941) authorized the president to provide aid to any nation whose defense he believed vital to American security; allowed U.S. to send weapons to Britain during the early years of World War II without formally being involved in the war.
90. **Atlantic Charter:** agreement made between Winston Churchill and FDR which outlined certain principles for building a lasting peace and establishing free governments in the world.
91. **Yalta Conference:** (1945) meeting between Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt in which the leaders discussed plans for the post-war world and Stalin promised to allow free elections in Eastern Europe.
92. **Manhattan Project:** name of the secret program during World War II to develop the atomic bomb.
93. **"Rosie the Riveter":** symbolized the many women who worked in defense industries during World War II.
94. **Executive Order #9066:** presidential order that called for the internment of Japanese-Americans who were considered threats to national security during World War II.
95. **Korematsu v. U.S.:** Supreme Court decision that justified internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII
96. **United Nations:** international organization formed after World War II to promote peace and prevent human rights abuses.

★ The Cold War Era: 1950s & 1960s:

97. **Truman Doctrine:** (1947) declaration stated that the U.S. would militarily support nations being threatened by communism; initially created to stem the tide of communism in Greece and Turkey.
98. **Containment:** American foreign policy after World War II of resisting further expansion of communism around the world.
99. **Marshall Plan:** provided economic aid to Western European countries to help them rebuild after World War II.
100. **22nd Amendment:** (1951) limited the president to two terms in office.

101. **House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC):** investigated un-American and subversive activities during the Red Scare of the 1950s.
102. **McCarthyism:** the "witch hunt" for suspected communists in the federal government during the Red Scare of the 1950s named after Senator Joseph McCarthy.
103. **Sputnik:** the first artificial satellite launched by the Soviet Union in 1957 which started the space race.
104. **G.I. Bill:** law passed in 1944 to help returning World War II veterans buy homes and pay for college.
105. **Cuban Missile Crisis:** (1962) crisis between the U.S. and Soviet Union over Soviet attempts to deploy nuclear missiles 90 miles off the coast of Florida.
106. **Peace Corps:** federal program established by President Kennedy to send volunteers to help developing nations around the world.

★ **The Civil Rights Movement:**

107. ***Brown v. Board of Education:*** (1954) Supreme Court decision that reversed *Plessy v. Ferguson* and outlawed racial segregation in public schools.
108. **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC):** organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to encourage non-violent passive resistance and was organized by Christian churches.
109. **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC):** student civil rights organization that helped organize sit-ins, freedom rides, and voter registration drives in the south in the 1950s and 60s.
110. **Martin Luther King Jr:** civil rights leader who advocated using civil disobedience and non-violent demonstrations to achieve change; gave the "I Have A Dream" speech in 1963; assassinated in 1968.
111. **Malcolm X:** civil rights leader of the black power movement who spoke against integration, promoted black nationalism and racial unity; was a member of the separatist group Nation of Islam until 1964.
112. **Civil Rights Act of 1964:** prohibited and outlawed racial discrimination in all public facilities.
113. **24th Amendment:** (1964) eliminated and abolished poll taxes (tax on voting).

★ **Modern America – Great Society to present:**

114. ***Roe v. Wade:*** (1973) Supreme Court decision that protected the right to privacy and legalized abortion.
115. **Détente:** policy of President Richard Nixon to relax/ease tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union.
116. **César Chávez:** Latino leader who organized the United Farm Workers (UFW) to help migratory farm workers gain better working conditions and higher pay.
117. **Great Society:** name of President Lyndon Johnson's domestic program to aid public education, provide medical care for the elderly, and eliminate discrimination; included the "War on Poverty".
118. **Ho Chi Minh:** leader of communist party in Indochina after World War II; led Vietnamese against the French, then North Vietnamese against United States in the Vietnam War.
119. **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution:** empowered the president to take "all necessary measures" for the Vietnam War
120. **Tet Offensive:** (1968) attack by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces throughout South Vietnam and turned American public opinion against the war.
121. **My Lai Massacre:** the killing of several hundred Vietnamese civilians by American soldiers in 1968. Demonstrated the brutalities and difficulties faced by American troops in Vietnam.
122. **26th Amendment:** (1971) lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 (suffrage for 18 year olds)
123. **War Powers Act:** (1973) law that limited the president's power to send American troops abroad.
124. **Watergate Scandal:** scandal involving illegal activities that ultimately led to resignation of President Nixon.
125. **Camp David Accords:** peace treaty between Egypt and Israel brokered by President Jimmy Carter.
126. **Betty Friedan:** women's rights activist who wrote the book *The Feminine Mystique* which encouraged women to find their own identity outside of marriage; founded NOW (National Organization of Women)
127. **Bill Gates:** co-founded Microsoft Corporation with a vision to have a personal computer in every home.
128. **NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement):** agreement signed by President Clinton that opened trade between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico and broke down trade barriers between the three countries.
129. **2000 Election:** disputed presidential election decided by the Supreme Court decision *Bush v. Gore*; the winner of the popular vote (Al Gore) lost the election to the electoral voter winner (George W. Bush)
130. **USA Patriot Act:** law enacted after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks which gave law enforcement agencies' more power to search telephone, e-mail, medical, financial, and other records and eased restrictions on intelligence gathering, and gave law enforcement agencies' and immigration authorities more power in detaining and deporting immigrants suspected of terrorism.