

Introduction to US History. Spring_2026_Balogh

Essentials Part I. The lists will be finalized in May 2026 (check the program's website for updates) but only a few changes are expected so you can start working with these lists below. For complete definitions (I-III) check if you have answered each of the followings: **who, what, when, why, how, with what consequences?**

I. 30 Events and Dates. See reminders below (not always complete definitions):

1607: Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia: the earliest English settlement in North America
1620: The journey of the Pilgrims: the foundation of New England
1763: Treaty of Paris, the end of the French and Indian Wars; Britain's dominance in North America
1775–1783: The War of Independence against Britain, which ended with another Treaty of Paris
1776: Declaration of Independence
1787: The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
1803: Louisiana Purchase
1820: The Missouri Compromise and its consequences
1846–48: The Mexican War and its consequences
1861–11 Southern states create the Confederacy: the beginning of the Civil War
1865: The end of the Civil War, Lincoln's assassination
1865–1876: The period of the Reconstruction in the South
1898: The Spanish-American War and its consequences
April 1917–November 1918: The US in WWI on the Entente side
1929–1933: The Wall Street Crash triggered the Great Depression
1933: Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated President: the beginning of New Deal
December 7, 1941: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; the US entered WWII
June 6, 1944: D-Day in Normandy, the western front against Germany was opened
May 5, 1945: The surrender of Germany; the end of WWII in Europe
August 6 and 9, 1945: Two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
1950–1953: The Korean War
1954: Brown vs. Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas; racial segregation began to collapse
1962: The Cuban missile crisis: the hottest moment of the Cold War
1963: President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas
1964 Civil Rights Act signed by Lyndon B Johnson
1965–1975: The Vietnam War
1968: The murder of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy
1973: Ceasefire with North Vietnam, American troops leave Vietnam
1974: President Nixon resigns due to Watergate scandal
1991: The collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War;
The First Gulf War; the first clash between the US and Saddam Hussein's Iraq
Sept 11, 2001: Attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington by
Al Qaeda; anti-Islamic wave in the US, followed by the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan
and the second War in Iraq

II. 15 Statesmen (list finalized in May). For complete definition consider when, what, how, why, and what consequences (what are they famous for? Careers? What historical period/event? Impact or social/cultural significance?)

George Washington
Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
Alexander Hamilton
Andrew Jackson

Abraham Lincoln
Theodore Roosevelt
Woodrow Wilson
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Harry Truman

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Lyndon Johnson
Martin Luther King
Richard Nixon
Ronald Reagan

III. Main Concepts (+ those already listed among Dates/Events, e.g. Pilgrims or Louisiana Purchase):

1. Mayflower Compact
2. Puritans
3. City Upon a Hill
4. Plantation
5. Frontier
6. Articles of Confederation
7. Founding Fathers
8. Federalist Papers
9. Bill of Rights
10. Manifest Destiny
11. Trail of Tears
12. Nativism
13. Religious Revival
14. Abolitionism
15. Peculiar Institution
16. Reconstruction
17. Segregation
18. Women's Suffrage
19. Melting pot
20. Quota Laws
21. Prohibition
22. New Deal
23. Manhattan Project
24. Marshall Plan
25. Containment
26. Truman Doctrine
27. Domino Theory
28. *Brown v Board of Education*
29. Civil rights movement
30. Civil Rights Act 1964
31. Détente
32. 9/11

| IV. Further Concepts (place in period, associate to event/movement/person/place/relevance) | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Noble savage | Indian Removal Act (Trail of Tears) | carpetbaggers and scalawags |
| Indentured servants | Democrats & Whigs | grandfather clause |
| New Amsterdam | Separate Spheres | sharecropper |
| House of Burgesses | Seneca Falls | <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> "separate but equal" decision |
| Quakers | Independent Texas | California gold rush |
| The Great Awakening | cotton gin | Transcontinental railroad |
| Proclamation of 1763 | states' rights doctrine | Homestead Act (purpose and results) |
| Stamp Act | Underground Railroad | Wounded Knee Massacre |
| Boston Massacre | popular sovereignty | The <i>Maine</i> |
| Boston Tea Party | Dred Scott decision | Yellow Press |
| First Continental Congress | Battle of Gettysburg | Panama Canal |
| Lexington and Concord | Emancipation Proclamation | Ellis Island |
| Second Continental Congress | Gettysburg Address | Zimmerman Telegram |
| Saratoga | 13th Amendment | Hooverville |
| Yorktown | 14th Amendment | Alphabet agencies |
| <i>Marbury vs. Madison</i> (judicial review) | Johnson's impeachment | Lend Lease |
| Federalists | Black Codes and Jim Crow | <i>Roe v Wade</i> |
| Northwest Ordinances | Freedmen's Bureau | Stop-ERA |
| Second war with Britain 1812 | Ku Klux Klan | War on Terror |
| Monroe Doctrine | 15th Amendment | |

V. **Source Documents** (as in syllabus, downloadable from

http://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/463213/file/UShistory_sourcetexts_2018.pdf, unless specified differently here):

VI.

1, John Winthrop Dreams of a City on a Hill (1630) <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colliding-cultures/john-winthrop-dreams-of-a-city-on-a-hill-1630/>; 2. Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776); 3. The Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution (1791); 4. Abraham Lincoln: First Inaugural Address (1861); 5. The Emancipation Proclamation (1862); 6. Abraham Lincoln: Gettysburg Address (1863); 7. *Plessy v Ferguson* (1896), 8, Woodrow Wilson: "Fourteen Points" (January 8, 1918); 9, *Brown v Board of Education* (1954), 10, Martin Luther King: "I Have a Dream" (Aug 28, 1963); 11, John F. Kennedy: Inaugural Address (January 20, 1961); 12, Ronald Reagan: Farewell Address (1989). Reagan Library, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjECSV8KFN4>