

- 1492-1504 Columbus' 4 voyages
- 1519-1521 Cortes conquers Mexico
- 1585-1587 Roanoke Island (Carolinas) fails
- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia founded
- 1619 First Africans arrive in Virginia
- 1619 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
- 1707 England, Wales, and Scotland unite into the United Kingdom (Great Britain)
- 1702-1713 Queen Anne's War
- 1714-1727 George I's reign
- 1727-1760 George II's reign
- 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
- 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 *Common Sense*; states adopt new constitutions
- 1776 Thomas Jefferson writes Declaration of Independence (age 33)
- 1776 (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 elected 2nd Gov of VA (succeeding Patrick Henry) (age 36)
- 1781 (3/1) Articles of Confederation become 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
- 1784 Ordinance of 1784
- 1785 Land Ordinance of 1785
- 1786 (9/14) Annapolis Convention calls for Convention of all states

- 1786 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
- 1787 (4/16) Letter from Madison to Washington outlining the Virginia Plan
- 1787 (5/25) Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia
- 1787 (5/29) Randolph presents the Virginia Plan
- 1787 (6/15) Paterson presents the New Jersey Plan
- 1787 (6/18) Hamilton presents plan for national government
- 1787 (7/16) The "Great Compromise" adopted
- 1787 (7/26) Federal Convention appoints committee of detail
- 1787 (8/6) Committee of detail presents first draft of Constitution to Convention
- 1787 (9/10) Convention assigns draft of constitution to committee on arrangement and style
- 1787 (9/17) Constitution approved; Convention adjourned
- 1787 (Oct) Anti-Federalist and Federalist Papers and speeches begin (continue through Jun 1788)
- 1787 (12/7) Delaware is first state to ratify Constitution
- 1787 (12/12) Pennsylvania ratifies Constitution
- 1787 (12/18) New Jersey ratifies Constitution
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance
- 1788 (1/2) Georgia ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (1/9) Connecticut ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (4/26) Maryland ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (5/23) South Carolina ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (6/21) New Hampshire ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (6/25) Virginia ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (6/27) Virginia proposes amendments
- 1788 (7/26) New York ratifies Constitution
- 1788 (8/4) North Carolina rejects ratification
- 1789 (3/4) Constitution takes effect; Congress meets for first time

- 1789 (4/6) First quorum of Congress is assembled
- 1789 (4/30) George Washington is sworn in, and new government begins full operation
- 1789 (6/8) Madison introduces amendments for Bill of Rights in Congress
- 1789 (11/21) North Carolina ratifies Constitution
- 1789 (11/23) Thomas Jefferson returns after 5 years in Europe
- 1789 New government forms; Washington elected; Congress meets; French Revolution begins
- 1790 (Mar) George Washington and Thomas Jefferson sworn in as first President / Sec of State
- 1790 (5/29) Rhode Island ratifies Constitution
- 1790 Hamilton issues *Report on Public Credit*
- 1791 (11/3) The Bill of Rights takes effect
- 1791 First Bank of United States (BUS) established
- 1793 Washington begins second term; Proclamation of Neutrality; cotton gin patented
- 1794 (Jan) Thomas Jefferson resigns as Sec of State, returns to VA (“retires” at age 50)
- 1794 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
- 1798 (Sep) Thomas Jefferson decides to become active head of Republican Party (age 55)
- 1800 Washington DC becomes national capital
- 1801 (Mar 4) Thomas Jefferson becomes 3rd President (age 57)
- 1801 Adams appoints “midnight judges”
- 1802 Congress recalls most “midnight judges”
- 1803 Marbury vs Madison; Lewis and Clark expeditions

- 1803 (12/20) Louisiana Purchase more than doubles US land mass
- 1804 Aaron Burr kills Alexander Hamilton; Jefferson is reelected
- 1805 (Mar 4) Thomas Jefferson begins 2nd term as POTUS (age 61)
- 1805 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 Fletcher vs Peck
- 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 Andrew 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 Jackson
- 1826 (7/4) Thomas Jefferson (age 83) and John Adams die (on 50th anniversary of signing of DOI)
- 1828 Tariff of Abominations; Jackson defeats Adams
- 1831 William Lloyd Garrison publishes first issue of The Liberator
- 1832 Nullification Crisis; Worcester vs Georgia
- 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

- 1841 William Henry Harrison elected president; Harrison dies; John Tyler becomes president; *Amistad* 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 and Southwest (California, New Mexico, Nevada, and 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 state; California admitted as free state; Fugitive Slave Law passed; Taylor dies in office; Millard Fillmore becomes president
- 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; 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; *Dred Scott* 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; Civil War begins; Fort Sumter surrenders; Battle of Bull Run

- 1862 Battles of Shiloh and Antietam; preliminary Emancipation Proclamation; Homestead Act; Morrill Act; Plains Indian wars begin
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation; 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; Johnson becomes president; Thirteenth Amendment
- 1865-1885 Cattle Kingdom reaches its apex
- 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; 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; Hayes becomes president; Redeemers recapture Southern governments; Black Republicans in the South begin to decline; Chief Joseph and Nez Perez surrender; *Munn vs Illinois*; 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
- 1911 Standard Oil Supreme Court decision
- 1909-1911 Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy
- 1912 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; revolution in Mexico leads to landing of US troops at Vera Cruz; Clayton Act
- 1915 Sinking of the *Lusitania*
- 1916 Wilson reelected; US forces under General John Pershing chase Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1917 Zimmerman telegram; US declares war on Germany and Central Powers;

- 1917 (Mar) Noncommunist revolution in Russia
- 1917 (Oct) Communist revolution in Russia
- 1918 US forces in key battles at Belleau Wood and the Ardennes
- 1918 (11/11) WWI Armistice
- 1919 Versailles peace conference; Wilson offers Fourteen Points; Versailles Treaty; Eighteenth Amendment (prohibition)
- 1920 Wilson suffers stroke; Nineteenth Amendment (woman 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**
- 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 established; temporary minimum wage law passed
- 1935 Glass-Steagall Act; Wagner Act; Works Progress Administration; Social Security program is created; Neutrality Act
- 1936 **Roosevelt reelected**
- 1937 Rape of Nanking by Japanese troops; US gunboat *Panay* 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
- 1941 US declares war on Axis powers; Lend-Lease Act
- 1942 US and Britain invade North Africa
- 1942 (Apr) Jimmy Doolittle bombs Tokyo
- 1942 (May) Battle of Coral Sea
- 1942 (Jun) Battle of Midway Island
- 1943 Allies begin bombing Europe
- 1943 (Feb) Allies defeat the Afrika Korps at the battle of Kasserine Pass
- 1943 (Jul) Allies invade Sicily and Italy
- 1944 (6/6) Allies invade France
- 1944 (Aug) Paris is liberated
- 1944 (Oct) Allies invade Philippines; Battle of Leyte Gulf
- 1944 (Dec) Battle of the Bulge
- 1944 FDR reelected to 4th term
- 1945 FDR dies; Harry Truman becomes president
- 1945 (Mar – Jun) Allied landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- 1945 (May) Germany surrenders
- 1945 (Jul) Trinity test of atomic bomb
- 1945 (8/6) Bombing of Hiroshima
- 1945 (8/9) Bombing of Nagasaki
- 1945 (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 ends
- 1954 *Brown vs Board of Education*
- 1955 SEATO formed
- 1956 Soviets crush Hungarian uprising; Eisenhower reelected
- 1957 Eisenhower orders federal troops to desegregate Little Rock High School; Soviets launch *Sputnik*
- 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
- 1965 LBJ sends combat troops to Vietnam
- 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
- 1973-1975 OPEC raises oil prices; oil crisis
- 1973 Nixon withdraws last of US troops from Vietnam; *Roe vs Wade*
- 1974 Nixon resigns; Gerald Ford becomes president; War Powers Act; busing battles begin in Boston
- 1975 Vietnam 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 Reagan fires air traffic controllers; Reagan shot by John Hinckley; Congress passes Reaganomics tax cuts; Iranian hostages freed
- 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 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
- 2001 Bush declares war on terror; US invades Afghanistan and overthrows Taliban government; 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 Barack Obama reelected; Republicans win Senate
- 2016 Donald Trump elected president; Republicans control House and Senate
- 2018 Democrats win House