

Jane Addams

Founder of Hull House, in Chicago, a social settlement house for immigrants, she was also a supporter of the women's right to vote; won the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Arms Race

The build up of military weapons between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Branches of Government

The three sections include the legislative (makes laws), executive (enforces laws), and judicial (interprets laws); found in federal and state governments.

Brown v. Board of Education

The 1954 Supreme Court decision that overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) case that had established the doctrine of "separate but equal." The Court now believed that facilities could not be both separate and equal, and that such facilities were inherently unequal and were psychologically damaging.

Bus Boycott

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black woman in Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back of the bus, as required by state law. She was arrested, and her action inspired a prolonged boycott of the city's buses by the black populace.

Andrew Carnegie

One of the "robber barons" whose monopoly was the steel industry. However, he was also a great philanthropist and funded a number of public libraries.

Civil Disobedience

The non-violent opposition to a government policy or law by a refusal to comply with it on the basis of one's conscience.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Approved during the Johnson administration in 1964, this act protected the voting rights of all Americans, desegregated public facilities, such as hotels, stores, and restrooms, and set up a commission to protect equal job opportunities for all Americans.

Cold War

The name given to relations between the United States and Soviet Union after World War II, characterized by tensions and suspicion.

Containment

US policy following World War II attempting to prevent the spread of communism in other areas of the world.

Court Packing Plan

A proposal introduced during the 1930s by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which would allow a President to expand the number of Supreme Court justices. He hoped that such a strategy would establish support for his New Deal programs.

Dust Bowl

A region in the United States where topsoil was lost by wind erosion in the 1930's.

Free Market Economy

The economic system of supply and demand based on the characteristics of competition.

Freedom Rides

In the 1960's, Civil Rights activists rode interstate buses through segregated southern states.

Great Depression

Period between 1929 and 1941, when unemployment rose to record high of 25% of the workforce, bank failures increased, and business bankruptcies occurred every month.

Great Migration

Movement of over 1 million African Americans out of the rural Southern United States from 1914 to 1950. Also refers Puritans coming from England to what is now the Northeastern United States, during the 1630s.

Harlem Renaissance

Black Americans exhibited great pride in their heritage and creative achievements during the 1920s and 1930s through music, literature, and art.

Hiroshima

One of two cities where an atomic bomb was dropped (August 6, 1945) in which President Harry Truman decided to take this action, some historians argue, to end the war without losing an estimated one-million American lives. The destruction of the bomb killed more than 80,000 people and left scars on both cities still felt today. Japan surrendered shortly after the bombs were dropped.

Homestead Act

Passed in 1862, it gave 160 acres of public land to any settler who would farm the land for five years. The settler would only have to pay a registration fee of \$25.

Hoovervilles

A slang term used to describe the living conditions of those most hurt by the Great Depression. Families who had lost their homes and had no employment were left to construct homes out of discarded timber and cardboard.

Immigration

The process of entering and settling in a country or region other than a person's native land.

Internment Camps

Places of confinement as evidenced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, requiring Japanese Americans to relocate during World War II; also called relocation camps.

Judicial Branch

The branch of government that includes the court system. This branch interprets the law.

Judicial Review

The power of the Supreme Court to decide the constitutionality of laws prepared by the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. government; established by the 1803 case of *Marbury v. Madison*.

Laissez-faire

A term that may be defined as noninterference and has been used in government and economics during the late 19th and early 20th centuries to mean a minimum amount of government regulation of business.

Legislative Branch

The branch of government that makes the laws; it is composed of the two houses of Congress.

Executive Branch

The branch of the federal government, headed by the President, responsible for several things, including enforcing the laws, making treaties, and appointing judges.

Marshall Plan

A plan of economic assistance and recovery for Western Europe formulated by General George Marshall in 1947.

Meat Inspection Act

A law passed in 1906, after Congress' reaction to Upton Sinclair's vivid description of the meat packing industry in Chicago with his novel, *The Jungle*. The act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to inspect all meat products shipped in interstate commerce.

Nagasaki

City in Japan where an atomic bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945. The destruction of life and property was catastrophic and on August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered. Truman took this action to avoid a land invasion of Japan by the US.

The Maine

American ship sunk in Havana Harbor (Cuba) in 1898.

Little Rock, Arkansas

In 1957, the public school board of this small town refused to accept the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling. Federal troops were brought in to insure integration of the schools.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

The alliance of nations established in 1949 for the purpose of mutual defense; now includes approximately 15 nations from Canada to Turkey.

New Deal

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's programs adopted during the 1930s to advance America's economic recovery and social welfare.

Nineteenth Amendment

The constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote regardless of sex; this right cannot be denied by any state or the federal government.

Open Door Policy

The policy suggested by Secretary of State John Hay in 1900 toward China, allowing all nations to have access to trade in other nations' "spheres of influence."

Panama Canal

Built between 1904 and 1914, it linked the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, helping to lower the cost of transporting goods, but also creating a tense relationship between Panama and the Canal Zone occupied by the Americans.

Rosa Parks

A Black woman who refused to give up her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955, to a white passenger. The city's Black community then organized a boycott of the bus system to force an end to segregation.

Pearl Harbor

Site of the Japanese attack on Hawaii on December 7, 1941. It provoked the American declaration of war on December 8, 1941.

Philanthropy

An effort to help mankind by charitable aid.

Plessy v. Ferguson

An 1896 Supreme Court case which supported segregation by declaring “separate but equal” public facilities legal.

Primary Source

For a person who studies history, a primary source is a document or written record which comes directly from the period of time under study. An example would be the first draft of the Gettysburg Address, written in President Lincoln's own handwriting; it can be used to check that what is written in history books today is what Lincoln actually wrote down in 1863.

Progressive Era

Early 20th century efforts to relieve stresses/injustices of industrial life. Reforms included housing, education, racism, sexism and consumer protection.

Progressive Movement

Reform effort, generally centered in urban areas and begun in the early 1900s, whose aims included returning control of the government to the people, restoring economic opportunities, and correcting injustices in American life.

Prohibition

A term meaning to not allow; used in relationship to the prevention of the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States after the passage of the **Eighteenth Amendment** (adopted in 1919).

Propaganda

Thoughts and beliefs spread by one particular group or nation that support its views, usually at the expense of another group or nation.

Pure Food and Drug Act

Approved in 1906, it was an act forbidding the manufacture and sale of dishonestly labeled products.

Relocation Camps

Places where Japanese-Americans were required to be housed during World War II, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. Also called **internment camps**.

John D. Rockefeller

An industrialist who made his fortune in the oil industry. He combined companies into a single corporation, called the Standard Oil Company.

Rosie the Riveter

Term associated with women during World War II who worked in defense plants making airplanes, ships, and other military equipment to help the war effort.

Secondary Source

Any account or description of an event that is not a primary source. Examples include history books, encyclopedia articles, textbooks, biographies, or articles in scholarly journals.

Upton Sinclair

As a muckraker and progressive, he wrote *The Jungle*, exposing the unsanitary conditions in the Chicago meat packing industry around 1906. His book led to passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act.

Spanish-American War

The war between the United States and Spain, fought in Cuba and the Philippines, in 1898. The war led to the US acquisition of several territories controlled by Spain, a national debate between imperialists and anti-imperialists, and an increased involvement of America in both Latin American and Asian affairs.

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

One of the principal organizations of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Also known as SNCC, this group organized sit-ins and Freedom rides.

Suburbs

The area of population beyond the urban or city areas.

Suffrage

The right or privilege of voting.

Trickle Down Theory of Economics

Used during the administrations of Coolidge (1920s), Reagan, and Bush (1980–92), this economic policy was based on creating tax cuts, expecting individuals and corporations to increase savings and provide the investment capital needed to modernize American industry. This, in turn, would stimulate the growth of jobs and incomes.

Trust

A practice by a group of corporations during the late 1800s to place their businesses under the directorship of a single board of directors.

Trustbuster

A person who worked toward regulating or breaking up trusts and monopolies.

Twenty-First Amendment

Repealed the 18th Amendment on prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

Twenty-Fourth Amendment

Forbids the use of a poll tax as a requirement for voting; ratified in 1964.

U.S.S. Maine

This American battleship was in Havana harbor to protect American lives and property. On February 15, 1898 it exploded, killing 260 crew members. Many believed that Spain had planted the submarine mine or underwater explosive device, although evidence is inconclusive. "Remember the Maine!" became a battle cry for those advocating war. Shortly thereafter, the US was involved in the Spanish-American War.

Voting Rights Act

Passed by Congress in 1965, this act eliminated the last vestiges of the Jim Crow laws, by ending the use of literacy tests and authorizing federal examiners to conduct the registration procedure in places where it was suspected blacks were being denied their right to vote.

War Powers Act

Passed in 1973, this law requires the president to gain congressional approval for military action if troops remain in an area longer than sixty days.

Watergate

The hotel in Washington, DC, which was the site of the break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters for the 1972 election. It was discovered that President Nixon had covered up the incident that had been initiated by his top aides.

Yellow Journalism

Sensational style of reporting, first used during the late 1800s to attract or influence readers.

Henry Ford

A United States industrial capitalist of the early 20th century credited with the use of the assembly line and interchangeable parts.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Black civil rights leader who based his movement for equality on the philosophy of non-violent civil disobedience.

Scopes Trial

Also known as the “Monkey Trial”, this 1920s case pitted the forces of religious fundamentalism (and the literal meaning of the Bible) against the new age of thinking and materialism (studying biology through the theory of evolution established by Darwin).

John Scopes

Biology teacher who challenged the Tennessee law forbidding the teaching of Darwin's Theory of evolution. Scopes lost the trial.

Jacob Riis

An immigrant who became a muckraker photographer and journalist exposing the poor conditions found in slums and tenements. He wrote *How the Other Half Lives*, and was committed to eliminating slums in New York City.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The President of the United States from 1933–1945; elected four times during the Great Depression and World War II. Associated with a *New Deal* to help end the Depression.

Theodore Roosevelt

A Progressive President, he served from 1901–1908. He used the power of the presidency to deal directly with social and economic problems. Most notably remembered for his work in the conservation of natural resources.

Robber Barons

Industrial or financial magnates of the late 19th century who became wealthy by unethical means.

Berlin Blockade

In 1948, zones of occupation were created by the Allied forces of France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. A disagreement arose between the Soviets and the three other parties concerning West Berlin and who would control this area. The Soviet Union, out of protest, decided to block all transportation lines in and out of the area. The allies responded with the Berlin Airlift and eventually the blockade was called off.