Keywords

1. **Puritans:** group of religious dissidents who came to the New World so they would have a location to establish a “purer” church than the one that existed in England.
2. **Separatists:** religious group that also opposed the Church of England; this group first went to Holland, and then some went on to the Americas.
3. **Indentured servants:** individuals who exchanged compulsory service for free passage to the American colonies.
4. **Mercantilism:** economic system practiced by European powers in the late seventeenth century stating that economic self-sufficiency was crucial; as a result, colonial empires were important for raw materials.
5. **Navigation Acts (1660):** acts passed by the British Parliament increasing the dependence of the colonies on the English for trade; these acts caused great resentment in the American colonies but were not strictly enforced.
6. **Triangular trade system:** complex trading system that developed in this era between Europe, Africa, and the colonies; Europeans purchased slaves in Africa and sold them to the colonies, raw materials from the colonies went to Europe, while European finished products were sold in the colonies.
7. **Middle Passage:** the voyage taken by African slaves on horribly overcrowded ships from Africa to the Americas.
8. **Salem Witch Trials (1692):** trials in Salem, Massachusetts, after which 19 people were executed as witches; historians note the class nature of these trials.
9. Salutary neglect: early eighteenth-century British policy relaxing the strict enforcement of trade policies in the American colonies.
10. **French and Indian War (1756– 1763):** also known as the Seven Years’ War, a conflict between the British and the French that also involved Native Americans and colonial militias. French defeat in this war greatly decreased their influence in the colonies.
11. **Stamp Act (1765):** imposed by the British, this act dictated that all legal documents in the colonies had to be issued on officially stamped paper. This act created strong resentment in the colonies and was later repealed.
12. **Townshend Acts (1767):** British legislation that forced colonies to pay duties on most goods coming from England; these duties were fiercely resisted and finally repealed in 1770.
13. **Boston Massacre (1770):** conflict between British soldiers and Boston civilians on March 5, 1770; five colonists were killed and six wounded. Sons of Liberty: radical group that organized resistance against British policies in Boston in the 1760s and 1770s. This was the group that organized the Boston Tea Party.
14. **Committees of Correspondence:** created first in Massachusetts and then in other colonies, these groups circulated grievances against the British to towns within their colonies.
15. **Boston Tea Party (1773):** in response to British taxes on tea, Boston radicals disguised as Native Americans threw 350 chests of tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773; important symbolic act of resistance to British economic control of the colonies.
16. **First Continental Congress (1774):** meeting in Philadelphia at which colonists vowed to resist further efforts to tax them without their consent.
17. **Second Continental Congress (May 1775):** meeting that authorized the creation of a Continental Army; many delegates still hoped that conflict could be avoided with the British.
18. **Common Sense (1776):** pamphlet written by Thomas Paine attacking the system of government by monarchy; this document was very influential throughout the colonies.
19. **Battle of Yorktown (1781):** defeat of the British in Virginia, ending their hopes of winning the Revolutionary War.
20. **Treaty of Paris (1783):** treaty ending the Revolutionary War; by this treaty Great Britain recognized American independence and gave Americans the territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.
21. **Articles of Confederation (ratified 1781):** document establishing the first government of the United States; the federal government was given limited power and the states much power.
22. **Northwest Ordinances (1784, 1785, 1787):** bills authorizing the sale of lands in the Northwest Territory to raise money for the federal government; bills also laid out procedures for these territories to eventually attain statehood.
23. **Virginia Plan:** during debate over the Constitution, the plan proposing a bicameral legislature with representatives determined by proportional representation.
24. **New Jersey Plan**: during debate over the Constitution, the plan proposing one legislative body for the country, with each state having one vote.
25. **Great Compromise:** Connecticut plan that stated that one house of the Congress would be based on population (the House of Representatives) while in the other house all states would have equal representation (the Senate).
26. **Electoral College**: procedure for electing the president and vice-president of the United States as outlined in the Constitution; electors from each state, and not the popular vote, ultimately elect the president.
27. **Three-Fifths Compromise:** as the Constitution was being created, the plan that stated that slaves would be counted as three-fifths of a free person; this was used to determine eventual membership in the House of Representatives.
28. **Federalists:** party in the first years of the republic that favored a larger national government; was supported by commercial interests. Federalists were opposed by Jeffersonians, who wanted a smaller national government.
29. **Alien and Sedition Acts:** proposed by President John Adams, gave the president power to expel “dangerous” aliens and outlawed “scandalous” publications against the government.
30. **Marbury v. Madison (1803):** critical Supreme Court decision that established the principle of judicial review, stating that the Supreme Court has the right to review all federal laws and decisions and declare whether or not they are constitutional.
31. **Louisiana Purchase (1803):** massive land purchase from Emperor Napoleon of France that virtually doubled the size of the United States.
32. **Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804):** expedition that discovered much about the western part of the North American continent and the economic possibilities there.
33. **War of 1812:** War between the British and the Americans over British seizure of American ships, connections between the British and Native-American tribes, and other tensions. The British sacked Washington, DC, in 1814. The treaty ending the war merely restored diplomatic relations between the two countries.
34. **American System:** Plan proposed by Senator Henry Clay and others to make America economically independent by increasing industrial production in the United States and by the creation of a Second National Bank.
35. **Missouri Compromise (1820):** political solution devised to keep the number of slave states and free states equal; Missouri entered the Union as a slave state and Maine entered as a free state. Potential states in the northern part of the Louisiana territory would also come in as free states in the future.
36. **Monroe Doctrine (1823):** proclamation that countries of the Western Hemisphere “are not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.”
37. **Removal Act of 1830:** Congressional act that authorized the removal of all Native-American tribes east of the Mississippi to the west; the Trail of Tears and other forced migrations caused the deaths of thousands.
38. **The Liberator:** abolitionist newspaper began by William Lloyd Garrison in 1831. Spoils system: a system used heavily during the presidency of Andrew Jackson whereby political supporters of the winning candidate are given jobs in the government.
39. **Nullification:** in reaction to tariff legislation passed in 1828, the South Carolina legislature explored the possibility of nullification, by which individual states could rule on the constitutionality of federal laws. Other Southern legislatures later discussed the idea of nullifying federal laws in their own states.
40. **Whig party:** political party that emerged in the 1830s in opposition to the Democratic party; Whigs favored policies that promoted commercial and industrial growth.
41. **Manifest Destiny:** concept that became popularized in the 1840s stating that it was the God-given mission of the United States to expand westward.
42. **Mexican-American War:** war fought over possession of Texas, which was claimed by both Mexico and the United States; the settlement ending this war gave the United States the northern part of the Texas territory and the territories of New Mexico and California.
43. **Compromise of 1850:** temporarily ending tensions between the North and the South, this measure allowed California to enter the Union as a free state but also strengthened the Fugitive Slave Law.
44. **Fugitive Slave Act**: part of the Compromise of 1850, legislation that set up special commissions in northern states to determine if accused runaway slaves were actually that. Commissioners were given more money if the accused was found to be a runaway than if he/ she was not. Many northern state legislatures attempted to circumvent this law.
45. **Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854):** compromise that allowed settlers in Kansas and Nebraska to vote to decide if they would enter the Union as free states or slave states. Much violence and confusion took place in Kansas as various types of “settlers” moved into this territory in the months before the vote in an attempt to influence it.
46. **Dred Scott case:** critical Supreme Court ruling that stated that slaves were property and not people; as a result they could not seek a ruling from any court. The ruling also stated that Congress had no legal right to ban slavery in any territory.
47. **First Battle of Bull Run (1861):** early Civil War engagement ending in defeat for the Union army; this battle convinced many in the North that victory over the Confederacy would not be as easy as they first thought it would be.
48. **Emancipation Proclamation:** January 1, 1863, proclamation that freed slaves in Southern territories was controlled by the Union army; this executive proclamation by President Lincoln also committed the Union to the abolition of slavery.
49. **Battle of Gettysburg (1863):** the bloodiest overall battle of the Civil War; many historians claim that the Southern defeat in this battle was the beginning of the end for the Confederacy.
50. **Appomattox:** Virginia courthouse where General Robert E. Lee surrendered Confederate forces on April 9, 1865.
51. **Reconstruction Era (1865– 1877):** period after the Civil War during which Northern political leaders created plans for the governance of the South and a procedure for former Southern states to rejoin the Union; Southern resentment of this era lasted well into the twentieth century.
52. **Radical Republicans:** congressional group that wished to punish the South for its secession from the Union; pushed for measures that gave economic and political rights to newly freed blacks in the South and that made it difficult for former Confederate states to rejoin the Union.
53. **Reconstruction Act (1867):** act placing Southern states under military rule and barring former supporters of the Confederacy from voting.
54. **Carpetbaggers**: northerners who moved to the South during the Reconstruction Era; traditional elements of Southern society were deeply resentful of profits made by carpetbaggers during this period.
55. **Scalawags**: term of derision used in the South during the Reconstruction Era for white Southern Republicans.
56. **Ku Klux Klan:** this group was founded in Tennessee in 1866; its oftentimes violent actions during the Reconstruction Era represented the resentments felt by many Southern whites toward the changing political,
social, and economic conditions of the Reconstruction Era.
57. **Compromise of 1877:** political compromise ending the disputed presidential election of 1876; by the terms of this compromise Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes was awarded the electoral votes of Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina, thus giving him the presidency; in return, all federal troops were removed from the South and the Congress promised to stop enforcing much Reconstruction Era legislation concerning the South.
58. **Homestead Act (1862):** bill that did much to encourage settlers to move west; 160 acres of land were given to any settler who was an American citizen or who had applied for citizenship, who was committed to farming the land for six months of the year, and who could pay the $ 10 registration fee for the land.
59. **Massacre at Wounded Knee (1890):** battle that was the last large-scale attempt by Native Americans to resist American settlement in the Great Plains region. Federal soldiers opened fire on Native Americans, killing more than 200.
60. **Dawes Act (1887):** act designed to break up Native-American tribes by offering individual Native Americans land to be used for either farming or grazing.
61. **Farmers’ Alliances:** organization that united farmers at the statewide and regional levels; policy goals of this organization included more readily available farm credits and federal regulation of the railroads.
62. **Populist party:** formed in 1892 by members of the Farmers’ Alliances, this party was designed to appeal to workers in all parts of the country. Populists favored a larger role of government in American society, a progressive income tax, and more direct methods of democracy.
63. **Turner Thesis:** 1893 thesis by the historian Frederick Jackson Turner suggesting that the innovations practiced by western settlers gradually became ingrained into the fabric of American society; democracy and self-improvement were also central to western expansion, Turner claimed. In short, Turner suggested that many of the characteristics of the “American character” were created by westward expansion. Later historians questioned parts of this thesis.
64. **Taylorism:** following management practices of the industrial engineer Frederick Winslow Taylor, the belief that factories should be managed in a scientific manner, utilizing techniques that would increase the efficiency of the individual workers and the factory process as a whole.
65. **Horizontal integration:** a strategy of gaining as much control over a single industry as possible, oftentimes by creating trusts and holding companies; this strategy was utilized by John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil.
66. **Vertical integration:** a strategy of gaining as much control over a single industry as possible by controlling the production, marketing, and distribution of the finished product. Andrew Carnegie and U.S. Steel are the best examples from the era of this approach.
67. “**Gospel of Wealth”:** the philosophy of Andrew Carnegie who believed that wealthy industrialists had an obligation to help local communities and philanthropic organizations.
68. **Knights of Labor:** established in the 1880s, this was the major union of that decade. It was made up of unions of many industries and accepted unskilled workers.
69. **American Federation of Labor:** national labor union formed by Samuel Gompers in 1886; original goal was to organize skilled workers by craft. Industrial
70. **Workers of the World:** more radical than the American Federation of Labor, this union was formed in 1905 and attempted to unionize unskilled workers not recruited by the AF of L. Members of this union were called “Wobblies.”
71. **Gilded Age:** a depiction of late-nineteenth-century America that emphasizes a surface of great prosperity hiding problems of social inequality and cultural shallowness.
72. **Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883):** federal act that established a civil service system at the federal level; for the first time, not all government jobs would be political appointments.
73. **Tammany Hall:** political machine that ran New York City Democratic and city politics beginning in 1870; became a model for other urban political machines in the late 1800s.
74. **Open Door policy:** policy supported by the United States beginning in 1899 that stated that all major powers, including the United States, should have an equal right to trade with China.
75. **Social Darwinism:** philosophy that emerged from the writings of Charles Darwin on the “survival of the fittest”; this was used to justify the vast differences between the rich and the poor in the late nineteenth century as well as American and European imperialistic ventures.
76. **Spanish-American War:** war that began in 1898 against the Spanish over treatment of Cubans by Spanish troops that controlled the island. As a result of this war, the United States annexed the Philippines, making America a major power in the Pacific.
77. **Yellow journalism:** a method of journalism that utilized sensationalized accounts of the news to sell newspapers; this approach helped to whip up nationalistic impulses that led to the Spanish-American War.
78. **USS Maine:** U.S. naval ship that sank in Havana harbor in February 1898 following an explosion; the incident was used to increase calls for war against Spain. It was never definitively determined why or how the ship was sunk.
79. **Panama Canal:** canal across the Panama isthmus that was begun in 1904 and completed in 1914; its opening enabled America to expand its economic and military influence.
80. **Roosevelt Corollary (1904):** policy that warned Europeans against intervening in the affairs of Latin America and that claimed the right of the United States to intervene in the affairs of Latin American nations if “chronic wrongdoing” was taking place.
81. **Dollar Diplomacy:** foreign policy supported by President William Howard Taft and others that favored increased American investment in the world as a way of increasing American influence.
82. **Social Gospel movement:** movement originating in the Protestant church that aimed to help the urban poor; many Progressives were influenced by this movement.
83. **Muckrakers:** writers who exposed unethical practices in both government and business during this era; newspaper editors discovered that these types of stories increased circulation.
84. **Seventeenth Amendment (1913):** U.S. Constitutional amendment that allowed voters instead of state legislatures to elect U.S. senators; this amendment had been championed by Progressives.
85. **Initiative process:** this Progressive-supported process allowed any citizen to propose a law. If enough supporters’ signatures could be procured, the proposed law would appear on the next ballot.
86. **Referendum process:** this process allowed citizens (instead of legislatures) to vote on proposed laws.
87. **Recall process:** this process allowed voters to remove an elected official from office before his or her term expired.
88. **Direct primary:** this process allowed party members to vote for prospective candidates; previously most had been chosen by party bosses.
89. **Hull House:** Settlement house in Chicago founded by Jane Addams; Hull House became a model for settlement houses around the country.
90. **National American Woman Suffrage Association:** created in 1890 by a merger of two womens’ suffrage organizations and led in its early years by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony; was instrumental in demanding women’s right to vote.
91. **Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (1911):** fire in New York City that killed 150 female factory workers. It was later found that the workers had been locked in the factory; as a result, many factory reforms were enacted.
92. **The Jungle:** Novel written by Upton Sinclair that highlighted numerous problems of the meatpacking industry and inspired the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act.
93. **American Expeditionary Force:** American force of 14,500 men that landed in France in June 1917 under the command of General John J. Pershing. Both women and blacks served in the American army during the war, although black units were segregated and usually had white officers.
94. **War Industries Board:** board that regulated American industry during World War I; it attempted to stimulate war production by allocating raw materials to factories that aided the war effort.
95. **Committee on Public Information**: agency created during the war whose mission was to spread pro-Allied propaganda through the press and through newsreels; newspapers were asked to print only articles that were helpful to the war effort.
96. **Fourteen Points:** plan for the postwar world that Woodrow Wilson brought to the Paris Peace Conference; Wilson’s plan proposed open peace treaties, freedom of the seas, arms reductions, and a League of Nations.

Britain and France were openly suspicious of these plans, but they supported the creation of a League of Nations.
97. **League of Nations:** the world body proposed by Woodrow Wilson as part of his 14-point peace plan. The League was created but without the participation of Germany, the Soviet Union, and the United States (isolationists in the Senate ensured that the treaty creating the League was never signed). As a result, the League remained a relatively ineffective body throughout its existence.
98. **Teapot Dome**: major scandal in the scandal-ridden administration of President Warren Harding; Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall had two oil deposits put under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and leased them to private companies in return for large sums of money.
99. **Red Scare**: after World War I, the fear of the spread of communism in the United States.
100. **Palmer Raids**: as part of the Red Scare, in these 1919– 1920 raids thousands of Americans not born in the United States were arrested, and hundreds were sent back to their countries of origin. Today many view the raids as a gross violation of the constitutional rights of American citizens.
101. **National Origins Act (1924):** anti-immigration federal legislation that took the number of immigrants from each country in 1890 and stated that immigration from those countries could now be no more than two percent of that. In addition, immigration from Asia was halted. The act also severely limited further immigration from eastern and southern Europe.
102. **Scopes Trial (1925):** trial of teacher John Scopes of Dayton, Tennessee, for the teaching of evolution; during this trial, lawyers Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan squared off on the teachings of Darwin versus
the teachings of the Bible.
103. **Jazz Age:** an image of the 1920s that emphasized the more relaxed social attitudes of the decade; F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby is seen by many as the novel that best depicts this view.
104. **Flapper**: the “new woman” of the 1920s, who was pictured as having bobbed hair, a shorter skirt, makeup, a cigarette in her hand, and somewhat liberated sexual attitudes. Flappers would have been somewhat hard to find in small-town and rural America.
105. **“Lost Generation”:** the group of post– World War I writers who in their works expressed deep dissatisfaction with mainstream American culture. A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway is a novel that is representative of the works of these writers.
106. **Harlem Renaissance**: the 1920s black literary and cultural movement that produced many works depicting the role of blacks in contemporary American society; Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes were key members of this movement.
107. **Hoovervilles**: settlements of shacks found on the outskirts of many American cities beginning in the early 1930s.
108. **Dust Bowl:** the name given in the 1930s to regions of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and Texas, where severe drought and poor farming practices caused massive dust storms. By the end of the decade, nearly 60 percent of all farms there were either ruined or abandoned. Many from the Dust Bowl ended up moving westward in search of jobs.
109. **Hawley-Smoot Tariff (1930):** tariff act that imposed severe tariffs on all incoming goods; European countries responded with their own high tariffs. Most historians say this tariff did little to help the American economy.
110. **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC):** federal agency established during the “First Hundred Days” of the New Deal in 1933 in an effort to halt panic over bank closings. The FDIC insures the bank deposits of
individual citizens.
111. **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC):** also established in 1933, the CCC eventually provided jobs for 2.5 million young Americans in forest and conservation programs.
112. **National Industry Recovery Act:** New Deal legislation requiring owners and labor unions in various industries to agree upon hours, wages, and prices; as a result, wages did go up for many workers but so did prices.
113. **Tennessee Valley Authority:** agency created in the New Deal to oversee the construction of dams, providing electricity and flood control for many in the Tennessee River Valley; for many in the region, this was the first time their homes had electricity.
114. **Works Progress Administration (WPA):** New Deal program that employed nearly eight million Americans; WPA projects included the construction of schools and roads. Unemployed artists and musicians were also employed by the WPA.
115. **Wagner Act:** critical piece of New Deal legislation that protected the right of workers to form unions and utilize collective bargaining.
116. **Social Security Act (1935):** New Deal legislation providing pensions for workers reaching retirement age. Both workers and employers pay into the fund that provides this benefit. Initially, farm workers and domestic workers were not covered by Social Security.
117. **New Deal Coalition:** The political coalition created by Franklin Roosevelt that, by and large, kept the Democratic Party in power from the 1930s through the 1960s; this coalition consisted of workers in American cities, voters in the South, labor unions, and blacks.
118. **Scottsboro Boys**: nine black defendants in a famous 1931 case; they were accused of raping two white women on a train, and despite the lack of evidence, eight were sentenced to death. The American Communist party organized their defense.
119. **Isolationism:** American foreign policy of the 1920s and 1930s based on the belief that it was in the best interest of the United States not to become involved in foreign conflicts that did not directly threaten American interests.
120. **Yalta Conference:** meeting held at Yalta in the Soviet Union between President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin in February 1945; at this meeting critical decisions on the future of postwar Europe were made. At Yalta it was agreed that Germany would be divided into four zones, that free elections would take place after the war in Eastern Europe, and that the Soviet Union would join the war against Japan.
121. **Bataan Death March:** after the Japanese landed in the Philippines in May 1942, nearly 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners were forced to endure a 60-mile forced march; during this ordeal, 10,000 prisoners died or were killed.
122. Manhattan Project: secret project to build an atomic bomb that began in Los Alamos, New Mexico, in August
1942; the first successful test of a bomb took place on July 16, 1945.
123. **Rosie the Riveter:** figure that symbolized American working women during World War II. After the war, women were expected to return to more traditional roles.
124. **Double V Campaign:** campaign popularized by American black leaders during World War II emphasizing the need for a double victory: over Germany and Japan and also over racial prejudice in the United States. Many blacks who fought in World War II were disappointed that the America they returned to still harbored racial hatreds.
125. **Internment Camps:** mandatory resettlement camps for Japanese Americans from America’s West Coast, created in February 1942 during World War II by executive order of President Franklin Roosevelt. In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled that the camps were legal.
126. **Satellite countries:** Eastern European countries that came under the control of the Soviet Union after World War II; the Soviets argued that they had liberated these countries from the Nazis and thus they had a right to continue to influence developments there.
127. **Iron Curtain:** Term coined by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in a March 1946 speech in Fulton, Missouri; Churchill forcefully proclaimed that the Soviet Union was establishing an “iron curtain” between the free countries of Western Europe and the Communist-controlled countries of Eastern Europe.
128. **Containment Policy:** policy devised by American diplomat George F. Kennan; Kennan believed that the United States needed to implement long-term military, economic, and diplomatic strategies in order to “contain” the spread of communism. Kennan’s ideas became official U.S. government policy in the late 1940s.
129. **Truman Doctrine:** articulated in 1947, this policy stated that the United States would support any democratic nation that resisted communism.
130. **Marshall Plan:** American plan that spent $ 12 billion for the rebuilding of Western Europe after World War II; the plan produced an economic revival and helped stave off the growth of Communist influence.
131. **Berlin Airlift:** American effort that flew in supplies to West Berlin after the Soviet Union and the East German government blocked the roads to that city beginning in June 1948; American airplanes flew in supplies for 15 months, causing the Soviet to call off the blockade.
132. **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance between the United States and Western European countries that was formed in April 1949.
133. **Warsaw Pact:** a military pact formed in 1955 between the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite countries.
134. **HUAC:** House Un-American Activities Committee; in 1947 this committee began to investigate the entertainment industry for Communist influences.
135. **Blacklist:** list created by HUAC and various private agencies indicating individuals in the entertainment industry who might be Communists or who might have been influenced by Communists in the past; many individuals named in the blacklist could not find work in the industry until the 1960s.
136. **McCarthyism:** term used to describe the accusations by Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy and his supporters in the early 1950s that certain people in government, academia, and the arts were secret communists. McCarthy’s charges were largely unsubstantiated.
137. **Domino theory:** theory that if one country in a region fell under communist rule, then other countries in the region would follow; this theory would be used to justify American involvement in Vietnam.
138. **Sputnik:** the first artificial satellite, launched in 1957 by the Soviet Union; the fact that the Soviets launched a satellite before the United States shocked many in the American scientific community.
139. **Brown v. Board of Education (1954):** Supreme Court decision stating that “separate but equal” schools for white and black students were unconstitutional and that school districts across America must desegregate with “all deliberate speed”; controversy over enforcement of this decision was to last for more than a decade.
140. **Montgomery bus boycott (1955):** effort by blacks in Montgomery, Alabama, to have the local bus company end discriminatory seating and hiring policies. The movement started with the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man; the boycott was later led by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
141. **Baby boom**: From 1947 to 1962 Americans married and had children at a record pace; the “high point” of the baby boom was 1957.
142. **The Feminine Mystique:** book written by Betty Friedan describing the frustration felt by suburban women in the 1950s; this book was a landmark for feminists of the 1960s and 1970s.
143. **James Dean:** young actor whose character in the film Rebel Without a Cause inspired many rebellious young people of the 1950s.
144. **Beat Generation:** literary movement of the 1950s; writers of this movement rejected the materialistic American culture of the decade. Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William Burroughs were key writers of this movement.
145. **New Frontier:** Group of domestic policies proposed by John Kennedy that included Medicare and aid to education and urban renewal; many of these policies were not enacted until the presidency of Lyndon Johnson.
146. **Great Society:** Overarching plan by President Lyndon Johnson to assist the underprivileged in American society; it included the creation of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Head Start and Medicare programs. Some Great Society programs were later reduced because of the cost of the Vietnam War.
147. **Civil Rights Act of 1964:** Major civil rights legislation that outlawed racial discrimination in public facilities, in employment, and in voter registration.
148. **Black power:** The philosophy of some younger blacks in the 1960s who were impatient with the slow pace of desegregation; its advocates believed that blacks should create and control their own political and cultural institutions rather than seeking integration into white-dominated society.
149. **Roe v. Wade (1973):** Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal (with some restrictions).
150. **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution:** Congressional resolution passed in August 1964 following reports that U.S. Navy ships had been fired on by North Vietnamese gunboats off the Vietnam coast; in essence it gave the president the power to fight the Vietnam War without approval from Congress. Many historians doubt if any attack on U.S. ships actually took place.
151. **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS):** radical, activist student organization created in 1960 that advocated a more democratic, participatory society. SDS was one of the major student organizations opposing the Vietnam War.
152. **Counterculture:** a movement by young people in the 1960s who rejected political involvement and emphasized the need for personal instead of political revolution. Many members of the counterculture wore long hair and experimented with various drugs, with sex, and with unconventional living arrangements.
153. **Kent State University:** campus in Ohio where four students who were part of a 1970 protest against U.S. involvement in Cambodia were shot and killed by National Guardsmen.
154. **Southern Strategy:** political strategy implemented by President Richard Nixon to win over Southern whites to the Republican Party; the strategy succeeded through administration policies such as delaying school desegregation plans.
155. **Détente:** foreign policy of decreasing tensions with the Soviet Union; began in the first term of the Nixon administration.
156. **Watergate:** the series of events beginning with the break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, DC, that led to the downfall of President Richard Nixon; Nixon resigned as the House of Representatives was preparing for an impeachment hearing.
157. **OPEC:** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; the group of twelve countries that produce most of the world’s oil and, by determining production quantities, influence worldwide oil prices.
158. **Camp David Accords (1978):** peace agreement between Israel and Egypt that was mediated by President Jimmy Carter; many consider this the highlight of the Carter presidency.
159. **Iranian Hostage Crisis:** diplomatic crisis triggered on November 4, 1979, when Iranian protesters seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held 66 American diplomats hostage for 444 days. President Carter was unable to free the hostages despite several attempts; to many this event symbolized the paralysis of American power in the late 1970s.
160. **Religious right:** right-leaning evangelical Christians who increasingly supported Republican candidates beginning with Ronald Reagan.
161. **Iran-Contra Affair:** scandal that erupted during the Reagan administration when it was revealed that U.S. government agents had secretly sold arms to Iran in order to raise money to fund anti-Communist “Contra” forces in Nicaragua. Those acts directly contravened an ongoing U.S. trade embargo with Iran as well as federal legislation limiting aid to the Contras. Several Reagan administration officials were convicted of federal crimes as a result.
162. **New Right:** conservative movement that began in the 1960s and supported Republican candidates into the twenty-first century; many voters from the South and from the middle class were attracted by the New Right’s emphasis on patriotism and strict moral values.
163. **Operation Desert Storm (1991):** military action by the United States and a coalition of allied nations against Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein after Iraq had invaded Kuwait; this operation was a resounding success, although the decision was made not to force Saddam Hussein from power.
164. **Whitewater:** a series of real estate dealings in Arkansas involving Bill Clinton long before he became president; Republicans accused Clinton of associated financial improprieties, but no charges were ever proven. The Whitewater affair was one of several accusations that eventually led to Clinton being impeached by the House of Representatives but acquitted by the Senate.
165. **Contract with America:** a list of conservative measures proposed by Republicans after winning control of the House of Representatives in 1994; it included term limits and promises to balance the federal budget and to reduce the size of the federal government. Republican supporters of the Contract were led by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.
166. **Neoconservatism:** modern American political philosophy that opposes big-government approaches to domestic issues yet favors an interventionist and aggressive foreign policy; most neoconservatives advocated American intervention in Iraq in 2003.