Eras - Gilded Age, Progressive Era, WWI, Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, WWII, Post – War America

Gilded Age

Great Plains – Homestead

Why did homesteaders on the Great Plains build “soddies” and “dugouts”?  
- They used what building materials were available (“sod”) there were very few trees

Gilded Age

Populist Party – platform, candidates

- Direct Election of Senators
- Graduated Income Tax
- Free coinage of silver
- Government ownership of transportation and communication systems
- Abolition of national banks

Laissez-Faire – supports/critics

The French term laissez-faire literally means "to let people do as they wish." Thus, supporters of laissez-faire capitalism do not want the government to interfere in business matters, or if governments do involve themselves in business matters, to keep government influence to a minimum

Hoover; conservative; Republican; before 1930

Transcontinental Railroad – impact

- Made travel easier between the east coast and west coast of the United States
- Attracted large numbers of settlers to the Great Plains
- Allowed plains farmers to ship their products to market and buy manufactured goods from east coast markets
- Led to the destruction of the Buffalo and movement of the Plains Indians onto reservations

Social Darwinism

- Social Darwinists argued that the fittest or wealthiest and most intelligent individuals in society would prevail. It gave rise to the slogan “survival of the fittest.”
• Monopoly– Exclusive control by one company of the means of producing or selling a good—example; Rockefellers Standard Oil and the American Tobacco Company during the Gilded Age

**Labor Unions – Knight of Labor, American Federation of Labor**

Knights of Labor

1. Terrance Powderly
2. First national union
3. Membership open to everyone (even women and blacks)
4. Haymarket Affair put an end to it

American Federation of Labor

1. Samuel Gompers
2. A craft union of skilled workers
3. Focused more on workers rights

**Gilded Age-Progressive Era**

**Chinese Exclusion Act**

• The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first major law restricting immigration to the United States. It was enacted in response to economic fears, especially on the West Coast, where native-born Americans attributed unemployment and declining wages to Chinese workers whom they also viewed as racially inferior. It halted Chinese immigration for ten years and prohibited Chinese from becoming US citizens. The law was later extended for another ten years before becoming permanent in 1902.

**Gentleman’s Agreement**

• (1907), U.S.-Japanese understanding, in which Japan agreed not to issue passports to emigrants to the United States, except to certain categories of business and professional men. In return, President Theodore Roosevelt agreed to urge the city of San Francisco to rescind an order by which children of Japanese parents were segregated from white students in the schools.
  • The San Francisco school board repealed the segregation order, but the bias and discrimination against Japanese in California continued

**Immigrants – reasons, settlement, numbers, where from, native reaction, Americanization**

• Better life, jobs and to escape political and social issues

• Major cities like New York and Philadelphia
• Thousands
• Western Europe mostly
• A dislike of foreigners increased in the 1920s for various reasons, including competition for job
• The act of becoming knowledgeable about American culture--this was the key to success of immigrated children

**Progressive Era**

**Anti-Trust Legislation/Sherman Anti – Trust Act**

- A federal law passed in 1890 that committed the American government to opposing monopolies (trusts) and unfair competition in business.
- Under the authority of the Sherman Antitrust Act, the federal government initiated suits against the Standard Oil Company and the American Tobacco Company.
- Microsoft, AT&T, Apple, and Google have all been charged with violating antitrust laws and unfair competition in recent times

**Initiative, Recall, Referendum**

- Voter-introduced bills in a state legislature
- Citizens can vote on a piece of proposed legislation
- Elected officials can be removed from office by special election

**Woodrow Wilson** – Election 1912 and 1916

- Taft and Teddy Roosevelt split the Republican vote
- In the midst of World War I, he ran for re-election with the slogan, "He Kept Us Out of War."

**American Expeditionary Forces**- U.S. forces in Europe during World War I, totaling over 1-million men

**Amendments – 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th**

- Gives Congress the power to tax personal income
- Direct election of U.S. Senators
- Prohibition of alcohol
- Women’s suffrage
The Jungle – impact-Theodore Roosevelt pushed for legislation to help protect public health

**Progressive Era-WWI**

**Open Door Policy**-gave equal trading rights to all foreign nations in China

**Dollar Diplomacy**-President Taft’s plan to encourage bankers to invest in Central American nations, further building American economic interests

**Spanish American War – reason, results, acquisitions**-Yellow journalism heightened U.S. concerns over human rights in Cuba—sinking of the U.S.S. Maine led to anti-Spanish protests—U.S. acquired Guam, Puerto Rico & the Philippines—Cuba became a U.S. protectorate—ended the Spanish colonial empire in the Americas—the emergence of the U.S. as a world power

**Roosevelt Corollary**-Theodore Roosevelt declared that the U.S. would intervene in the Caribbean to protect the Panama Canal and America’s other economic interests

**Panama Canal**-the canal would provide a shorter trade link between the east coast cities to the west coast and to Asia—Panama declared independence from Columbia in order for it to be built

**WW I**

**WWI – Causes, Reason for U.S. entry**-German U-boat sank the Lusitania killing 128 Americans—propaganda portrayed this and other German acts as evil—Zimmerman Telegram sent to Mexico from Germany—unrestricted submarine warfare

**Technology**-machine guns, trench warfare, airplanes, poison gas, tanks

**Wilsons Fourteen Points Plan (Parts of the plan)**- Wilson's speech on January 8, 1918, focused on free trade, open agreements, democracy and right to self-determination

Included in his “points” were:
- No secret treaties
- Freedom of the Seas
- More free trade
- Reduction of arms
- Less colonialism (Right to Self Determination) by which he meant the right of nations to rule themselves.
- League of Nations to promote peace

**Treaty of Versailles – Weaknesses, opposition, Germany**-(1919) The agreement that ended the war—forced Germany to accept the blame for starting the war & pay reparations to the Allies-created the League of Nations, but the U.S. did not want to join because they did not want to get involved in European affairs/conflicts and limit the freedom of action for the U.S. in global matters
American Expeditionary Forces-U.S. forces in Europe during World War I, totaling over 1-million men

Civil Liberties/First Amendment Issues:

- Selective Service Act (1917): created the military draft, and registered millions of Americans for military service
- Espionage Act of 1917: made it a crime to criticize the war effort, limiting rights of free speech
- Schenck v. U.S. (1918): ruled that the Espionage Act did not violate the First Amendment

WW I-Roaring Twenties

National Origins Act-A law that severely restricted immigration by establishing a system of national quotas that blatantly discriminated against immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and virtually excluded Asians

Immigrants – reasons, settlement, numbers, where from, Nativism, Americanization

- Better life, jobs and to escape political and social issues
- Major cities like New York and Philadelphia
- Thousands
- Eastern and Southern Europe mostly
- A dislike of foreigners increased in the 1920s for various reasons, including competition for job
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Red Scare-the fear that foreign Communists were going to take over the United States in the 1920s

Palmer Raids-A 1920 operation coordinated by Attorney General Mitchel Palmer in which federal marshals raided the homes of suspected radicals and the headquarters of radical organization in 32 cities

Ku Klux Klan-secret domestic militant organizations in the United States, originating in the southern states and eventually having national scope, that are best known for advocating white supremacy and acting as terrorists while hidden behind conical hats, masks and white robes. The KKK has a record of terrorism, violence, and lynching to intimidate, murder, and oppress
African Americans, Jews and other minorities and to intimidate and oppose Roman Catholics and labor unions

Teapot Dome Scandal-symbol of government corruption; government oil reserves were secretly leased to oil companies in exchange for financial compensation

1920 Census – population rural/urban-The 1920 census marked the first time in which over 50 percent of the U.S. population was defined as urban. More people lived in cities than in rural areas

Hawley-Smoot Tariff-1930, passed by the U.S. Congress; it brought the U.S. tariff to the highest protective level yet in the history of the United States--The act brought retaliatory tariff acts from foreign countries, U.S. foreign trade suffered a sharp decline, and the depression intensified

**Roaring Twenties**

Great Migration - -causes-The mass migration of African-Americans to Northern cities started by the demand for workers in northern factories during World War I-no more European immigrants because of WW I

Harlem Renaissance-Period of African-American cultural creativity in music, art and literature during the 1920s, centered in Harlem

Prohibition-Reform movement that banned the sale and consumption of alcohol—it also increased organized crime

Scopes Trial-The famous “Monkey Trial” that pitted creationism against Darwin’s theory of evolution—the trial represented the clash between science and the fundamentalist religion

**Great Depression**

Great Depression – Causes

- Overproduction of consumer goods
- Consumer overconfidence & buying goods on credit
- Unequal distribution of income
- Tariffs & World Trade
- Stock Market Speculation
- Bank failures
Stock Market Crash (1929)

Dust Bowl – causes

- Heavy droughts
- Over farming of farmland
- Great Depression

**Bonus Army** - group of almost 20,000 World War I veterans who were hard-hit victims of the depression, who wanted what the government owed them for their services and "saving" democracy. They marched to Washington and set up public camps and erected shacks on vacant lots. They tried to intimidate Congress into paying them, but Hoover had them removed by the army, which shed a negative light on Hoover

**Great Depression**

New Deal Programs – FHA, TVA, SEC, FDIC, Social Security

- FHA (Federal Housing Administration): Insured loans for building and repairing homes
- TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority): Developed the resources of the Tennessee Valley such as electrics
- SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission): Government agency that regulates the stock market
- FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation): Provided insurance for people’s bank accounts
- Social Security Act: Social Security provides unemployment insurance, aid to the disabled, old age pensions, and insurance for families

New Deal – criticism - the Liberty League felt the federal government went too far in regulating businesses--Huey Long promoted a general redistribution of wealth (take from the rich, give to the poor)—the Supreme Court declared several New Deal programs unconstitutional

Court Packing - FDR tried to add more members to the Supreme Court to get his New Deal programs passed

**WW II**

WWII – Reasons for Declaration - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
Neville Chamberlain—Prime Minister of England beginning in 1937 who honestly believed that appeasement with Germany would bring lasting peace to Europe

WWII – U.S. entry – December 7, 1941—Japan attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, as a result, the U.S. enters the war

Neutrality Acts, Lend – Lease, Cash and Carry:

- (1935-1937) during the Great Depression, these laws were designed to keep the U.S. out of all overseas conflicts
- (1941) FDR proposed the sale, lend or lease of war materials to any country whose defense was vital to the defense of the U.S.
- In 1939, Americans could sell non-military goods to the British & other allies

WWII

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Internment Camps—Forcing over 100,000 Japanese-Americans to relocate to crowded prison camps during WW II

Tuskegee Airmen—African-American fighter group that distinguished themselves in providing air-support for bombing missions into Germany

WWII – Final results—(1945) Germany is defeated to end the war in Europe—the atomic bomb (the Manhattan Project) is dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war in the Pacific

Atomic Bomb – Reasons—President Harry Truman made the decision to drop the bomb in an effort to reduce American casualties

WWII – Rosie the Riveter, peacetime to wartime economy—this powerful symbol recruited two million women into the workforce to support the war economy while men were off fighting the war—Those ads made a tremendous change in the relationship between women and the workplace employment outside of the home became socially acceptable and even desirable

Post-War America—Cold War

Truman Doctrine—(1947) U.S. policy that gave military and economic aid to countries threatened by communism

Marshall Plan—(1948) Program, proposed by Gen. George Marshall, to help European countries rebuild after WW II—the United States offered economic aid to the war-torn countries
McCarthyism-(1954) Witch-hunt of suspected Communists

Sputnik – link to Educational Reforms-(1957) The first man-made satellite to be launched into outer space (Soviet Union)—caused the U.S. to increase interest in the space program and education in schools

**Post-War America**

Truman and Civil Rights-pushed for southern anti-lynching laws and tried to register more black voters, but was mostly symbolic and had little real effect. He also signed Exec Order 9981 in 1948. This desegregated the military. His support for civil rights cost him southern votes in the 1948 election.

Jackie Robinson-The first African American player in the major league of baseball. His actions helped to bring about other opportunities for African Americans

Rock ‘n’ Roll-Musical style that became popular in the 1950s—by the 1960s, artists used their music to promote the counter-culture, protest the Vietnam War, or celebrate the psychedelic experience—through global diffusion, it spread in popularity

“In God we Trust”-national motto adopted by Congress in 1956—in part it was adopted because of Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union, which promoted state atheism—the courts have ruled that its meaning is ceremonial, not religious

Carnegie Hall, Morgan Library, Rockefeller Foundation –purpose-supported philanthropic activities to benefit society