

TIMELINE

- 1750
- Iron Act
 - First Playhouse opens in New York
- 1751
- Benjamin Franklin invents lightning conductor
- 1752
- Adoption of the Gregorian calendar of 1582
- 1753
- French build forts along Lake Erie and Ohio River and seize the Ohio Valley
 - Conestoga wagon introduced
- 1754
- Benjamin Franklin's Albany Plan
 - King's College founded in New York — later to be Columbia University
 - French and Indian War begins in America
- 1755
- General Braddock defeated at Fort Duquesne
 - Expulsion of the Acadians
- 1756
- Conflict spreads to Europe, becomes known as the Seven Years War
 - Six Quakers resign from Pennsylvania legislature
- 1757
- King George II appoints William Pitt to lead war effort
- 1758
- Wolfe and Amherst recapture Fort Louisbourg
 - Anglicanism established in Georgia
- 1759
- British capture Quebec
 - Two Penny Act for tobacco debts
- 1760
- George III inherits the British throne
 - Montreal falls to the British
- 1761
- Writs of Assistance introduced in colonies
 - Search warrants officially introduced in Massachusetts
- 1762
- British Eastern Fleet captures Manila
- 1763
- Treaty of Paris ends French and Indian War
 - Proclamation Act of 1763
 - Pontiac's Rebellion
 - National Debt of Great Britain doubled
 - Paxton Boy's Uprising
 - Parson's Cause
- 1764
- Sugar Act
 - Currency Act
 - Brown University founded
 - Direct v. indirect tax question
 - End of Salutary Neglect
 - *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved* by James Otis
 - First permanent settlement at St. Louis
- 1765
- Stamp Act
 - Stamp Act Congress meets
 - Quartering Act
 - Sons of Liberty
 - Nonimportation of British goods
 - Patrick Henry's speech to the House of Burgesses
- 1766
- Stamp Act repealed
 - Declaratory Act
 - Rutgers University founded
 - Mason-Dixon Line drawn as boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland
- 1767
- Townshend Acts
 - Dickinson's *Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania*
 - New York Assembly suspended for refusing to support quartering of troops
 - Revival of nonimportation of British goods
- 1768
- *Massachusetts Circular Letter* framed in moderate language
 - Massachusetts Assembly suspended for refusing to assist in collection of taxes
 - British troops stationed in Boston
 - Seizure of sloop *Liberty*
- 1769
- Dartmouth College founded
 - Virginia Resolves
- 1770
- Boston Massacre
 - Townshend duties repealed except for tea
 - Nonimportation collapses
- 1771
- Regulator uprising in North Carolina — Battle of Alamance
 - Benjamin West painted *The Death of Wolfe*
- 1772
- *Gaspee* Affair — revenue cutter burned
 - Committees of Correspondence

1773

- Tea Act Crisis
- Boston Tea Party
- Hutchinson Letters Scandal

1774

- First Continental Congress
- Coercive Acts – Intolerable Acts – Boston Port Act
- Quebec Act
- Administration of Justice Act
- Galloway's Plan of Union
- Massachusetts Government Act
- Suffolk Resolves
- Quartering Act

1775

- Lord North's Conciliation Plan
- Battles of Lexington and Concord
- Second Continental Congress
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- First Anti-Slavery Society in America
- New England Restraining Act
- Mecklenburg County Resolutions
- Washington, Commander-in-Chief of Continental Army
- Olive Branch Petition
- Patrick Henry — "Give me liberty or give me death"

1776

- Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*
- Great Britain employs mercenaries — Hessians
- Declaration of Independence
- American victory at Trenton
- Poetry — Philip Freneau — reflects 18th century deism, nature, "noble savage"
- Adam Smith's *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*
- Patriots defeat Loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge

1777

- American victory at Princeton
- British occupy Philadelphia
- British surrender at Saratoga
- Articles of Confederation submitted to the states for ratification

1778

- Treaty of Alliance with France
- Some slaves won freedom by fighting with Patriot forces
- Valley Forge
- Carlisle Peace Commission
- John Paul Jones' Raids

1779

- Spain enters war against Great Britain — no alliance with the United States
- Congressional Peace Terms

1780

- Russia's Armed Neutrality
- Treason of Benedict Arnold — plot to surrender West Point
- John Singleton Copley — *Death of Chatham*

1781

- Articles of Confederation ratified
- Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
- Bank of North America established

1782

- Thomas Grenville sent from London to Paris to open peace talks with Benjamin Franklin

1783

- Treaty of Paris ends the American Revolution

1784

- New York temporary capital

1785

- Land Ordinance
- Mt. Vernon Conference

1786

- Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
- Shays' Rebellion
- Philip Freneau's poetry is published
- Annapolis Convention
- *Trevett v. Weeden* — Rhode Island Supreme Court

1787

- Shays' Rebellion terminated
- Philadelphia Convention — Constitutional Convention
- Northwest Ordinance
- John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison's *Federalist Papers*
- First American History textbook published
- John Fitch launches steamboat on Delaware River

1788

- Ninth state ratifies Constitution (New Hampshire)

1789

- Creation of Departments of State, Treasury, War, and Justice
- French Revolution begins
- Slater brings knowledge of power-driven machines to United States
- George Washington — President of the United States
- Bill of Rights proposed
- Federal Judiciary Act
- Tariff Act moderately protectionist
- *The Power of Sympathy* by William Hill Brown

1790

- Hamilton's Fiscal Program
- First official census of the United States
- Patent and copyright laws
- Assumption Bill passed
- Capital moved to Philadelphia

1791

- Bill of Rights ratified — First Ten Amendments to U.S. Constitution
- First Bank of the United States chartered
- Alexander Hamilton's *Report on Manufactures*
- Excise tax on whiskey

- 1792**
- Washington re-elected president
 - Presidential Succession Act
 - Militia Act
 - James Hoban begins construction of the White House
- 1793**
- Proclamation of Neutrality
 - Genet Affair
 - Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin
 - Jefferson resigns as Secretary of State
 - Chisholm v. Georgia
- 1794**
- Whiskey Rebellion
 - Jay's Treaty with England
 - Thomas Paine's *Age of Reason*
 - Neutrality Act
 - *Autobiography* — Benjamin Franklin
 - John Trumbull — *The Declaration of Independence* — American painting
- 1795**
- Pinckney Treaty with Spain
 - Naturalization Act
- 1796**
- Washington's Farewell Address
 - John Adams elected president — Federalist
 - Thomas Jefferson elected vice president — Democratic-Republican
 - Edward Savage — *The Washington Family* — American painting
- 1797**
- XYZ Affair
 - Undeclared naval war with France
- 1798**
- 11th Amendment
 - Alien and Sedition Acts: Naturalization Act, Alien Act, Alien Enemies Act, Sedition Act
 - Navy Department established
- 1799**
- Virginia and Kentucky Resolves
 - Fries' Uprising
 - Convention of 1800
- 1800**
- Thomas Jefferson elected president by the House of Representatives
 - Burr and Jefferson tie in Electoral College
 - Revolution of 1800
 - Spain cedes Louisiana Territory to Napoleon
 - Capital moves to Washington, D. C.
- 1801**
- John Marshall appointed Chief Justice of Supreme Court
 - Judiciary Act
 - Midnight Justices
 - Tripolitan War — Barbary Pirates — lasts until 1805
 - Robert Fulton produces the first submarine, "Nautilus"
- 1802**
- Napoleonic Wars break out in Europe
 - Yazoo Land Frauds
 - Treaty of Amiens with France
 - Repeal of Judiciary Act of 1801
- 1803**
- Marbury v. Madison
 - Louisiana Purchase
 - Essex Junto
 - Lewis and Clark Expedition
- 1804**
- Jefferson re-elected president
 - 12th Amendment ratified — separate electoral vote for president and vice president
 - Hamilton-Burr duel
 - Impeachment of Pickering and Chase
- 1805**
- Barbary Pirate War ends
 - Pike's Expeditions
- 1806**
- Burr Conspiracy
 - Webster's first dictionary
 - Non-Importation Act
 - Monroe-Pinckney Treaty with Great Britain
 - Robert Fulton's *Clermont*
 - Berlin Decree — Napoleon
- 1807**
- Orders-in-Council — Great Britain
 - Milan Decree — Napoleon
 - *Chesapeake* — *Leopard Affair*
 - Embargo Act
- 1808**
- James Madison elected president
 - African slave trade prohibited — all importation banned
 - American Fur Company — John Jacob Astor
- 1809**
- Enforcement Act
 - Non-Intercourse Act
 - Tecumseh and The Prophet organize Indian Confederacy
 - *History of New York* — Washington Irving — Knickerbocker School
 - Washington Irving — "Rip Van Winkle"
- 1810**
- Macon's Bill, No. 2
 - Annexation of West Florida
 - Fletcher v. Peck
- 1811**
- Battle of Tippecanoe — William H. Harrison
 - Growth of the War Hawks — Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Richard Johnson
 - National Road begun
- 1812**
- Madison re-elected president
 - War of 1812

1813

- Waltham factories begin operation

1814

- Creek War
- Burning of Washington, D. C.
- Francis Scott Key writes "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Hartford Convention
- Peace of Ghent

1815

- Battle of New Orleans — Andrew Jackson
- Erie Canal construction begun
- Algerine Expedition — Stephen Decatur v. Barbary Pirates

1816

- Second Bank of the United States
- James Monroe elected president
- Coercion Acts
- Tariff Act - 25%

1817

- Era of Good Feelings
- Bonus Bill Veto
- Rush - Bagot Agreement

1818

- Seminole War ends
- Convention of 1818 with Great Britain — Anglo-American Treaty — 49th Parallel
- Tariff Act — increase rate on iron
- "To a Waterfowl" and "Thanatopsis" — William Cullen Bryant

1819

- Economic Panic
- Adams - Onis Treaty with Spain (Transcontinental Treaty)
- McCulloch v. Maryland
- Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward
- Steamship *Savannah* crossed the Atlantic

1820

- Missouri Compromise
- James Monroe re-elected president
- Washington Colonization Society founds Liberia for repatriation of African Americans

1821

- First public high school established — Boston
- James Fenimore Cooper's *The Spy*

1822

- Cumberland Road Veto
- Recognition of Latin American Republics
- Denmark Vesey Slave Plot, Charleston, SC

1823

- Monroe Doctrine
- Nicholas Biddle, president of the National Bank
- Russian Claims to the Oregon Territory
- *The Pioneers* — James Fenimore Cooper; *Leatherstocking Tales* included *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The Prairie*, *The Pathfinder*, *The Deerslayer*

1824

- American System — Henry Clay
- Russo - American Treaty: 54°40'
- John Q. Adams elected president in House of Representatives
- "Corrupt Bargain" Election
- Tariff of 1824 — increased protection
- Gibbons v. Ogden
- Internal improvements
- Auburn System — prison reform: cell block, group labor, silence

1825

- Erie Canal opens
- New Harmony founded by Robert Owen

1826

- Mohawk and Hudson Railroad chartered

1827

- Final push for elimination of property qualifications for voting

1828

- Andrew Jackson elected president
- Tariff of Abominations
- Peace Society
- Noah Webster's *Dictionary*
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad — 1st passenger railway

1829

- Jackson's Kitchen Cabinet
- Spoils System
- Pennsylvania System — prison reform — solitary confinement
- Workingmen's Party organized in New York

1830

- Webster - Hayne Debate
- Maysville Road Veto
- "Jim Crow", an early American popular song sung by Thomas "Daddy" Rice
- Indian Removal Act
- Peter Cooper builds first locomotive in the United States

1831

- Eaton Affair
- Anti-Masonic Party
- Publication of William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator*
- Nat Turner Slave Revolt
- Cherokee Nation v. Georgia
- Horse-drawn buses in New York City
- Cyrus McCormick - Reaper

1832

- Jackson re-elected president
- Worcester v. Georgia
- Ordinance of Nullification — South Carolina — John C. Calhoun
- Telegraph developed
- Jackson's veto of the Bank of the United States
- Nominating Conventions
- Black Hawk War
- Tariff Act

1833

- Force Bill
- Compromise Tariff Act — Provided for gradual reduction
- American Anti-Slavery Society
- Taney withdraws federal deposits from the National Bank
- Pet Banks

1834

- Whig Party — national prominence
- National Trade Union asks for 10-hour day
- Great Britain abolishes slavery in Empire
- McCormick's reaper patented

1835

- Locofocos
- Second Seminole War

1836

- Republic of Texas — Independent — Sam Houston and Stephen Austin
- Specie circular
- Martin Van Buren elected president
- "Gag Rule"
- National Bank Charter expires
- Vice presidential election thrown into the Senate
- Henry Clay's Surplus Revenue Act
- *Nature* — Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *Eclectic Reader* by William H. McGuffey

1837

- Economic Panic
- Horace Mann — school reform in Massachusetts

1838

- Aroostook "War"
- Resumption of specie payments

1839

- Liberty Party formed
- Charles Goodyear — vulcanizing of rubber

1840

- William Henry Harrison elected president
- Independent Treasury Act
- Whig Party wins election
- Underground Railroad
- *Two Years Before the Mast* by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.
- *Tales of Grotesque and Arabesque* by Edgar Allan Poe — innovation in poetry, detective story, and role of literary critic
- Washington Temperance Society organized

1841

- Harrison dies of pneumonia
- John Tyler succeeds to the presidency
- Independent Treasury Act repealed
- Fiscal Bank veto
- Brook Farm, Massachusetts founded — Fourierist System
- Amistad Case

1842

- Webster – Ashburton Treaty
- Dorr Rebellion
- Tariff Act — returned to higher rates
- Prigg v. Pennsylvania
- Commonwealth v. Hunt

1843

- Native American Association
- Dorothea Dix — improvement of treatment for the insane

1844

- James K. Polk elected president, issue expansion
- Liberty Party
- Morse invents and operates the telegraph
- Oregon Dispute
- Treaty of Wang Hiya: China – U.S.

1845

- Annexation of Texas
- Manifest Destiny issue
- Barnburners and "hunkers"
- Antirent War
- Slidell Mission to Mexico
- U.S. Naval Academy opened

1846

- Independent Treasury Act
- Mexican-American War begins over boundary issue
- Oregon Territory Treaty
- Irish and German immigration
- Bear Flag Revolt — California
- Walker Tariff — lowered rates
- Mormons trek to the West
- Wilmot Proviso
- Elias Howe — sewing machine
- *Typee* — Herman Melville
- Smithsonian Institution founded

1847

- Mormon trek ends in Salt Lake City, Utah

1848

- Discovery of gold — Johann Sutter — California
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Zachary Taylor elected president
- Barnburners
- Free Soil Party
- Seneca Falls Convention
- Oregon Bill
- Oneida Community
- *Biglow Papers* — James Russell Lowell — satirized Mexican-American War

1849

- California Gold Rush
- Department of Interior created

1850

- Compromise of 1850:
 - California Free State
 - Texas and New Mexico Act
 - Utah Act
 - Fugitive Slave Act
 - Slave Trade abolished in District of Columbia
- Clayton – Bulwer Treaty

- Taylor dies of cholera morbus
- Millard Fillmore assumes presidency
- Nashville Convention
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

1851

- *The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- William Kelly — conversion of pig iron to steel (similar to Bessemer process in England)
- *New York Times* begins publication

1852

- Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Franklin Pierce elected president
- "Young America"

1853

- Gadsden Purchase

1854

- Matthew Perry reopened Japan to trade
- Kansas – Nebraska Act
- Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society
- Canadian Reciprocity Treaty
- Republican Party formed
- Know-Nothing Party formed
- Ostend Manifesto
- *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau

1855

- Bleeding Kansas
- *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman
- *Song of Hiawatha* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- *The Foragers* by William Gilmore Simms

1856

- James Buchanan elected president
- Sumner – Brooks Affair
- Whig Party disappears

1857

- Dred Scott decision
- Lecompton Constitution
- Tariff Act — lowered rates, expanded free list
- *Atlantic Monthly* founded
- E. G. Otis installs first safety elevator

1858

- Lincoln – Douglas Senatorial debates
- Freeport Doctrine
- *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1859

- John Brown's Raid in Harper's Ferry, Virginia
- Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection*
- Edwin L. Drake drills first oil well
- Ableman v. Booth
- Comstock Lode discovered

1860

- Abraham Lincoln elected president
- Constitutional Union Party formed
- South Carolina secession crisis

1861

- Extension of secession — Lower South
- Crittenden Compromise
- Confederate States of America Formed
- Jefferson Davis - Provisional president of the Confederacy
- Seizure of federal forts and arsenals in the South
- Fort Sumter attack — Civil War begins
- Border states remain in the Union
- 1st Battle of Bull Run also known as Manassas Junction
- McClellan replaces McDowell
- Naval blockade of the South
- Trent Affair
- Morrill Tariff — increased protectionism
- Ex parte Merryman

1862

- *Monitor* and *Merrimac*
- Homestead Act
- Morrill Land Grant Act
- Tariff Act
- Internal Revenue Act
- Southern Conscription Act
- Pacific Railway Act

1863

- Northern Conscription Act
- Alabama Affair
- West Virginia formed from territory of Virginia
- National Bank Act
- Emancipation Proclamation
- New York City draft riots
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Copperheads
- Vollandigham convicted
- Battle of Vicksburg
- National Academy of Sciences founded

1864

- Wade – Davis Bill vetoed by Lincoln
- Sherman's March to the Sea
- Contract Labor Law
- Transcontinental Railroad Act
- Maximilian crowned Emperor in Mexico
- George M. Pullman patents railroad sleeping car
- Ulysses S. Grant succeeds General Halleck as Commander-in-Chief of Union Armies
- Indian Massacre at Sand Creek, Colorado
- "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" Admiral Farragut attacking at Mobile Bay, Alabama
- Election Year:
Republican Party — Abraham Lincoln/ Andrew Johnson
Democratic Party — George McClellan/ George H. Pendleton
- Lincoln re-elected president

1865

- Confederate Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse — Lee and Grant
- Freedmen's Bureau
- Lincoln assassinated by John Wilkes Booth
- Andrew Johnson assumes the presidency
- 13th Amendment
- Black Codes
- Winslow Homer: *Prisoners from the Front*

1866

- Civil Rights Act
- Ku Klux Klan founded in Tennessee
- Ex parte Milligan
- National Labor Union

1867

- Tenure of Office Act
- Acquisition of Alaska Territory from Russia by Seward for \$7.2 million
- Midway Islands annexed
- Reconstruction Acts (military)
- Patrons of Husbandry — Grangers

1868

- Andrew Johnson impeached
- Andrew Johnson acquitted in Senate trial
- *Alabama* Claims
- Greenback issue
- 14th Amendment
- Burlingame Treaty
- Armour meat packing factory opens in Chicago
- Election Year:
Republican Party — U. S. Grant/Schuyler Colfax
Democratic Party — Horatio Seymour/Francis P. Blair
Main Issue — "Bloody Shirt"
- Ulysses S. Grant elected president

1869

- Texas v. White
- Suez Canal completed
- Union Pacific Railroad completed — Promontory Point, Utah
- Public Credit Act
- Women's Suffrage in Wyoming
- Black Friday — Jay Gould and James Fisk
- Prohibition Party organized
- Knights of Labor founded
- National Women's Suffrage Association
- George Westinghouse — air brake
- *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain

1870

- 15th Amendment
- Force Acts
- Franco-Prussian War
- Standard Oil of Ohio founded by John D. Rockefeller
- Tariff Act — lowered rates/expanded free list
- *The Luck of Roaring Camp* by Bret Harte (local colorist)

1871

- German Empire founded
- Tweed Ring exposed
- Treaty of Washington
- Knights of Labor — Uriah Stephens and Terence Powderly
- The Great Fire in Chicago

1872

- Ku Klux Klan Act
- Force Act
- Congressional Amnesty Act
- Credit Mobilier exposed
- Montgomery Ward opens

- Yellowstone established as first national park
- Tariff Act — continued reduction of rates
- *Roughing It* by Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain)
- *The Artist's Mother* by James Whistler
- Election Year:
Liberal Republican Party — Horace Greeley/B. Gratz Brown
Democratic Party — Horace Greeley/B. Gratz Brown
"Straight Democratic Party" —
Charles O'Connor/John Q. Adams, II
Republican Party — Ulysses S. Grant/Henry Wilson
Prohibition Party — James Black/John Russell
- Ulysses S. Grant re-elected president

1873

- "Crime of '73" — Coinage Act
- Economic Panic
- Timber Culture Act
- National Labor Union disintegrates

1874

- Chautauqua Movement
- Women's Christian Temperance Union — Frances Willard & Carrie A. Nation
- Black Hills of South Dakota gold discovery
- Joseph Glidden received patent for barbed wire

1875

- Civil Rights Act
- Whiskey Ring
- Specie Resumption Act
- National Greenback Party founded
- Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty
- Tariff Act — raises rates
- "Molly Maguires" crushed
- Southern Alliance formed by Texas farmers

1876

- Battle of Little Big Horn
- Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone
- Belknap Scandal
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
- Election Year:
Prohibition Party — Gen. Green Clay Smith/Gideon Stewart
Greenback Party — Peter Cooper/Carrey
Republican Party — Rutherford B. Hayes/William Wheeler
Democratic Party — Samuel J. Tilden/Thomas A. Hendricks
- Rutherford B. Hayes elected president — Tilden defeated in disputed election

1877

- Reconstruction ends with withdrawal of federal troops
- Desert Land Act
- *Munn v. Illinois*
- *The Americans* by Henry James
- Thomas A. Edison — phonograph

1878

- Bland – Allison Act
- Timber and Stone Act
- Sherman Silver Purchase Act
- Pago Pago Treaty – Samoan Treaty
- Greenback Labor Movement

1879

- Arrears of Pension Act
- Thomas Alva Edison invents the electric light bulb
- Electric streetlights in San Francisco and Cleveland

1880

- Panama Canal begun by French
- Chinese Treaty
- Northern Alliance formed by Illinois farmers
- Election Year:
Republican Party — James A. Garfield/Chester A. Arthur
Greenback Party — James B. Weaver/B. J. Chambers
Prohibition Party — Winfield S. Hancock/William H. English
- James A. Garfield elected president

1881

- Garfield shot and killed by unhappy office seeker
- Chester A. Arthur sworn in as president
- Tuskegee Institute — Booker T. Washington
- *A Century of Dishonor* by Helen Hunt Jackson
- Stalwarts and Half-Breeds
- *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James (novelist of manners)

1882

- Standard Oil monopoly status — acquires 95% of refining capacity
- Chinese Exclusion Act
- Triple Alliance — Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- Tariff Commission appointed

1883

- Pendleton Act — Civil Service Commission
- Civil Rights Act of 1875 ruled unconstitutional
- Brooklyn Bridge completed
- "Mongrel Tariff"
- Tariff Act — continues protectionist principle

1884

- Farmers' Alliances
- Greenback Party dissolves
- Social Darwinism
- Mulligan Letters
- "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion"
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- Mugwumps bolt Republican Party
- Election Year:
Greenback — Labor Party — Benjamin Butler/A. M. West
Republican Party — James G. Blaine/John A. Logan
Democratic Party — Grover Cleveland/Thomas A. Hendrick
Prohibition Party — John P. St. John/William Daniel
- Grover Cleveland elected president

1885

- American Economic Association formed
- *Rise of Silas Lapham* by William Dean Howells (realist)
- Contract Labor Law

1886

- Haymarket Square Riot
- Knights of Labor dissolved
- Statue of Liberty dedicated
- Geronimo surrenders
- American Federation of Labor — Samuel Gompers
- Presidential Succession Act
- Wabash, St. Louis, & Pacific Railway Company v. Illinois

1887

- Sherlock Holmes stories first published
- Dawes Severalty Act
- Interstate Commerce Act
- Hatch Act
- Tenure of Office Act repealed
- Electoral Count Act
- "Uncle Remus" stories by Joel Chandler Harris
- American Protective Association founded

1888

- Kodak Camera — George Eastman
- Jack the Ripper in London
- *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy
- Murchison Letter
- Bayard — Chamberlain Treaty
- Election Year:
Union Labor Party — Alson I. Streeter/C. E. Cunningham
United Labor Party —
Robert H. Gowdrey/W. H. T. Wakefield
Prohibition Party — Clinton Fisk/John Brooks
Democratic Party — Grover Cleveland/Allen G. Thurman
Republican Party — Benjamin Harrison/Levi P. Morton
- Benjamin Harrison elected president despite losing popular vote

1889

- Oklahoma Indian Territory opens to white settlement
- Pan-American Conference — Secretary of State James Blaine presides
- Hull House founded by Jane Addams
- *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain

1890

- Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- Sitting Bull killed
- *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis
- Battle of Wounded Knee
- McKinley Tariff Act — extremely protectionist
- Sherman Silver Purchase Act
- *The Influence of Sea Power upon History: 1660–1783* — Alfred Mahan
- Pensions Act
- Frontier closed
- American Tobacco Company formed
- Force Bill

1891

- Forest Reserve Act
- International copyright laws
- Basketball invented

1892

- Populist Party organized
- Homestead Steel strike
- Election Year:
Populist Party — James B. Weaver/James G. Field
Republican Party — Benjamin Harrison/Whitelaw Reid
Democratic Party — Grover Cleveland/Adlai Stevenson
Prohibition Party — John Birdwell/James B. Crantill
Socialist Labor Party — Simon Wing/Charles Matchett
- Grover Cleveland elected president

1893

- Economic panic
- Repeal of Sherman Silver Purchase Act
- Hawaii Revolution
- Chicago World's Fair
- *McClure's Magazine* — muckraking fiction

1894

- Wilson-Gorman Tariff — lowered duties
- Pullman Strike
- Income Tax declared unconstitutional
- Carey Act
- Coxey's Army

1895

- Venezuelan Border dispute
- Cuban mini-revolt against Spain
- Pollock v. Farmers' Loan and Trust Company
- United States v. E. C. Knight Company
- National Association of Manufacturers organized
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- Anti-Saloon League of America

1896

- Klondike gold rush
- Plessy v. Ferguson
- Election Year:
 - Prohibition Party — Joshua Levering/Hale Johnson
 - National Free-Silver Party — Charles Bentley/J. H. Southgate
 - Republican Party — William McKinley/Garret Hobart
 - National Silver Republican Party — William Jennings Bryan/Arthur Sewall
 - Socialist Labor Party — Charles Matchett/Matthew Maguire
 - Democratic Party — William Jennings Bryan/Arthur Sewall
 - National Democrats Gold Party — John Palmer/Simon Buckner
 - Populist Party — William Jennings Bryan/Tom Watson
- William McKinley elected president

1897

- Dingley Tariff — a new high of 57% duties average
- Yellow journalism

1898

- USS *Maine* sunk in Havana Harbor
- Spanish - American War
- Annexation of Hawaii
- De Lome Letter
- Teller Amendment
- Dewey victory in Manila
- Armistice — gain Guam, Puerto Rico, and Philippines
- Erdman Act
- Battle of Manila Bay

1899

- Treaty of Paris ratified
- 1st Hague Conference
- Philippine Revolt
- Open Door Policy in China

1900

- Army Appropriation Bill
- Foraker Act — Puerto Rico
- Currency Act — gold standard
- Boxer Rebellion in China
- *The Interpretation of Dreams* — Sigmund Freud

- International Ladies' Garment Workers Union
- *Monsieur Beaucaire* — Booth Tarkington
- *Sister Carrie* — Theodore Dreiser (naturalist)
- Election Year:
 - Social Democratic Party — Eugene Debs/Job Harriman
 - People's (Anti-Fusion) Party — Wharton Barker/Ignastius Donnelly
 - Socialist Labor Party — Joseph Maloney/Valentine Rimmel
 - Republican Party — William McKinley/Theodore Roosevelt
 - Prohibition Party — John C. Woolley/Henry Metcalf
 - Democratic Party — William Jennings Bryan/Adlai Stevenson
- William McKinley re-elected president

1901

- McKinley shot in Buffalo, NY
- Theodore Roosevelt assumes the presidency
- Booker T. Washington visits the White House
- Hay-Pauncefote Treaty — Panama Canal
- Platt Amendment
- "Big Stick" diplomacy
- *The Octopus* by Frank Norris
- United States Steel formed — J. P. Morgan
- Ragtime jazz develops in the United States

1902

- Anthracite coal strike
- Cuban Republic established
- Venezuelan debt crisis
- Newland Reclamation Act
- Mississippi — 1st direct primary
- Danbury Hatters' strike
- Marconi — wireless telegraph
- Oregon adopts initiative and referendum

1903

- Elkins Act — eliminates rebate
- Hay-Herran Treaty, Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty, and second Hay-Pauncefote Treaty
- Alaska Boundary dispute
- Panamanian revolt
- United States intervention in Venezuela
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- Wright Brothers — first successful flight of a self-powered, heavier-than-air flying machine
- "The Great Train Robbery" filmed — Edwin Porter, producer
- Expedition Act
- Wisconsin — direct primary
- Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company

1904

- Northern Securities
- Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine
- *History of the Standard Oil Company* by Ida Tarbell
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Party — Eugene Debs/Benjamin Hanford
 - Republican Party — Theodore Roosevelt/Charles Fairbanks
 - Prohibition Party — Silas Swallow/George W. Carroll
 - Socialist Labor Party — Charles H. Corregan/William C. Cox
 - People's (Populist) Party — Thomas E. Watson/Thomas H. Tribbles
 - Democratic Party — Alton B. Parker/Henry G. Davis
 - Continental Party — Austin Holcomb/A. King
- Theodore Roosevelt elected president

1905

- Russo–Japanese War
- Beef Trust
- Portsmouth Peace Conference
- Niagara Movement — W. E. B. Du Bois
- Industrial Workers of the World formed — Eugene Debs and William Haywood
- *Lochner v. New York*

1906

- Russia defeats Japan
- Hepburn Act
- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
- San Francisco Earthquake
- Pure Food and Drug Act
- Meat Inspection Act
- Algeciras Conference
- Brownsville Affair
- Roosevelt takes first presidential trip outside the United States to Canal Zone

1907

- Economic panic
- 2nd Hague Conference
- United States begins construction of Panama Canal
- Standard Oil guilty of accepting rebates
- "Gentlemen's Agreement" with Japan
- Pragmatism — William James
- Triple Alliance — Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy renewed
- Triple Entente — Great Britain, Russia, and France formed

1908

- Root–Takahira Agreement
- Aldrich–Vreeland Agreement
- Ashcan School
- National Monetary Commission
- Governors' Conference on Conservation
- Commission form of city government — Galveston, Texas
- City manager plan — Staunton, Virginia
- *Muller v. Oregon*
- General Motors Corporation formed
- Election Year:
 - People's Party — Thomas E. Watson/Samuel Williams
 - United Christian Party — Daniel B. Turney/L. S. Coffin
 - Socialist Party — Eugene Debs/Benjamin Hanford
 - Republican Party — William H. Taft/James S. Sherman
 - Democratic Party — William Jennings Bryan/John W. Kern
 - Prohibition Party — Eugene W. Chafin/Aaron S. Watkins
 - Socialist Labor Party — August Filhaus/Donald Munro
 - Independence Party — Thomas L. Hisgen/John Temple Graves
- William H. Taft elected president

1909

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) formed
- Admiral Robert Perry reaches North Pole
- Payne–Aldrich Tariff — lowered rates
- Bureau of Mines formed

1910

- Mann–Elkins Act
- Mexican Revolution
- Mann Act — White Slave Traffic Act
- Speaker Joseph G. Cannon deprived of power
- Ballinger–Pinchot Controversy

1911

- Standard Oil Case
- "Rule of Reason" Decision
- Canadian reciprocity flops
- "Dollar Diplomacy"
- American Tobacco Company Case
- National Progressive Republican League
- Arbitration Treaties

1912

- Bull Moose Party formed
- F. W. Woolworth Company founded
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Labor Party — Arthur Reimer/August Gillhaus
 - Socialist Party — Eugene Debs/Emil Seidel
 - Prohibition Party — Eugene W. Chafin/Aaron S. Watkins
 - Republican Party — William H. Taft/James S. Sherman
 - Progressive (Bull Moose) Party — Theodore Roosevelt/Hiram W. Johnson
 - Democratic Party — Woodrow Wilson/Thomas R. Marshall
- Woodrow Wilson elected president

1913

- 16th Amendment — income tax
- 17th Amendment — direct election of Senators
- Underwood–Simmons Tariff Act — lowered rates
- Federal Reserve Act — Owen–Glass Act
- Panama Canal completed
- Webb–Kenyon Interstate Liquor Act
- The Newlands Act — railroad mediation
- *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather
- *Poetry* by Ezra Pound (imagist)
- Armory Show — introduces Post Impressionism and Cubism to New York

1914

- Archduke Ferdinand assassinated
- Austria–Hungary declares war on Serbia
- Wilson declares U.S. neutrality
- Russia declares war on Austria–Hungary
- Germany declares war on Russia and France
- Great Britain declares war on Germany
- Federal Trade Commission Act
- Clayton Anti-Trust Act
- United States seizes Vera Cruz
- Smith–Lever Act
- ABC Conference
- Panama Tolls Act
- Panama Canal opens
- Bryan–Chamorro Treaty
- *Penrod* by Booth Tarkington

1915

- Sinking of the *Lusitania*
- U. S. recognizes Carranza's government in Mexico
- Henry Ford develops a farm tractor
- U. S. Coast Guard established
- U. S. neutrality proclaimed
- Marines from U. S. occupy Haiti and the Dominican Republic
- Jones Act
- Theory of Relativity — Albert Einstein
- Margaret Sanger jailed for writing *Family Limitations* — 1st book on birth control
- *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters
- "Birth of a Nation" by D. W. Griffith

1916

- Sinking of the *Sussex*
- *Sussex* Pledge
- Federal Highway Act
- Farm Loan Act
- Adamson Act: 8-hour day, interstate railroads
- Women's compensation
- Nicaragua Treaty
- Pershing pursues Pancho Villa into Mexico
- National Defense Act
- Warehouse Act
- Keating-Owen Act — Federal Child Labor Law
- Margaret Sanger opens first birth control clinic
- U. S. troops land in Santo Domingo and Dominican Republic — leave 1924
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Labor Party — Arthur Reimer/August Gillhaus
 - Socialist Party — Allen L. Benson/George R. Kirkpatrick
 - Republican Party — Charles E. Hughes/Charles W. Fairbanks
 - Progressive Party — Theodore Roosevelt/John M. Parker (declined to support Hughes)
 - Democratic Party — Woodrow Wilson/Thomas R. Marshall
 - Prohibition Party — J. Frank Hanly/Ira D. Landrith
- Woodrow Wilson re-elected president

1917

- Russian Revolution
- United States declares war on Germany
- Selective Service Act
- War Industries Board — Bernard Baruch
- Bolshevik Revolution
- Soviet Union withdraws from war
- Zimmermann Note
- Espionage Act
- War Revenue Act
- Smith-Hughes Act
- United States purchases Virgin Islands
- Lever Food and Fuel Act
- Senate Cloture Rule
- Committee on Public Information
- Trading with the Enemy Act
- U. S. Railroad Administration
- Jones Act
- Emergency Loan Act (Liberty Loan Act)
- *Schenck v. United States*
- I. W. W. offices raided by government
- "Over There" by George M. Cohan
- "The Little Princess" with Mary Pickford

1918

- Armistice signed 11/11/11
- Sedition Act
- Fourteen Points
- Republicans gain control of the Senate and House of Representatives
- 18th Amendment — prohibition
- Soviet Union — Germany: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- Worldwide influenza epidemic
- War Finance Corporation
- National War Labor Board
- War Labor Policies Board
- Webb-Pomerene Act
- Overman Act
- Hammer v. Dagenhart
- Daylight savings time introduced

1919

- Treaty of Versailles
- League of Nations debate in United States
- Wilson suffers stroke
- Red scare — Palmer raids
- Boston Police Strike
- Gary, Indiana, Steel Strike
- United Mine Workers Strike
- Volstead Act — National Prohibition Enforcement Act
- Senate opposition to Treaty of Versailles
- Worker's Party established (later Communist Party)
- Herbert Hoover — Director-General of International Organization for European Relief
- Race riots in Chicago
- "Black Sox" bribery scandal rocks baseball
- American Legion founded
- Woodrow Wilson wins Nobel Peace Prize

1920

- Jones Merchant Marine Act
- Sacco and Vanzetti convicted
- Census results showed 50% urban population
- Esch-Cummins Transportation Act
- 19th Amendment — women's suffrage
- Senate fails to ratify Treaty of Versailles
- Water Power Act
- "Solemn Referendum"
- Harlem Renaissance
- Universal Negro Improvement Association — Marcus Garvey
- *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Labor Party — W. W. Cox/August Gillhaus
 - Socialist Party — Eugene Deb/Seymour Stedman
 - Republican Party — Warren G. Harding/Calvin Coolidge
 - Democratic Party — James M. Cox/Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - Farmer Labor Party — P. P. Christensen/Mac Hayes
 - Single Tax Party — Robert C. Macauley/Richard Barnum
 - Prohibition Party — A. S. Watkins
- Warren G. Harding elected president

1921

- Separate peace signed with Germany
- Washington Conference:
 - Five Power Naval Treaty
 - Four Power Pacific Status Quo Treaty
 - Nine Power China Open Door Treaty
- Emergency Immigration Act
- Treaty with Colombia
- Veterans' Bureau formed
- Emergency Tariff — raised rates on agricultural products
- Reparation Commission — Germany's liability at \$33.25 billion
- KDKA radio broadcasts first regular programs
- Charles E. Hughes — Secretary of State
- Andrew Mellon — Secretary of Treasury

1922

- Fordney–McCumber Tariff — increasing protectionism
- Ku Klux Klan revival
- U. S. rejects International Court of Justice
- Cable Act
- Cooperative Marketing Act
- *Babbit* by Sinclair Lewis
- "The Wasteland" by T.S. Eliot
- "April Showers" by Irving Berlin

1923

- Harding dies
- Calvin Coolidge assumes the presidency
- Marcus Garvey convicted
- Ku Klux Klan activities
- "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin

1924

- Snyder Act
- *The American Mercury* edited by H. L. Mencken
- Leopold and Loeb — sentenced to life in prison
- Democratic Party split
- Dawes Plan
- McNary–Haugen Bill defeated
- Immigration Act
- *Mein Kampf* by Adolph Hitler
- U. S. withdraws from the Dominican Republic
- J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Soldiers' Bonus Act
- Harding Administration scandals:
 - Veterans' Bureau — Charles R. Forbes
 - Alien Property Custodian — Thomas W. Miller
 - Justice — Harry Daugherty
 - Navy and Interior — Albert Fall — Teapot Dome, WY, and Elk Hills, CA
- Election Year:
 - Commonwealth Land Party (before single tax) — W. J. Wallace/J. C. Lincoln
 - Socialist Labor Party — Frank T. Johns/Verne L. Reynolds
 - American Party — Gilbert O. Nations/Charles H. Randall
 - Prohibition Party — Herman Faris/Marie C. Brehm
 - Republican Party — Calvin Coolidge/Charles G. Dawes
 - Democratic Party — John W. Davis/Charles W. Bryan
 - Progressive Party — Robert M. LaFollette/Burton K. Wheeler
 - Workers' Party — William Z. Foster/Benjamin G. How
- Calvin Coolidge elected president

1925

- Scopes Trial — Clarence Darrow, William Jennings Bryan
- *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Rise of Al Capone
- Judges' Bill
- Billy Mitchell court martial
- Nellie Taylor Ross — Governor of Wyoming — first woman governor of a state
- *Arrowsmith* by Sinclair Lewis
- "The Gold Rush" by Charlie Chaplin
- "Show Me the Way to Go Home" — popular song
- The Charleston — fashionable dance

1926

- McNary — Haugen Bill defeated
- Air Commerce Act
- Hirohito — Emperor of Japan
- Florida land boom crashes
- Revenue Act
- *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway
- "Weary Blues" — Langston Hughes — Harlem Renaissance
- *Biography of Abraham Lincoln* by Carl Sandburg — completed in 1943
- Robert H. Goddard fires first liquid-fueled rocket
- Gertrude Ederle — first woman to swim the English Channel (14 hours, 34 minutes)
- "Bye, Bye, Blackbird" — popular song

1927

- Federal Radio Commission
- Charles Lindbergh's Transatlantic Flight
- Sacco and Vanzetti executed
- "The Jazz Singer" filmed with Al Jolson
- *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Theodore Wilder
- "Funny Face" by George Gershwin
- Babe Ruth hits 60 home runs
- "Ol' Man River" — popular song

1928

- Kellogg–Briand Pact
- Floor Control Act
- McNary–Haugen Bill defeated for the last time
- Clark Memorandum—repudiated Roosevelt Corollary
- "John Brown's Body" by Stephen Vincent Benet
- "An American in Paris" by George Gershwin
- "Makin' Whoppee" — popular song
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Party — Norman Thomas/James H. Maurer
 - Worker's Party — William Z. Foster/Benjamin Gitlow
 - Republican Party — Herbert C. Hoover/Charles Curtis
 - Democratic Party — Alfred E. Smith/Joseph T. Robinson
 - Farmer Labor Party — Frank E. Webb
 - Socialist Labor Party — Verne L. Reynolds
- Herbert Hoover elected president

1929

- Agricultural Marketing Act — established Federal Farm Board
- Stock Market Crash
- Federal Farm Board
- Young Plan
- St. Valentine's Day Massacre
- Albert Fall convicted
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner
- "Stardust" and "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" — popular songs

1930

- Hawley-Smoot Tariff — increasingly protectionist
- London Naval Conference
- Public Works program
- Drought in the Midwest
- Veterans' Administration Act
- *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner
- *U. S. A.* by John Dos Passos — completed in 1936
- "Georgia on My Mind" and "I Got Rhythm" — popular songs

1931

- Japanese invaded Manchuria
- Debt and Reparation Moratorium
- Scottsboro, Alabama incident
- "Collected Poems" by Robert Frost
- Empire State Building completed
- "Mood Indigo" and "Goodnight, Sweetheart" — popular songs

1932

- Reconstruction Finance Corporation—Hoover
- Norris-LaGuardia Act
- Bonus Army
- Lindbergh kidnapping
- Japan withdraws from the League of Nations
- Glass-Steagall Act
- Federal Home Loan Bank Act
- "Brain Trust" — Rexford G. Tugwell, Raymond Moley, Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
- *Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes
- *Tobacco Road* by Erskine Caldwell
- *Studs Lonigan* by James T. Farrell
- Stimson Doctrine
- "The Gay Divorcee" by Cole Porter
- "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" and "April in Paris" — popular songs
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Labor Party — Verne L. Reynolds, J. W. Aiken
 - Socialist Party — Norman Thomas/James H. Maurer
 - Communist Party — William Z. Foster/James W. Ford
 - Prohibition Party — William D. Upshaw/Frank S. Regan
 - Farmer—Labor Party — Jacob S. Coxey
 - Liberty Party — W. H. Harvey/Frank B. Hemenway
 - Republican Party — Herbert Hoover/Charles Curtis
 - Democratic Party — Franklin D. Roosevelt/John Nance Garner
- Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president

1933

- "Hundred Days"
- Drought spreads to Great Plains
- 20th Amendment — lame duck
- 21st Amendment — repeal of prohibition
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Agricultural Adjustment Act
- Reciprocal Trade Agreement
- "Bank Holiday"
- Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
- World Economic Conference — London Economic Conference
- Good Neighbor Policy — Montevideo Conference
- "Fireside Chats"
- Emergency Banking Relief Act

- Economy Act
- Beer and Wine Revenue Act
- *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* by Gertrude Stein
- Frances Perkins — Secretary of Labor — first woman cabinet member
- U. S. off gold standard
- "The Short Symphony" by Aaron Copland
- "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Stormy Weather," and "Easter Parade" — popular songs
- Migration of artists and professionals from Germany — 60,000 between 1933 and 1939
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- Federal Emergency Relief Act
- Federal Securities Act
- Home Owners Refinancing Act
- Banking Act of 1933 — Glass Steagall FDIC
- Farm Credit Act
- National Industrial Recovery Act
- Public Works Administration
- Civil Works Administration

1934

- Frazier-Lemke Federal Farm Bankruptcy Act
- Indian Reorganization Act
- Townsend Plan
- Securities Exchange Act
- National Housing Act — Federal Housing Administration
- Japan renounces Washington Treaties of 1922 & 1930
- Trade Agreements Act
- Gold Reserve Act
- Farm Mortgage Refinancing Act
- Homeowners Loan Act
- Silver Purchase Act
- Johnson Debt Default Act
- "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, "Blue Moon," and "The Continental" — popular songs
- John Dillinger shot by FBI

1935

- Second New Deal
- Social Security Act
- Congress of Industrial Organizations formed — CIO
- National Labor Relations Act — Wagner Act
- Neutrality Act
- Italy (Mussolini) attacks Ethiopia
- U. S. Senate defeats membership in World Court
- Public Utility Holding Company Act
- Revenue Act — Wealth Tax Act
- Schechter v. United States — NIRA unconstitutional
- Rumba — fashionable dance
- Huey Long assassinated
- Emergency Relief Appropriation Act
- Works Progress Administration
- Rural Electrification Administration
- National Youth Administration
- Jazz becomes swing
- "Begin the Beguine" and "It Ain't Necessarily So" — popular songs

1936

- AAA unconstitutional: *United States v. Butler*
- Spanish Civil War begins
- American Labor Party formed
- *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell
- Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act
- "Pennies from Heaven" — popular song
- Jesse Owens — four gold medals in Berlin Olympic Games
- *Life Magazine* begins publication
- Neutrality Act
- German reoccupation of Rhineland
- Buenos Aires Declaration
- Bruno R. Hauptmann convicted of Lindbergh baby kidnapping and killing
- Election Year:
 - Socialist Labor Party — John W. Aiken/Emil F. Teichert
 - Prohibition Party — D. Leigh Colvin/Claude A. Watson
 - Socialist Party — Norman Thomas/George Nelson
 - Republican Party — Alfred M. Landon/Frank Knox
 - Union Party — William Lemke/Thomas C. O'Brien
 - Democratic Party — Franklin D. Roosevelt/John N. Garner
 - Communist Party — Earl Browder/James W. Ford
- Franklin D. Roosevelt re-elected president

1937

- Judiciary Reorganization Act defeated
- Sit-Down strikes — United Automobile Workers
- Japan invades China
- Quarantine Speech
- *Panay Incident* — Yangtze River
- Neutrality Acts
- National Housing Act — Wagner-Steagall Act — created U. S. Housing Authority
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- Economic Recession
- "The Lady is a Tramp," and "Whistle While You Work," and "Harbor Lights" — popular songs

1938

- Congress of Industrial Organizations leaves the AFL
- Lima Declaration
- Benny Goodman's band — new style to jazz
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Vinson Naval Act — two-ocean Navy — Naval Expansion Act
- Oil exploration in Mexico by British and American companies
- Munich Conference
- Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
- "Flat Foot Floogie with a Floy, Floy," "September Song," and "A Tisket, A Tasket" — popular songs
- Lambeth Walk — fashionable dance

1939

- Hatch Act
- Neutrality Act — Cash and Carry
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact
- Germany invades Poland
- Great Britain and France declare war on Germany
- Germany annexes the rest of Czechoslovakia
- Russia invades Finland
- Nylon stockings first appear
- U.S.S.R. invades eastern Poland
- "Gone with the Wind" — Academy Award
- "The Wizard of Oz" with Judy Garland
- "Over the Rainbow," "Beer Barrel Polka," and "Three Little Folks" — popular songs

1940

- National Conscription Act
- Alien Registration Act (Smith Act)
- German invasion of Norway and Denmark
- Fall of Belgium and Netherlands to Germany
- Dunkirk evacuation
- Fall of France
- "You Are My Sunshine," "When You Wish Upon a Star," and "Blueberry Hill" — popular songs
- Churchill becomes British Prime Minister
- "Rebecca" — Hitchcock film — Academy Award
- Destroyers-for-Bases Deal
- Election Year:
 - Republican Party — Wendell Wilkie/Charles L. McNary
 - Democratic Party — Franklin D. Roosevelt/Henry A. Wallace
 - Socialist Party — Norman Thomas
 - Prohibition Party — Roger Babson
 - Communist Party — Earl Browder
 - Socialist Labor Party — John W. Aiken
- Franklin Roosevelt re-elected president
- *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway
- Battle of Britain
- Office of Production Management
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright

1941

- Lend-Lease Act
- Atlantic Charter
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
- U. S. declares war on Japan and Germany
- Germany invades the Soviet Union
- Four Freedoms Speech
- Battle of the Atlantic
- Office of Scientific Research and Development
- Fair Employment Practices Commission
- Japan attacks the Philippines
- "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," and "Chatanooga Choo-Choo" — popular songs
- Manhattan Project begins

1942

- Midway
- Coral Sea
- Russian counteroffensive
- North Africa Campaign — Montgomery v. Rommel
- Congress of Racial Equality founded
- War Production Board
- Bataan and Corregidor
- Rio de Janeiro Conference
- 1st Moscow Conference
- Enrico Fermi splits the atom
- War Manpower Commission
- Emergency Price Control Act — Office of Price Administration
- National War Labor Board
- Relocation and enemy aliens
- Rationing begins
- "White Christmas," "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," and "That Old Black Magic" — popular songs

1943

- Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Act — anti-strike
- Italian Campaign
- Cairo Conference — Roosevelt, Churchill, and Chiang Kai-shek
- Casablanca Conference
- Office of War Mobilization
- Teheran Conference — Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill
- Anglo-Conference — Trident
- Hirabayashi v. United States
- "Round-the-clock" bombing of Germany begins
- "Liberty" ships launched
- Zoot suit — popular attire among hepcats
- Lindyhop yields to jitterbugging
- "Mairzy Doats," "Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'," and "I'll be Seeing You" — popular songs
- "Oklahoma" — Rodgers and Hammerstein

1944

- D-Day invasion of Normandy
- Battle of the Bulge
- Servicemen's Readjustment Act — GI Bill of Rights
- Leyte Gulf Naval Battle
- Dumbarton Oaks Conference — Planning for United Nations
- Burma Campaign
- Philippine Campaign
- Allied Air Offensive
- Bretton Woods Conference — International Monetary Fund
- Korematsu v. United States
- German officers attempt to assassinate Hitler
- V-2 rockets fall on Britain
- Rommel commits suicide
- "Appalachia Spring" — Aaron Copland
- "Don't Fence Me In," "Swinging on a Star," and "Accentuate the Positive" — popular songs
- Election Year:
 - Republican Party — Thomas E. Dewey/John W. Bricker
 - Democratic Party —
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt/Harry S. Truman
 - Socialist Party — Norman Thomas
 - Nationalist Prohibitionist Party — Claude A. Watson
 - National Prohibition Party — Edward Teichert
- Franklin Roosevelt re-elected president

1945

- Yalta Conference — Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill
- Franklin Roosevelt dies
- Harry S. Truman assumes the presidency
- Potsdam Conference — Stalin, Truman, and Churchill (replaced by Clement Attlee)
- V-E Day — May 9
- V-J Day — August 15
- Nuremberg Trials — war crimes
- Atomic Energy Commission
- Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9) bombed
- San Francisco Conference — draft charter for United Nations
- Iwo Jima
- International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg
- Committee on Un-American Activities
- "Bebop" comes into fashion

1946

- Philippine Independence
- Churchill — "Iron Curtain" Speech
- Presidential Succession Act
- National Security Act
- Employment Act
- *Baby and Child Care* — Benjamin Spock, MD
- "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah," "How are Things in Gloccamorra?" and "Come Rain or Come Shine" — popular songs

1947

- Taft-Hartley Act — Labor Management Relations Act
- National Security Act
- Truman Doctrine
- Marshall Plan
- Unification of armed services
- Rio Pact
- Containment Policy — articulated
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- "Papa, Won't You Dance With Me?" and "Almost Like Love" — popular songs
- Jackie Robinson signs to play major league baseball

1948

- Dixiecrats bolt the Democratic Party
- Berlin Blockade — Berlin Airlift
- Organization of American States formed
- Desegregation of armed forces
- Israel created
- Selective Service Act
- Alger Hiss — accused of communist activities
- *Intruder in the Dust* by William Faulkner
- Foreign Assistance Act
- "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" and "Nature Boy" — popular songs
- Election Year:
 - Republican Party — Thomas E. Dewey/Earl Warren
 - Democratic Party — Harry Truman/Alben W. Barkley
 - States' Rights Party — J. Strom Thurmond
 - Progressive Party — Henry A. Wallace
 - National Prohibition Party — Claude A. Watson
 - Socialist Labor Party — Edward A. Teichert
- Harry S. Truman elected president

1949

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed
- Mao Tse-tung gains control of China
- Nationalist China formed on Formosa
- Fair Deal — Plan of Truman
- Mutual Defense Assistance Act
- "South Pacific" by Rodgers and Hammerstein (Pulitzer Prizewinner)
- "Bali Ha'i," "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" — popular songs
- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

1950

- Korean Conflict begins — North Korea aggression
- Alger Hiss convicted
- Senator McCarthy attacks Communists in government
- Inchon landing — South Korea
- McCarran Internal Security Act
- Kefauver investigations
- National Science Foundation Act
- Assassination attempt against Harry S. Truman made by two Puerto Rican nationalists
- "A Bushel and a Peck," "Good Night, Irene," and "Mona Lisa" — popular songs
- "Cool Jazz" developed from bebop
- *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

1951

- General Douglas MacArthur recalled from Korea
- Japanese-American Treaty
- 22nd Amendment — two terms
- *The Caine Mutiny* by Herman Wouk
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- Color television introduced
- Mutual Security Act
- "The African Queen," a John Houston film
- "Hello Young Lovers" and "Kisses Sweeter than Wine" — popular songs

1952

- Hydrogen bomb developed
- Truman seizes steel mills to avoid strike
- Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer
- Established Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph E. Ellison
- McCarran — Walter Immigration Act
- Hydrogen bomb exploded
- Election Year:
 - Republican Party — Dwight D. Eisenhower/Richard M. Nixon
 - Democratic Party — Adlai E. Stevenson/John Sparkman
 - Progressive Party — Vincent W. Hallinan
 - Christian Nationalist & Constitution Party — Douglas MacArthur
 - Prohibition Party — Stuart Hamblen
- Dwight D. Eisenhower elected president

1953

- Armistice ends Korean Conflict
- Joseph Stalin dies
- Refugee Relief Act
- McCarthy allegations
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- "Doggie in the Window" and "Stranger in Paradise" — popular songs

1954

- Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) formed
- Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas
- Geneva Conference — agreements on Indochina
- Dien Bien Phu — French withdraw from Indochina
- Domino Theory
- Massive Retaliation
- Guatemala coup
- Southern Manifesto

- Potomac Charter — Eisenhower, Churchill
- Army-McCarthy hearings
- "Young at Heart" and "Three Coins in the Fountain" — popular songs

1955

- AFL and CIO merge
- Salk-Sabin polio vaccine
- Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) formed — Baghdad Pact
- Montgomery bus boycott — Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Eisenhower suffers a heart attack
- "The Yellow Rose of Texas," "Rock Around the Clock," and "Sixteen Tons" — popular songs

1956

- Hungarian Revolution
- Suez Crisis
- Elvis Presley
- Soil Bank Plan
- Election Year:
 - Republican Party — Dwight Eisenhower/Richard Nixon
 - Democratic Party — Adlai Stevenson/Estes Kefauver
- Dwight Eisenhower re-elected president
- *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill
- Rock and roll dances in vogue
- *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy
- "Hound Dog," "I Could Have Danced All Night," and "Que Sera, Sera" — popular songs

1957

- European Common Market founded
- Eisenhower Doctrine — Middle East
- Federal Troops to Little Rock, Arkansas
- Sputnik I
- Civil Rights Voting Act
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference — Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*
- "Love Letters in the Sand" and "Seventy-Six Trombones" — popular songs

1958

- Suspension of nuclear testing
- Berlin Crisis
- United States troops in Lebanon
- Algerian Crisis
- National Defense Education Act
- European Economic Community (Common Market)
- *The Affluent Society* by John K. Galbraith
- Beatnik movement spreads
- "Chipmunk Song," "The Purple People Eater," and "Catch a Falling Star" — popular songs
- ChaChaCha is the new dance in vogue

1959

- St. Lawrence Seaway completed
- Landrum-Griffin Act — Labor Management Act
- Castro in power in Cuba
- Alaska — 49th State
- Hawaii — 50th state
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "Tom Dooley," and "Everything's Coming Up Roses" — popular songs

1960

- U-2 spy plane incident — Francis Gary Powers
- Civil Rights Voting Act
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee formed — Raleigh, NC
- Woolworth Lunch Counter Sit-In — Greensboro, NC
- *Rabbit Run* by John Updike
- Cuba expropriates American holdings
- "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and "Let's Do the Twist" — popular songs
- Election Year:
Republican Party — Richard M. Nixon/Henry Cabot Lodge
Democratic Party — John F. Kennedy/Lyndon B. Johnson
- John F. Kennedy elected president

1961

- 23rd Amendment — electors in Washington, D.C.
- Freedom Riders
- Berlin Wall constructed
- Bay of Pigs
- Alliance for Progress
- Peace Corps established
- Agency for International Development
- *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller
- "Love Makes the World Go Round" and "Moon River" — popular songs
- Yuri Gagarin (USSR) orbits the earth
- Alan Shepard first space flight for U.S.

1962

- Francis Gary Powers returns to U.S.
- John Glenn (U.S.) orbits the earth
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Manpower Development and Training Act
- James Meredith enrolls in University of Mississippi
- Trade Expansion Act
- Baker v. Carr
- Thalidomide
- "Days of Wine and Roses" and "Blowin' in the Wind" — popular songs

1963

- Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- John F. Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald
- Lyndon Johnson assumes the Presidency
- Civil Rights Accommodations Act
- Medgar Evers assassinated
- Gideon v. Wainright
- Abington Township School District v. Schempp
- Oswald shot and killed by Jack Ruby — shown live on television
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan
- Diem regime falls — South Vietnam
- First use of the artificial heart
- "Call Me Irresponsible" and "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer" — popular songs

1964

- Martin Luther King, Jr. — Nobel Peace Prize
- Civil Rights Act
- Equal Opportunity Administration
- 24th Amendment — poll tax
- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- Bombing of North Vietnam
- Economic Opportunity Act
- Urban Mass Transportation Act
- Wilderness Preservation Act
- Griffin v. Prince Edward County School Board
- Riots — Harlem, Chicago, and Philadelphia
- War on Poverty
- Tax Cut Act
- Escobedo v. Illinois
- *Understanding Media* by Marshall McLuhan
- Discotheques popular — The Watusi, Frog, Monkey, and Funky Chicken — popular dances
- "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," "Hello Dolly," and "Chim Chim Cheree" — popular songs
- Election Year:
Democratic Party — Lyndon B. Johnson/Hubert Humphrey
Republican Party — Barry Goldwater/William Miller
Socialist Labor Party — Eric Haas
Socialist Worker's Party — Clifton De Berry
Prohibition Party — Earl H. Munn
National States' Rights Party — John Kasper
- Lyndon B. Johnson elected president

1965

- Malcolm X assassinated
- Medicare becomes law
- Watts riots
- Elementary and Secondary School Education Act
- VISTA
- Housing Act
- Immigration Act
- Great Society program
- Dominican Republic intervention
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- Civil Rights Act
- Selma to Montgomery, Alabama — civil rights march
- Power blackout — northeast region of U.S.
- *Dark Ghetto* by Kenneth Clark
- "King of the Road," "Downtown," and "A Hard Day's Night" — popular songs

1966

- France leaves NATO
- Highway Safety Act
- Model cities
- Black Panthers formed — Huey Newton and Bobby Seale
- Miranda v. Arizona
- National Organization of Women formed
- Miniskirts come into fashion
- *The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud
- "Born Free," "Eleanor Rigby," and "Ballad of the Green Berets" — popular songs

Timeline

1967

- Outer Space Treaty
- Six Day War — Israel — Arab States
- Glassboro Conference — Lyndon Johnson and Aleksei Kosygin
- 25th Amendment — presidential succession
- Public Broadcasting Corporation
- Newark — Detroit riots
- Thurgood Marshall appointed to Supreme Court
- Carl Stokes elected mayor of Cleveland
- *The Confessions of Nat Turner* by William Styron
- Death of three U. S. astronauts in Apollo launching pad fire

1968

- *Pueblo* seizure off North Korea
- Open Housing Law
- Columbia University student demonstrations
- Truth-in-Lending Act
- Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated by James Earl Ray
- Robert F. Kennedy assassinated by Sirhan B. Sirhan
- Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia
- Paris peace talks begin
- Tet Offensive
- My Lai Massacre in South Vietnam
- Richard Nixon elected president
- Aretha Franklin and Jimi Hendrix compete for musical popularity
- "Hey Jude," "Mrs. Robinson," and "Stoned Soul Picnic" — popular songs
- The "midi" fails to replace the "mini"
- Riots in Chicago during the Democratic Party Convention

1969

- Nuclear Proliferation Treaty
- Okinawa returned to Japanese administration
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)
- House Committee on Internal Security
- Haynesworth — Carswell nominations to Supreme Court
- Moon Landing — Neil Armstrong on Apollo II
- American Indians claim Alcatraz Island
- Massive demonstrations against Vietnam War
- Woodstock Music and Art Fair
- Sharon Tate murders — Charles Manson and followers convicted
- "A Boy Named Sue" and "Aquarius" — popular songs

1970

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Cambodia invasion and massive dissent
- Kent State and Jackson State killings
- Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Clean Air Act
- Government workers strike
- Environmental Protection Agency
- United Farm Workers — Cesar Chavez
- 448 colleges and universities closed by strikes

1971

- Berlin Accord
- Price and wage freeze ordered by Nixon
- Lt. Calley — court martialled for My Lai Massacre
- People's Republic of China enters the United Nations
- 26th Amendment — suffrage for 18-year-olds
- Great Britain enters the Common Market
- SST Program defeated
- Pentagon Papers
- Black Congressional Caucus formed
- George Jackson — Soledad prisoner shot
- Attica prison riot
- *New York Times* prints "Pentagon Papers"
- Cigarette advertisements banned on TV

1972

- Richard M. Nixon opens relations with the People's Republic of China
- Moscow Summit — Nixon and Brezhnev
- Watergate Break-in
- Equal Rights Amendment proposed
- Federal Election Campaign Act
- Revenue sharing
- Richard Nixon re-elected president
- George Wallace shot and paralyzed by Arthur Bremer
- Okinawa returned to Japan
- Arab terrorists kill Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich
- Angela Davis acquitted of murder and conspiracy charges
- Supreme Court effectively prohibits capital punishment

1973

- U.S. — Cuba anti-hijack pact
- Summit II — Brezhnev and Nixon
- Yom Kippur War
- Cease-fire in Vietnam
- Oil embargo by Arab nations — energy crisis
- Dollar devalued
- Presidential impoundment of funds
- Spiro Agnew resigns — Gerald Ford confirmed as vice president
- War Powers Act
- Saturday Night Massacre — Richardson and Ruckelshaus fired
- Alaskan Pipeline Act
- Senate Watergate Hearings — Sam Ervin presiding
- American Indian occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota
- Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho — Nobel Peace Prize

1974

- Kissinger — Middle East diplomatic shuttle
- Summit III — Brezhnev and Nixon
- Watergate Scandal
- Nixon resigns
- Ford assumes presidency
- Rockefeller confirmed as vice president
- Ford pardons Nixon
- U.S. v. Richard Nixon
- "Streaking" — fad
- Limited amnesty granted to draft evaders and military deserters

1975

- Boston busing
- Cambodia falls to the communists
- South Vietnam falls to the communists
- Massive refugee effort in United States
- Patty Hearst kidnapping — Symbionese Liberation Army
- Haldeman, Erlichman, and Mitchell convicted
- *Mayaguez* seized by Cambodian forces
- Two assassination attempts on President Ford

1976

- Bicentennial celebration
- Entebbe Raid — Israel in Uganda
- Chou En-lai — replaces Mao Tse-tung in People's Republic of China
- Carter elected president
- Viking II lands on Mars
- "Legionnaires' disease" kills 29 in Philadelphia

1977

- Pardon for draft evaders in Vietnam war
- Gary Gilmore executed
- Energy Department created

1978

- Panama Canal Treaty
- Carter defers production of neutron bomb
- California's Proposition 13 passed - cut property taxes by 57%
- Bakke Decision
- Humphrey-Hawkins "Full Employment" Bill

1979

- Three Mile Island
- Pope John Paul II visits United States
- 63 Americans taken hostage in Iran
- Soviet Union invades Afghanistan

1980

- Abscam
- Al Lowenstein assassinated
- Carter - Reagan - Anderson race
- Ronald Reagan elected president
- Mount St. Helens erupts

1981

- American hostages in Iran released
- Sandra Day O'Connor appointed to the Supreme Court
- Space shuttle *Columbia* launched
- Assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan
- Air Traffic Controllers Strike

1982

- Voting Rights Act Extension passed
- Equal Rights Amendment fails ratification
- Marines sent to Lebanon
- Business failures reach a fifty year high
- Republicans maintain control of the Senate

1983

- Invasion of Grenada
- Soviet Union shoots down South Korean airliner
- Social Security changes enacted
- Strategic Defense Initiative announced

1984

- Ronald Reagan re-elected president
- Geraldine Ferraro nominated for vice president
- Marines withdraw from Lebanon

1985

- Sanctions imposed against South Africa
- Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget Act
- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Premier of the Soviet Union
- *Achille Lauro* hijacked

1986

- Amnesty for illegal aliens
- Iran-Contra arms deal
- Air strike against Libya
- Income Tax Act reduces taxes
- William Rehnquist appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Ferdinand Marcos ousted in the Philippines
- Space shuttle *Challenger* explodes

1987

- Stock Market Crash
- Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)

1988

- George Bush elected president
- Naval Task Force sent to the Persian Gulf
- Savings and Loan foreclosures begin
- Iran-Iraq War cease-fire
- Jesse Jackson seeks the Democratic Party nomination
- Intifada uprising in occupied territories of Israel

1989

- Berlin Wall opens
- Invasion of Panama
- War on Drugs declared

1990

- Sandinistas lose Nicaraguan election
- USSR moves toward economic reform
- Germany reunified
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- Cut in long-range nuclear missile stockpiles
- Solidarity wins election in Poland

1991

- Operation Desert Storm
- Breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- Appointment of Clarence Thomas to Supreme Court
- End to sanctions against South Africa

