

U.S. HISTORY

Timeline Study Guide



Selected review milestones • Events on the left; why they matter on the right.

EVENT AND DATE	WHY IT MATTERS
1862 Homestead Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged settlement through conditional land claims; expansion intensified conflict over Native land.
1869 Transcontinental railroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked eastern and western rail networks, changing markets and migration.
1887 Dawes Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divided many tribal lands into allotments and undermined Native landholding and sovereignty.
1890 Sherman Antitrust Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a federal tool against restraints on trade; enforcement mattered.
1898 Spanish-American War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded U.S. overseas power and intensified debate over imperialism.
1917-20 U.S. entry, armistice, peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry in 1917 preceded the 1918 armistice and 1919 Versailles treaty; U.S. rejected League membership.
1920 19th Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited vote denial based on sex; discriminatory barriers still excluded many women.
1929 Stock market crash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marked a major crisis within the wider economic weaknesses of the Great Depression.
1933-35 New Deal programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded federal relief, jobs and protections, including Social Security in 1935.
1941-45 U.S. in World War II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pearl Harbor led to entry; global war mobilized industry and exposed rights contradictions.
1947-50 Containment takes shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan and NATO used different tools; Korean War began in 1950.
1954-65 Civil-rights turning points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown (1954), Civil Rights Act (1964) and Voting Rights Act (1965) addressed different barriers.
1964-74 Vietnam and Watergate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> War escalation and executive misconduct raised questions of power and public trust; Nixon resigned in 1974.
1989-91 Cold War ends; Gulf War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wall opened in 1989; USSR dissolved in 1991. A separate 1991 coalition expelled Iraqi forces from Kuwait.
2001-08 Security and modern change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/11 reshaped policy; Katrina (2005) tested response; Obama's election (2008) marked a historic first.

Use a date to establish order; explain a relationship, not just what happened next.

Companion to the U.S. History review. Sources: National Archives, U.S. Senate, LDOE companion and Census HS-29.