

American History TimeLine

1492-1504	Columbus' 4 voyages
1519-1521	Cortes conquers Mexico
1585-1587	Roanoke Island (Carolina) fails
1607	Jamestown, Virginia founded
1607	First Africans arrive in Virginia; Virginia House of Burgesses formed
1620	Pilgrims found Plymouth, Massachusetts
1630	Puritan migration to Massachusetts
1634	Calverts found Maryland
1635-1636	Piquot Indian War (Massachusetts)
1638	Anne Hutchinson convicted of heresy
1639	Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
1642-1648	English Civil War
1650	First Navigation Act (mercantilism)
1664	English conquer New Netherlands (New York)
1675-1676	King Philip's (Metacomet's) War (Massachusetts)
1676	Bacon's Rebellion (Virginia)
1682	Pennsylvania settled
1688-1689	English Glorious Revolution and Bill of Rights
1691	Massachusetts becomes royal colony
1692	Salem witch hunts
1702-1713	Queen Anne's War
1707	England, Wales, and Scotland form Great Britain (the United Kingdom)
1714-1727	George I's reign (England)
1727-1760	George II's reign (England)
1733	Georgia founded
1734-1741	First Great Awakening
1735	John Peter Zenger Trial
1743	(4/13) Thomas Jefferson born at Shadwell, Albemarle County, Virginia

1744-1748	King George's War
1754	Albany Congress
1754-1763	French and Indian War
1760	(Jan) Thomas Jefferson enters College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA (age 16); George III accedes to throne (England)
1762	(4/25) Thomas Jefferson begins 5-year study of law (and other disciplines) (age 19)
1763	Proclamation of 1763
1765	Stamp Act and protest
1767	(Feb) Thomas Jefferson returns to Shadwell and begins successful law career (age 23)
1770	Boston Massacre
1773	Tea Act and Boston Tea Party
1774	Intolerable Acts; First Continental Congress; Thomas Jefferson retires from law practice to devote more time to politics (age 31)
1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord; Washington appointed commander-in-chief
1776	Paine's <i>Common Sense</i> ; states adopt new constitutions; Thomas Jefferson writes Declaration of Independence (age 33); (Oct) Jefferson returns to VA Legislature, begins 3-year project of revising state's legal code
1777	Articles of Confederation; Battle of Saratoga; Congress establishes Bank of North America
1778	Articles of Confederation ratified; Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
1779	(6/1) Thomas Jefferson (age 36) elected 2 nd Gov of VA
1781	(3/1) Articles of Confederation becomes effective
1783	Treaty of Paris; Newburgh Conspiracy
1783-1784	Thomas Jefferson serves in Congress (age 40-41)
1784	(8/6) Thomas Jefferson joins Benjamin Franklin and John Adams in Paris; Ordinance of 1784
1785	Land Ordinance of 1785

1786	(9/14) Annapolis Convention calls for Convention of all states; Jay-Gardoqui Treaty rejected; Virginia Religious Freedom Act; Shays' Rebellion; Indian Ordinance of 1786
1787	(2/21) Continental Congress calls a Convention in Philadelphia to revise Articles of Confederation; (4/16) Letter from Madison to Washington outlining the Virginia Plan; (5/25) Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia; (5/29) Randolph presents the Virginia Plan; (6/15) Paterson presents the New Jersey Plan; (6/18) Hamilton presents his plan for national government; The "Great Compromise" adopted; Convention appoints committee of detail; Committee of detail presents first draft of Constitution to Convention; (9/10) Convention assigns draft of Constitution to committee on arrangement and style; (9/17) Constitution approved; Convention adjourned; (Oct) Anti-Federalist and Federalist Papers and speeches begin (continue through Jun 1788); (12/7) Delaware is first state to ratify Constitution; (12/12) Pennsylvania ratifies Constitution; (12/18) New Jersey ratifies Constitution; Northwest Ordinance
1788	(1/2) Georgia ratifies Constitution; (1/9) Connecticut ratifies Constitution; (4/26) Maryland ratifies Constitution; (5/23) South Carolina ratifies Constitution; (6/21) New Hampshire ratifies Constitution; (6/25) Virginia ratifies Constitution; (6/27) Virginia proposes amendments; (7/26) New York ratifies Constitution; (8/4) North Carolina rejects ratification
1789	(3/4) Constitution takes effect; Congress meets for first time; (4/6) First quorum of Congress is assembled; (4/30) George Washington is sworn in, and new government begins full operation; (6/8) Madison introduces amendments for Bill of Rights in Congress; (11/21) North

	Carolina ratifies Constitution; (11/23) Thomas Jefferson returns after 5 years in Europe; French Revolution begins
1790	(5/29) Rhode Island ratifies Constitution; Hamilton issues <i>Report on Public Credit</i>
1791	(11/3) The Bill of Rights takes effect; First Bank of United States (BUS) established
1793	Washington begins second term; Proclamation of Neutrality; cotton gin is patented
1794	(Jan) Thomas Jefferson resigns as Sec of State, returns to VA ("retires" at age 50); Whiskey Rebellion; Battle of Fallen Timbers
1795	Jay's Treaty; Pinckney's Treaty
1796	Washington's Farewell Address; John Adams elected president
1797	Thomas Jefferson returns to Philadelphia to begin 4-yr term as Vice President
1798	X,Y,Z Affair; Quasi War with France; Alien and Sedition Acts; Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions; Thomas Jefferson decides to become active head of Republican Party (age 55)
1800	Washington DC becomes national capital; controversial presidential election
1801	(Mar 4) Thomas Jefferson becomes 3 rd President (age 57); John Adams appoints "midnight judges"
1802	Congress recalls most "midnight judges"
1803	<i>Marbury vs Madison</i> ; Lewis and Clark expedition; (12/20) Louisiana Purchase more than doubles US land mass
1804	Aaron Burr kills Alexander Hamilton in duel; Jefferson is reelected
1805	(Mar 4) Thomas Jefferson begins 2 nd term as POTUS (age 61); British seize American ships
1807	Embargo Act; Burr acquitted of treason
1808	African slave trade ends; James Madison elected president

1809	Congress boycotts British and French trade; Thomas Jefferson retires to Montecello (age 65)
1810	<i>Fletcher vs Peck</i>
1811	Battle of Tippecanoe; BUS charter expires; first steamboat on Ohio and Mississippi rivers
1812	War of 1812; Madison reelected
1813	Battles of Lake Erie and Thames
1814	British burn Washington DC; Battle of Lake Champlain/Plattsburgh; Hartford Convention
1815	Battle of New Orleans; Treaty of Ghent
1816	James Monroe elected president
1818	Jackson seizes Florida
1819	Adams-Onis Treaty; McCulloch vs Maryland
1819-1822	Missouri Compromises
1823	Monroe Doctrine; American Fur Company establishes Fort Union on Missouri River
1824	John Quincy Adams defeats Andrew Jackson
1826	(7/4) Thomas Jefferson (age 83) and John Adams both die (on 50 th anniversary of signing of DOI)
1828	Tariff of Abominations; Andrew Jackson defeats John Quincy Adams
1831	William Lloyd Garrison publishes first issue of <i>The Liberator</i>
1832	Nullification Crisis; <i>Worcester vs Georgia</i>
1836	Battle of San Jacinto produces Texas Independence; Martin Van Buren elected president; the Alamo overrun by Santa Anna's forces
1837	Panic of 1837
1840	William Henry Harrison elected president
1841	Harrison dies; John Tyler becomes president; <i>Amistad</i> decision; Supreme Court frees African slave mutineers
1843	First large Oregon Trail wagon train
1844	James K Polk pledges to annex Texas and Oregon Territory;

	Polk elected president
1845	Texas annexed
1846-1847	Mexican-American War; Mormon exodus to Utah
1848	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican War; Oregon Territory, Southwest (California, N Mexico, Nevada, Utah) annexed; Zachary Taylor elected president
1849	Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in California; California Gold Rush begins
1850	Compromise of 1850 admits California as free state; Fugitive Slave Law passed; Taylor dies in office; Millard Fillmore becomes president
1852	Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ; Franklin Pierce elected president
1853	Gadsden Purchase completes map of lower continental US
1854	Kansas-Nebraska Act; formation of Anti-Nebraska Party (later called Republican Party)
1856	James Buchanan elected president
1857	Panic of 1857; <i>Dred Scott</i> decision; Butterfield Overland Stage provides passenger and mail service to California
1858	Lincoln-Douglas debates; Freeport Doctrine
1859	John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia; Comstock Lode discovered
1860	Abraham Lincoln elected president; South Carolina secedes; Pony Express begins operations
1861	South secedes and founds the Confederacy; Fort Sumter surrenders; Civil War begins; Battle of Bull Run
1862	Battles of Shiloh and Antietam; preliminary Emancipation Proclamation; Homestead Act; Morrill Act; Plains Indian wars begin
1863	(1/1) Emancipation Proclamation takes effect; battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg
1864	Fall of Atlanta and Sherman's March to the Sea; Sand Creek massacre; Lincoln reelected

1865	Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox; Lincoln assassinated; Andrew Johnson becomes president; Thirteenth Amendment (freeing slaves)
1866	Radical Republicans emerge in Congress; Ku Klux Klan founded; Fetterman massacre
1867	Military Reconstruction Act; Alaska purchased; Grange movement begins
1868	Johnson impeachment trial ends in acquittal; Fourteenth Amendment; Ulysses S Grant elected president
1869	Transcontinental railroads join at Promontory Point, Utah
1870	Fifteenth Amendment
1872	Credit Mobilier Scandal
1873	Crime of 1873; Panic of 1873
1876	Custer massacre; disputed election between Hayes and Tilden
1877	Compromise of 1877; Rutherford B Hayes becomes president; Redeemers recapture Southern governments; Black Republicans in the South begin to decline; Chief Joseph and Nez Perez surrender; <i>Munn vs Illinois</i> ; Great Railway Strike
1878	Bland-Allison Act; Knights of Labor formed
1880	James A Garfield elected president
1881	Garfield assassinated; Chester A Arthur becomes president
1882	Edmunds Act; Chinese Exclusion Act
1883	Pendleton Civil Service Act
1884	Mugwumps split from Republican Party; Grover Cleveland elected president
1886	American Federation of Labor formed; Haymarket Riot
1887	Dawes Severalty Act; veto of the seed corn bill; Dependent Pension Act; Interstate Commerce Act
1888	Benjamin Harrison elected president
1890	Wounded Knee massacre; Sherman Silver Purchase Act; Sherman Antitrust Act; McKinley tariff

1892	Grover Cleveland elected president
1893	Frederick Jackson Turner declares frontier closed; Panic of 1893; Sherman Silver Purchase Act repealed; Coxey's Army marches on Washington
1894	Pullman strike
1895	JP Morgan lends US gold to stave off federal bankruptcy
1896	Alaskan gold rush; William McKinley elected president
1898	Spanish-American War; Hawaii annexed; Open Door Note
1900	McKinley reelected
1901	McKinley assassinated; Theodore Roosevelt becomes president
1902	Northern Securities suit; Newlands Reclamation Act
1903	Acquisition of Panama Canal Zone; Roosevelt Corollary delivered
1904	Theodore Roosevelt elected president
1908	Howard Taft elected president
1909-1911	Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy
1911	<i>Standard Oil</i> Supreme Court decision
1912	Theodore Roosevelt forms Bull Moose / Progressive Party; Woodrow Wilson elected president
1913	Federal Reserve Act; Sixteenth Amendment (income tax); Seventeenth Amendment (direct election of US senators)
1914	World War I begins in Europe; Clayton Act; revolution in Mexico leads to landing of US troops at Vera Cruz
1915	Sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i>
1916	Wilson reelected; US forces under General John Pershing chase Pancho Villa in Mexico
1917	US declares war on Germany and Central Powers; Zimmerman telegram; (Mar) Noncommunist revolution in Russia; (Oct) Communist revolution in Russia
1918	US forces in key battles at Belleau Wood and the Ardennes; (11/11) WWI Armistice

1919	Versailles peace conference; Wilson offers Fourteen Points; Versailles Treaty; Eighteenth Amendment (prohibition)
1920	Wilson suffers stroke; Nineteenth Amendment (women suffrage); recession begins; Warren Harding elected president
1922	Washington Conference
1923	Harding dies in office; Calvin Coolidge becomes president
1923-1924	Upheaval in Germany; near collapse of Weimar Republic
1924	Coolidge elected president
1926	Locarno Pact
1928	Kellogg-Briand Treaty; Herbert Hoover elected president
1929	Stock market crash
1930	Smoot-Hawley Tariff; Reconstruction Finance Corporation started
1930-1932	Bank collapse; money supply contracts by one-third
1932	Franklin Roosevelt elected president; Japanese aggression in China
1933	The Hundred Days; New Deal legislation passed; Bank Holiday; Prohibition repealed; FDR takes US off gold standard; National Industrial Recovery Act; Adolph Hitler named Chancellor in Germany
1934	Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) established; temporary minimum wage law passed
1935	Glass-Steagall Act; Wagner Act; Works Progress Administration (WPA); Social Security program is created; Neutrality Act
1936	Roosevelt reelected
1937	Rape of Nanking by Japanese troops; US gunboat <i>Panay</i> sunk
1938	German expansion in Czechoslovakia; US unemployment soars again
1939	Golden Year for American cinema; Hitler invades Poland, starting World War II in Europe
1940	Roosevelt reelected; Germany defeats British and French forces in France; France surrenders and is occupied; Norway occupied; Battle of Britain
1941	(12/7) Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; US declares war on Axis powers; Lend-Lease Act

1942	US and Britain invade North Africa; (Apr) Jimmy Doolittle bombs Tokyo; (May) Battle of Coral Sea; (Jun) Battle of Midway Island
1943	Allies begin bombing Europe; (Feb) Allies defeat the Afrika Korps at battle of Kasserine Pass; (Jul) Allies invade Sicily and Italy
1944	(6/6) Allies invade France; (Aug) Paris is liberated; (Oct) Allies invade Philippines; Battle of Leyte Gulf; FDR reelected to 4 th term; (Dec) Battle of the Bulge
1945	FDR dies; Harry Truman becomes president; (Mar – Jun) Allied landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa; (May) Germany surrenders; (Jul) Trinity test of atomic bomb; (8/6) Bombing of Hiroshima; (8/9) Bombing of Nagasaki; (8/12) Japan surrenders
1946	Winston Churchill delivers “Iron Curtain” speech; Cold War begins; Republicans capture both House and Senate in midterm elections
1947	Marshall Plan; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) founded; Truman Doctrine; Taft-Hartley Act
1948	Berlin airlift; Truman reelected
1949	NATO formed; Communists take control of China
1950	Alger Hiss convicted; Korean War begins
1952	Dwight D Eisenhower elected president
1953	Korean War fighting ends
1954	<i>Brown vs Board of Education</i>
1955	SEATO formed
1956	Soviets crush Hungarian uprising; Eisenhower reelected
1957	Eisenhower orders federal troops to desegregate Little Rock High School; Soviets launch <i>Sputnik</i>
1959	Castro captures Cuba
1960	John F Kennedy elected president
1961	Bay of Pigs invasion (Cuba); Soviet Union erects Berlin Wall
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis

1963	JFK assassinated; Lyndon Johnson becomes president
1964	Johnson introduces Great Society legislation; Civil Rights Act; Tonkin Gulf Resolution; LBJ elected president
1965	LBJ sends combat troops to Viet Nam
1968	Martin Luther King Jr assassinated; Robert Kennedy assassinated; Richard Nixon elected president
1969	US lands man on the moon
1971	Twenty Sixth Amendment (voting age set at eighteen); wage and price controls
1972	Nixon visits China; Watergate break-in; Nixon reelected
1973	Nixon withdraws last of US troops from Viet Nam; <i>Roe vs Wade</i>
1973-1975	OPEC raises oil prices; oil crisis
1974	Nixon resigns; Gerald Ford becomes president; War Powers Act; busing battles begin in Boston
1975	South Viet Nam overrun by North Vietnamese; Communist Pol Pot regime overruns Cambodia; BASIC computer language invented by Bill Gates
1976	Jimmy Carter elected president; Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak market first personal computers
1979	Camp David Accords; Iranians storm US embassy in Tehran and take American hostages; Soviets place SS-20 missiles in western USSR aimed at Europe
1980	Soviets invade Afghanistan; US Olympic ice hockey team wins gold medal; Ronald Reagan elected president
1981	Iranian hostages freed; Reagan fires air traffic controllers; Reagan shot by John Hinckley; Congress passes Reaganomics tax cuts
1983	Economic recovery begins; Reagan gives "Star Wars" speech; Marine barracks in Lebanon blown up; Reagan and Margaret Thatcher announce plan to place missiles in Europe in response to Soviet SS-20s; "freeze movement" gains momentum
1984	Reagan reelected

1985	Geneva conference with Reagan and Gorbachev
1986-1987	Iran-Contra affair
1987	Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed
1988	George HW Bush elected president; Hungary begins rolling up Iron Curtain
1989	Berlin Wall falls
1990	Bush violates “read my lips” pledge on taxes; Iraq invades Kuwait; Bush announces Operation Desert Shield
1991	Operation Desert Storm; Soviet Union collapses
1992	Bill Clinton elected president; Rodney King beating
1993	Travelgate; Branch Davidian compound at Waco destroyed; World Trade Center bombed by Al Qaeda; US Rangers killed in Somalia raids
1994	Republicans win House majority for first time in 40 years and pass nine-tenths of Contract with America; Special Prosecutor appointed to investigate Whitewater scandal
1995	Oklahoma City bombing
1996	Clinton reelected
1998	Monica Lewinsky scandal; Al Qaeda bombings of US embassies in Africa; Clinton impeached; air war against Serbia
1999	Senate acquits Clinton
2000	Economy begins to slow; Y2K scare proves groundless; disputed election between George W Bush and Al Gore goes to US Supreme Court; Bush wins election; Republicans win House and Senate
2001	(9/11) Muslim terrorists attack World Trade Center and Pentagon; Bush declares war on terror; US invades Afghanistan and overthrows Taliban; Al Qaeda assets frozen
2002	“Axis of Evil” speech by Bush; DC snipers
2003	Operation Iraqi Freedom; Baghdad captured; Saddam Hussein captured
2004	Bush reelected

2005	New Iraqi government formed; new Iraqi constitution ratified; Hurricane Katrina hits Gulf Coast
2006	Democrats gain control of House and Senate
2008	Barack Obama elected president
2012	Obama reelected
2016	Donald Trump elected president
2020	Joe Biden becomes president in fraudulent election
2024	Donald Trump elected to second term