**US History EOCT Study Guide**

**Chapter 1 - Colonialism**

* Mercantilism was a theory based on the belief that rulers should accumulate as much gold and silver as possible. Mercantilists encouraged European rulers to acquire colonies in the Americas as a source of precious metals and for favorable terms of trade.
* The rise of trans-Atlantic trade encouraged the development of colonies.
* Most of England’s Southern Colonies (Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Georgia) began as commercial ventures. Investors hoped to make money and colonists sought their own land. The Southern Colonies had a long growing season and a warm climate. Colonists became successful by planting tobacco, cotton and indigo, and exporting these crops to England.
* Several New England Colonies were founded for religious reasons (the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the Puritans in Massachusetts Bay, and Roger Williams in Rhode Island). Connecticut and New Hampshire were settled by colonists from Massachusetts. New England had harsh winters and a short growing season. New Englanders became especially active in shipbuilding, fishing and trade.
* Several of the Mid-Atlantic Colonies (New York, New Jersey and Delaware) were captured by the English from the Netherlands. Another Mid-Atlantic Colony, Pennsylvania, was founded by William Penn as a home for Quakers. The Mid-Atlantic Colonies showed greater diversity than elsewhere. Their climate was milder than farther north or south, and they became the “bread basket” of the thirteen colonies.
* Different groups of Africans were captured by rival tribes, marched to the coast of West Africa and sold to Europeans engaged in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The captives were chained together and crammed into ships for the “Middle Passage”—the crossing of the Atlantic to the West Indies or the thirteen colonies. Enslaved Africans were harshly treated, sold at auctions, and forced to labor on plantations, as house servants and at other tasks. Southern planters relied increasingly on enslaved Africans to grow the crops they exported to England.
* despite their harsh treatment, Africans contributed to colonial architecture, agriculture, and foodways; for example, African ways of growing rice were adopted by farmers in South Carolina.
* The thirteen colonies displayed great ethnic diversity with English, African, Scots, Scots-Irish, Dutch and German settlers. Each group made contributions to colonial society, including foods, furniture and housing styles, clothing and words that were adapted to the English language.
* The thirteen colonies also displayed great religious diversity, with different Protestant groups, Catholics and Jews.
* Colonial merchants, especially from New England, engaged in triangular trades—for example, their ships carried rum and manufactured goods to Africa, enslaved Africans from Africa to the West Indies (Caribbean), and sugar from the West Indies to New England.
* The colonists enjoyed the traditional rights of English subjects, including the right to trial by jury guaranteed in Magna Carta in 1215. Because England was so far away, the colonists also developed their own forms of self-government: the House of Burgesses (1619); the Mayflower Compact (1620); the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639); and William Penn’s Frame of Government
* (1682). By 1750, all the colonies had a colonial assembly and a governor (usually chosen by the British government). During the period of Salutary Neglect, the British let the colonists largely govern themselves.
* The Great Awakening was an outburst of religious feelings in the colonies in the mid-18th century. Preachers urged their listeners to seek salvation. The Great Awakening challenged traditional authority, brought colonists together in large assemblies, encouraged people to think for themselves, and helped to unify the colonies

**Chapter 2: The American Revolution**

* Britain and France fought in the French and Indian War (1754–1763). Britain won the war, and France was forced to surrender control of Canada to the British. The war laid the groundwork for future conflict by leaving the British with a large debt.
* King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763 prohibiting the colonists from settling west of the Appalachians in order to prevent conflict with the Indians. This angered many colonists.
* Parliament tried to impose new taxes on the colonists without their consent. Parliament passed the Stamp Act (1765), requiring the colonists to use revenue stamps on newspapers and legal documents. Colonists responded with speeches, protests, petitions, hostile attacks on revenue officials, and boycotts of British goods.
* Samuel Adams started the “Sons of Liberty,” which organized protests and boycotts of British goods. The “Daughters of Liberty,” a group of patriotic women colonists, was also established. “Committees of Correspondence” were formed so that “Patriots” from different colonies could inform each other of their anti-British activities.
* Parliament repealed the Stamp Act but passed new taxes on common household goods, also without the colonists’ consent. This led to further protests, and these taxes were also repealed.
* Parliament imposed a new tax on tea. In December 1773, colonists disguised as Indians threw tea into Boston Harbor in the “Boston Tea Party.” Parliament passed the “Intolerable Acts” (1774), closing Boston Harbor and suspending the Massachusetts legislature until the tea was paid for.
* The American Revolution began in April 1775, when British troops were sent to arrest colonial leaders and recover arms in Lexington and Concord. Patriotic “minutemen” and British redcoats fired on each other.
* Representatives from the colonies met in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress. They created the Continental Army and appointed George Washington, a Virginian, as its commander.
* Washington was able to force the British out of Boston but was defeated in New York City and forced to retreat. To boost sagging morale, he crossed the Delaware River to defeat Hessian mercenary troops at the Battle of Trenton.
* Thomas Paine published an influential pamphlet, *Common Sense*, arguing that the colonies should declare their independence. His arguments were persuasive to many.
* The Second Continental Congress appointed a “Committee of Five,” which included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, to draft a “Declaration of Independence.”
* Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration. He borrowed much of his reasoning from John Locke’s writings on natural rights and the social contract. The Declaration argued that: (1) men have “unalienable rights”—the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”—which cannot be taken away; (2) governments are created to protect these rights; and (3) when a government tries to destroy these rights, the people have the right to change their government, by force if necessary. Jefferson listed all of the colonial grievances against George III and argued that the King’s actions were so despotic that the colonists had no choice but to declare their independence.
* The Continental Congress voted in favor of independence on July 2, 1776; its members signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
* The British planned to divide the rebellious colonies in two by cutting a line through New York. Three British armies were supposed to meet near Albany, but two of the armies never came and the third surrendered at the Battle of Saratoga (1777).
* Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were sent to negotiate an alliance with France. The French finally signed a treaty of alliance when they received news of the British defeat at Saratoga.
* During a harsh winter at Valley Forge (1777–1778), the Continental Army was short of supplies. Two volunteers from Europe, Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette, helped Washington to train and drill his troops.
* The British took the war to the South. In 1781, their troops were trapped at Yorktown by American and French forces. Cornwallis surrendered a large British force. The British Parliament decided not to pursue the war any longer.
* Geography played a crucial role in many battles of the Revolution. At Trenton, the Hessians were surprised that the colonists had re-crossed the Delaware River and could reach them in such cold weather. At Saratoga, the wilderness slowed the British advance. At Yorktown, control of Chesapeake Bay by the French navy blocked a British retreat and forced Cornwallis to surrender. In general, the colonists benefited from the fact that they were fighting on their own soil while the British were fighting a war thousands of miles away from their homeland.
* During the Revolution, many women were active in promoting the Patriot cause. They raised money, sewed clothes, and kept family farms. Many African Americans also helped the revolutionaries, although others were attracted to the British, who offered freedom from slavery. Some Northern states began abolishing slavery in the aftermath of the Revolution. Most Indian tribes sided with the British, who appeared less likely to seize their lands, but a few tribes sided with the colonists.
* In the Treaty of Paris (1783), the British recognized the independence of the United States and its control of lands east of the Mississippi River.

**Chapter 3 – Articles of Confederation and New Constitution**

* The Articles of Confederation created a weak central government— a “league of friendship” between the states. Each state had one vote in the Confederation Congress. There was no national executive or judicial branch. The Confederation Congress could not raise its own troops or tax citizens or states directly.
* The Confederation Congress passed the Land Ordinance (1785) and the Northwest Ordinance (1787). These ordinances (laws) established rules for the Northwest Territory. The Land Ordinance divided the territory into townships of 36 sections, with one section set aside to support public schools.
* The Northwest Ordinance established a procedure for the admission of territories as new states on an equal footing with existing states; it also prohibited slavery and guaranteed freedom of religion and the right to a trial by jury throughout the Northwest Territory.
* Because the national government was so weak, many Americans feared their country could not stand up to foreign nations.
* Daniel Shays led a rebellion of poor farmers and debtors in Massachusetts. Shays’ Rebellion was suppressed but there was no national army to stop it if it had spread. This led many Americans to call for a stronger national government.
* In May 1787, delegates gathered in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead, they set about writing a new constitution altogether. The delegates quickly agreed to create a national government with three separate branches: a legislature (Congress), an executive (the President) and a judiciary (the Supreme Court).
* Delegates disagreed over representation in Congress. Virginia, a large state, proposed two houses based on proportional representation— larger states would have more members. New Jersey, a small state, proposed each state have equal representation. The delegates finally adopted the “Great Compromise”: each state would have two Senators in the Senate and a number of members in the House of Representatives proportional to its size.
* Delegates from slave and non-slave states also disagreed on whether slaves should be counted in calculating a state’s representation. They reached the “Three-Fifths Compromise”: three-fifths of a state’s enslaved population would be counted for purposes of both representation and taxation.
* A key feature of the new Constitution was the principle of “limited government”—the new federal government could only exercise those powers given to it by the Constitution.
* Other key constitutional principles were federalism (division of power between the federal and state governments), the separation of powers (division of power between the 3 branches) and checks and balances (ability of one branch to stop others).
* Anti-Federalists opposed ratification (approval) of the Constitution because they feared the new government would threaten individual liberties. Anti-Federalists also objected that it contained no bill of rights.
* Federalists argued that a stronger government was needed and that constitutional principles like federalism and the separation of powers would prevent the new government from becoming too strong. Federalist arguments were best expressed in The Federalist Papers by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay.
* The first ten amendments, added in 1791, are known as the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, of the press, of religion, and of assembly, and the right to petition the government.

**Chapter 4: The First Presidents of the Republic**

* George Washington was our nation’s first President and set important precedents - actions that would be followed later. The most important precedent was the creation of the Cabinet—a group of all the heads of government departments, such as the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, who meet regularly to advise the President.
* During Washington’s Presidency, Alexander Hamilton presented his financial plan to Congress. Hamilton proposed: (1) the nation pay its debts and those of the states to establish its good credit; (2) a tariff on foreign manufactured goods; (3) a national bank; and (4) a tax on whiskey. Hamilton and Washington later led an army to put down a rebellion of farmers in western Pennsylvania who objected to the whiskey tax.
* Jefferson and Madison opposed Hamilton’s plan, giving rise to the first political parties, known as the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
* The French Revolution further divided these political parties: Federalists favored Britain, and Democratic-Republicans favored France.
* Washington issued the Proclamation of Neutrality to keep America out of war when Britain and France started fighting in 1793. At the end of his second term, Washington published his “Farewell Address,” advising Americans to stay out of permanent alliances with Europe and to avoid political parties.
* John Adams became the nation’s second President in 1797. Adams was a Federalist. During his Presidency, the United States and France nearly went to war.
* Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which gave President Adams the power to send aliens (*foreigners*) back to Europe. The Sedition Act made it a crime to criticize the government. Jefferson and Madison thought these acts violated the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.
* The Alien and Sedition Acts were very unpopular and may have cost Adams the Presidential election of 1800. Instead, Thomas Jefferson was elected President. Jefferson considered this the “Revolution of 1800” because power passed peacefully from one political party to another.
* President Jefferson sent a negotiator to Paris to obtain New Orleans when France acquired Louisiana from Spain. Jefferson wanted to be sure farmers could still ship their goods down the Mississippi River. Napoleon offered to sell all of the Louisiana Territory. Jefferson was unsure whether the Constitution permitted him to accept, but he snapped up the offer because the deal was so favorable. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States, gave Americans control of the Mississippi River, and put America on the path of westward expansion. It also expanded Presidential power.
* Britain tried to prevent Americans from trading with France, while France tried to stop them from trading with Britain. Jefferson imposed an embargo prohibiting all foreign trade until Britain and France lifted their restrictions. The embargo hurt Americans more than foreigners.
* British officers were encouraging Indian tribes to attack American settlers in the Northwest, while British ships were continuing to “impress” (*seize*) American sailors at sea in their search for deserters. “War hawks” in Congress thought this might be a good time for Americans to seize Canada. These factors led to the outbreak of the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain.
* James Madison was President during the War of 1812. He had to flee the White House when the British temporarily occupied Washington, D.C., in 1814. Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star Spangled Banner,” our national anthem, when the British failed to take Baltimore.
* During the War of 1812, Americans were forced to buy American manufactured goods since British ones were not available. This helped American manufacturers.
* In 1814, a peace treaty was signed ending the War of 1812. The treaty left borders just as they had been before the war. Americans had preserved their independence. The war was a crucial step in the development of our national identity
* James Monroe became the next President. Now, France helped restore the King of Spain to his throne in Spain. Many feared the French would also help Spain to recover its former colonies in Latin America. President Monroe issued the “Monroe Doctrine” (1823) warning colonial powers not to try to regain by force those colonies that had successfully won independence. **For the Georgia Milestones EOC Assessment, you should know that:**

**Chapter 5: The Age of Jackson**

* Jacksonian Democracy expanded suffrage to all adult white males when states dropped their property qualifications. Political parties began holding nominating conventions to pick their candidates.
* President Jackson saw himself as the champion of the “common man”; however, Jacksonian Democracy did not extend to enslaved African Americans, Indians or women.
* The Nullification Crisis took place when South Carolina claimed the right to nullify the Tariff of 1832 and seemed likely to secede, until President Jackson threatened the use of force to uphold the Union.
* President Jackson asked Congress to pass the Indian Removal Act, requiring all Indian nations, including the Cherokee, to move west of the Mississippi River.
* The North, South, and West were all affected by the rise of industry: The North became a center of commerce and manufacturing; the West grew food for the rest of the country; and the South grew cotton and other cash crops for factory production.
* Different sections of the country became linked together by the “Transportation Revolution” (roads, canals, steamboats, railroads and telegraphs). Their economies grew more interdependent.
* Henry Clay proposed his “American System” to unite the country: a tariff would protect Northern industries and yield revenues to finance internal improvements in the West; the South would benefit by selling its cotton to Northern manufacturers; the National Bank would continue to promote stability and growth. Clay’s plans were opposed by President Jackson, who thought Clay’s system gave powers to the federal government that belonged to the states.
* The Second Great Awakening encouraged social reform movements, including temperance (the campaign to prohibit alcoholic beverages), tax-payer supported public education, voting rights for women (women’s suffrage), and abolitionism (the movement to end slavery).
* The invention of the cotton gin and the demand of factories for raw cotton led to the spread of slavery in the South, where slaves lived in terrible conditions.
* With the rise of abolitionism, slavery become a major issue in American politics.
* Slave rebellions created a wave of fear among white Southern landholders.

**Chapter 6: The Civil War**

* The Missouri Compromise (1820) admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, and restricted slavery in the northern part of the Louisiana Territory.
* President James K. Polk helped fulfill the goal of “Manifest Destiny” by annexing Texas, dividing the Oregon Territory with Great Britain, and obtaining California and the Southwest from Mexico as a result of the Mexican War.
* The acquisition of new territories in the Mexican War contributed to growing sectionalism when Americans had to decide whether or not to allow slavery in these territories. Southerners wanted to permit it while most Northerners were opposed.
* The Compromise of 1850 solved the problem of admitting California as a free state by applying popular sovereignty to decide whether other territories in the Mexican Cession would allow slavery and by enacting a stricter fugitive slave law.
* The compromises over the extension of slavery to new territories began to fall apart with the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Supreme Court decision of *Scott v. Sandford,* and John Brown’s raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry.
* Political parties were divided in the Presidential election of 1860, leading to the election of Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln with only 39% of the popular vote.
* After Lincoln’s election, South Carolina and other states in the Lower South immediately seceded. Four states in the Upper South seceded once fighting began.
* There was a growing economic disparity between the North and the South. The North had a larger population, more railroad lines, and greater industrial output than the South.
* President Lincoln used emergency powers to win the war. He suspended the right to have a writ of *habeas corpus*, making it more difficult to criticize the government’s handling of the war. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in states still in rebellion on January 1, 1863. He delivered the Gettysburg Address, explaining that the war was a test of American democracy. After his re-election in 1864, he gave his Second Inaugural Address. In this speech, he saw the war as punishment for America’s sin of slavery but proposed a lenient and conciliatory treatment of the South.
* Jefferson Davis was the President of the Confederacy. Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson were brilliant strategists and gifted battlefield commanders, who skillfully delayed the Confederate defeat. Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman were Northern generals who introduced the concept of “hard war” to the South, attempting to destroy both the enemy’s army and sources of supply.
* The Civil War began when South Carolina began firing on Fort Sumter. General Robert E. Lee’s advance into Maryland was stopped at the Battle of Antietam, the single bloodiest day of the war. The Battle of Gettysburg was the turning point of the war and the last time that Lee advanced into the North. General Ulysses Grant captured Vicksburg after a long siege, giving the North control of the Mississippi River Valley and dividing the Confederacy in two. General Sherman marched through Georgia, spreading destruction and burning the city of Atlanta.
* Geography had a major impact on these important battles.

**Chapter 7: Reconstruction Era**

* The Reconstruction Era refers to the period of rebuilding the South after the Civil War.
* President Lincoln proposed a lenient treatment of the South; after ten percent of a Southern state’s population took an oath of loyalty, the state would be readmitted into the Union. However, Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.
* Andrew Johnson became the next President. He was from Tennessee and Congress suspected he was too friendly to white Southerners. He pardoned Confederate leaders and let Southern states elect former Confederates and pass “Black Codes,” restricting the movement and activities of the former slaves.
* Southern states at first passed Black Codes to keep the freedmen in conditions close to slavery, but these codes were repealed by Congress with the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment.
* Radical Republicans took control of Congress. They granted full civil and political rights to the freedmen, divided the South into occupation zones, and imposed martial law on the South.
* The House of Representatives impeached President Johnson but the Senate failed to remove him from office.
* The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, better known as the Freedmen’s Bureau, gave support to former slaves, poor whites and American Indians. It gave out rations at the end of the war, and later provided schooling to the freedmen.
* The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery; the Fourteenth Amendment defined citizenship and guaranteed all citizens equal rights from state governments; and the Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed qualified citizens the right to vote regardless of race.
* During Reconstruction, African Americans participated fully in political life in Southern states. They were elected to Congress and to offices in state and local government. Carpetbaggers from the North and scalawags also joined Reconstruction governments.
* White Southerners joined the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups. They committed acts of terror to resist racial equality during the Reconstruction Era.
* The Presidential election of 1876 led to the end of Reconstruction. Samuel Tilden won the popular vote but there were 20 disputed votes in the Electoral College. Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes won all 20 disputed votes by promising to end Reconstruction in the South. After his election, the U.S. Army was withdrawn from the South and Reconstruction ended.

**Chapter 8: Rise of Industrial America**

* The spread of railroads after the Civil War had a great impact on manyindustries, including steel and oil. The building of railroads required vast amounts of steel, lumber, and coal.
* Railroads carried crops, livestock, manufactured goods and oil. They created a national market for goods and services. Railroad companies helped Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company by giving it special rebates.
* Successful entrepreneurs introduced innovations and benefited from economies of scale to develop new industries. Andrew Carnegie transformed the steel industry while John D. Rockefeller developed the oil business. Carnegie acquired his own sources of coal and iron ore, and built his own railroads and steamboats to transport raw materials and steel. This was known as vertical integration. Rockefeller took control of almost the entire U.S. oil refining industry in what is known as horizontal integration. Both attempted to control their industries through trusts and monopolies.
* The public were sympathetic towards the great entrepreneurs but also supported legislation to curb their power.
* Key inventions, including the telegraph, telephone, and electric light bulb, greatly influenced the U.S. infrastructure.
* Workers formed labor unions to improve their working conditions, raise wages and reduce the number of hours they worked. Eventually, members of several craft unions joined together in the American Federation of Labor, led by Samuel Gompers. The American Federation of Labor focused on issues like wages and working hours rather than seeking more general political reform.
* Immigration changed in these years and had a great impact on the economy, politics and culture of the United States. New Immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe. In the Far West, immigrants arrived from China and Japan. The New Immigrants often lived in urban neighborhoods with others speaking the same language. They provided a cheap and hard-working labor force for industrialists. Immigrants introduced new words, foods and customs. Many voted for political machines that helped them adjust to their new lives in the United States. Both European and Asian immigrants faced prejudice and hardship.
* European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island in New York City, where they were checked for diseases and processed for admission to the United States. Asian immigrants were processed at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.

**Chapter 9: The Last Frontier**

* The first transcontinental railroad was constructed in 1869 by immigrant laborers.
* It was mainly Chinese immigrants who built the Central Pacific Railway, which went from Sacramento eastward, through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, to Utah; Irish immigrants built the Union Pacific Railroad westward from Omaha.
* The transcontinental railroad shortened the time needed to cross the country, led to the destruction of the buffalo that had lived on the Plains, and opened the Great Plains and Far West to settlement by ranchers and farmers.
* The Great Plains and Far West were already occupied by Indian tribes. Each Indian tribe had its own customs, traditions and way of life. The Plains Indians depended on the buffalo for their way of life.
* The federal government signed treaties with different tribes, obtaining some of their lands but guaranteeing to protect other lands. In 1868, General Sherman signed a treaty with the Sioux guaranteeing their control of the Black Hills of South Dakota.
* When gold was later found in the Black Hills, Colonel Custer took mining experts and troops into Indian territory. Settlers began arriving in violation of the treaty. Sioux and Cheyenne warriors defeated Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. The following year the U.S. Army defeated the Sioux and forced them onto reservations.
* Other tribes were also forced onto reservations. The United States defeated those Indians that attempted to resist during the “Indian Wars” (1877–1890). Indian warriors were no match for battle-hardened U.S. troops with superior weapons. The Plains Indians also could not survive without the buffalo on the Plains.
* Indian resistance to the westward expansion of the United States ended with their confinement on reservations. The growing number of settlers on the Great Plains also put pressure on the Plains Indians to move to reservations.
* Reservation lands were often unfamiliar and inferior to lands previously controlled by the tribe. Tribes enjoyed relative independence on their reservations. Federal agents often pocketed money and provisions intended for the tribes.
* Reformers tried to assimilate the Indians into mainstream American life. They sent Indian children to reservation schools and boarding schools, where they became Christians and learned English instead of their own beliefs and traditions.
* The construction of the transcontinental railroad, the relocation of the Indian tribes onto reservations, and the Homestead Act (1862) led settlers to move to the Great Plains and Far West.
* Farmers came up with innovative solutions to deal with the dry climate and dense grass of the Plains: they dug wells to get to groundwater and used windmills to pump the water to the surface. They built houses out of sod bricks and made fences of barbed wire. They used steel plows to break up the tough sod and plant seeds. They formed clubs and associations to fight loneliness.

**Chapter 10: Progressive Era**

* Muckrakers were writers and journalists who promoted change by exposing social problems: for example, Ida Tarbell exposed the unfair tactics of John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company, and Upton Sinclair exposed the unhealthy practices of the meat processing industry. Sinclair’s book, *The Jungle*, led to the passage of the Meat Inspection Act (1906).
* Women played important roles in the reform movements of the Progressive Era. They ran “settlement houses.” They also fought to improve the conditions of workers, to have state inspections of factories, to prohibit child labor, and to obtain women’s suffrage (*the right to vote*).
* Progressives were responsible for major legislative actions at the local, state and federal levels. In general, Progressives were middle-class reformers who wanted to use the power of government to correct the worst abuses of industrial society, to end corruption in government, to limit the influence of “Big Business,” and to preserve opportunities for the middle class.
* Progressive legislative actions included: (1) steps for the empowerment of voters (secret ballot; initiative, referendum and recall; direct election of U.S. Senators; primary elections; women’s suffrage in some states); (2) new labor laws (state laws limiting working hours for women; prohibition of child labor that was later found unconstitutional; Clayton Antitrust Act preventing courts from using antitrust laws against labor unions; state fire codes for workplaces after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire); and (3) laws promoting conservation (creation of National Conservation Commission; creation of new national parks; designation of national monuments). Other important Progressive reforms included the Pure Food and Drug Act, lower tariffs, the introduction of graduated income tax, and the creation of the Federal Reserve System.
* Southern states disenfranchised their African-American citizens in the late 19th century. They used literacy tests, poll taxes and white primaries to take away African Americans’ voting rights. White citizens preserved their rights through “grandfather” clauses.
* Southern state legislatures also established a system of racial segregation, in which African Americans and white residents used separate water fountains, public restrooms, park benches, waiting rooms, railway cars, and similar facilities. These segregation laws became known as “Jim Crow” laws.
* The U.S. Supreme Court upheld these segregation laws in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), so long as states offered African Americans “separate but equal” facilities. This decision led to an expansion of state segregation laws across the South. In addition, President Woodrow Wilson introduced segregation into the federal government.
* The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was formed in reaction to the disenfranchisement of African-American citizens and the passage of “Jim Crow” laws in the South. NAACP leaders like W.E.B. Du Bois vowed to fight for African- American rights and equal opportunities.

**Chapter 11: American Imperialism**

* America’s relationship with the rest of the world changed towards the beginning of the twentieth century.
* The United States entered the Spanish-American War in 1898 to prevent further atrocities by the Spanish government against Cubans. American newspapers stimulated public interest in Cuba, and most Americans blamed the Spanish government for the explosion of the *USS Maine* in Havana Harbor.
* During the Spanish-American War, U.S. troops defeated the Spanish army in Cuba, while the American Pacific fleet defeated the Spanish navy in the Philippines.
* U.S. forces occupied former Spanish colonies, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. A debate occurred in the United States on whether the country should annex any of these territories and become an imperial power.
* Imperialists argued that Americans needed to acquire these territories before a European power did so. They felt that the United States needed to have its own colonies to become a strong international power. They thought that having colonies would also promote American trade. Finally, they argued that Americans had a humanitarian responsibility to help less developed peoples.
* Anti-imperialists opposed American imperialism. They argued the United States should not acquire colonies, which violated American principles of self-government. They felt free trade was more profitable than owning colonies.
* In the end, the United States annexed most of these territories, including Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Guam and Samoa. The United States did not annex Cuba because Congress had promised it would not do so before the war. But even Cuba fell under indirect American control. The United States also annexed Hawaii at this time. The Spanish-American War thus led to the beginning of U.S. imperialism.
* Filipinos had already declared independence and written their own constitution. They did not expect to be annexed by the United States. When it became clear that the United States would annex the Philippines rather than grant them their independence, Filipino leaders began a war against the United States. This conflict lasted much longer than the Spanish-American War.
* U.S. leaders were especially interested in the Caribbean region, which was close to the United States. They did not want to see European powers establishing their own bases in this region. President Theodore Roosevelt announced the “Roosevelt Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine: the United States would not let foreign powers like Britain or France interfere in the Caribbean region. If a Caribbean or Central American nation owed money to a European power, Roosevelt announced the United States would step in and act as an international policeman by collecting the debt and repaying the European power.
* The Spanish-American War had showed the need for finding a faster route from the Atlantic to the Pacific so that the United States could join its two fleets in a military emergency. President Roosevelt wanted to build a canal through Panama, the narrow isthmus connecting North and South America.
* In 1903 the United States negotiated with the government of Colombia for control of a strip of land to build the canal, but the two countries could not agree on terms. When a group of Panamanian rebels declared independence, Roosevelt seized the opportunity to give them support in exchange for control of the Panama Canal Zone.
* Construction of the canal was very challenging and took more than ten years to complete. Engineers had to drain swamps to reduce yellow fever. They had to bring in steam shovels and build massive locks to raise and lower ships passing through the canal.
* Protecting the Panama Canal became an important goal of U.S. foreign policy.

**Chapter 12: The US in WWI**

* + World War I broke out in Europe in 1914 between the Allies (Britain, France and Russia) and the Central powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire). The countries at war quickly reached a deadlock, with defensive trenches running hundreds of miles across Europe.
  + Britain set up a naval blockade of Germany. Germany declared a blockade of Britain of Allied shipping and war supplies to Britain, which it enforced with its submarines. Americans continued, as neutrals, to trade with Britain.
  + In the first three years of the war, the United States followed its traditional policy of neutrality. Publication of the secret Zimmerman Telegram, in which Germany offered Mexico the return of some of its former territory taken by the United States, and unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany led to American entry into the war in April 1917.
  + Entry into the war had important domestic effects. Men volunteered or were conscripted into military service. New government agencies coordinated wartime production, the railways, the use of coal and gasoline, and labor disputes.
  + As men went off to war, women and minorities filled their places in factories, farms, and railroads. African Americans left the South for jobs in Northern factories, beginning the “Great Migration.”
  + During the war, individual rights were restricted in the interests of national security. The Espionage Act of 1917 permitted government censorship of the mails and imprisonment of those who interfered with the draft. The Sedition Act of 1918 prohibited the use of “disloyal” language. The socialist and labor leader Eugene Debs was imprisoned for speaking out against the war.
  + The arrival of American troops in Europe broke the deadlock between the Allies and the Central powers. In November 1918, Germany surrendered.
  + President Woodrow Wilson announced American war aims in January 1918 in the “Fourteen Points.” These included national self-determination for the peoples of Europe; freedom of the seas; equal trade terms; a reduction in armaments; an end to secret diplomacy; and the creation of the League of Nations.
  + President Wilson traveled to Paris to negotiate the treaties ending the war. The Treaty of Versailles was especially harsh on Germany. The Treaty included a section creating the League of Nations, a new international organization to preserve peace. When Wilson returned to the United States, the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the treaty or to join the League of Nations.

**Chapter 13: The Roaring Twenties**

* + Fears of rising communism and socialism in the United States led to the “Red Scare” (1919–1921).
  + The Red Scare, belief in “Anglo-Saxon” superiority, and a dislike of Southern and Eastern Europeans led to the first restrictions on immigration from Europe, with the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the even more restrictive Immigration Act of 1924.
  + The Eighteenth Amendment (1919) established Prohibition, forbidding the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks; it had the unintended consequence of leading to the rise of organized crime, and was subsequently repealed.
  + The Nineteenth Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote, encouraging greater self-expression and self-confidence among women, leading women to enter into new occupations, and creating a new influence in elections.
  + The Twenties was a time of economic prosperity for many, when mass production and advertising led to increasing consumerism and helped to create a common national culture.
  + The Twenties saw a great spread in the use of the automobile, which contributed to the period’s economic prosperity and a shared national identity.
  + Radio and movies were first introduced in the 1920s and acted as unifying forces in creating a national culture.
  + The Twenties was a period when modern forms of cultural expression emerged, such as jazz music and the Harlem Renaissance.

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## Chapter 14: Great Depression and New Deal

* The causes of the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression included overproduction, under-consumption, the effects of stock market, speculation and shaky banking.
* The tearing up of prairie grasses and breaking up the top soil through plowing on the Great Plains, when combined with droughts in the early 1930s, led to the “Dust Bowl.” The disaster thus had both natural and human causes. This catastrophe led many farmers to lose their farms and migrate westward to California.
* The Great Depression led to widespread unemployment, which had social and political effects, including the loss of savings when banks failed, homelessness, and the rise of shantytowns known as “Hoovervilles.”
* Franklin D. Roosevelt won the Presidential election in 1932 by promising Americans a “New Deal.” His efforts at relief, recovery, and reform were reflected in various New Deal programs. Relief measures provided temporary support to help people survive the crisis. Recovery measures were to help the economy get moving again. Reform measures were to prevent future depressions.
* The Social Security Act was important to the Second New Deal and provided a federal “safety net” to working Americans by providing old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and benefits for orphans and those with disabilities.
* Major political challenges to the New Deal arose from those who thought it expanded federal power too much, from those who thought it didn’t do enough to redistribute income and help the poor, and finally from the Supreme Court, which invalidated several early New Deal programs. Roosevelt’s “court-packing” plan aroused opposition across the country, but in its aftermath, the Supreme Court stopped ruling against New Deal programs.
* Eleanor Roosevelt changed the role of the “First Lady” by playing an active role in promoting New Deal programs for those in need, including women, minorities and young Americans

**Chapter 15: World War 2**

* Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933. Based on his Nazi ideology, Hitler planned to conquer much of Europe. In September 1939, he launched an invasion of Poland, beginning World War II. Germans overran Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and France but were unable to defeat the British. In June 1941, Hitler ordered the invasion of the Soviet Union.
* Americans attempted to stay out of the war in Europe. Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts that prohibited shipping munitions to countries at war. When Americans became worried about the collapse of democracy, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act, which permitted the United States to send arms to Britain, for which the British could pay later.
* The United States threatened to boycott Japan and cut off its supply of oil, leading the Japanese to launch a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war.
* Hitler declared war on the United States because of Germany’s alliance with Japan. President Roosevelt decided to focus the American war effort on defeating Germany first.
* U.S. involvement in the war led to the mobilization of manpower and resources: men were drafted; after wartime conversion, American factories began producing war goods; women and minorities found jobs in wartime production; essential goods like gasoline, rubber and aluminum were rationed; and the government began selling war bonds.
* President Roosevelt issued executive orders that led to the internment of Japanese Americans on the West Coast and that mandated the integration of workers of all races in defense industries.
* Women worked in war industries, including heavy industry, and were able to enlist in the army or navy for the first time.
* Americans faced difficulties in delivering weapons, food, fuel and medical supplies to their troops in Europe and the Pacific. In sending supplies across the Atlantic, Americans faced attacks from German submarines and aircraft. Americans reduced these dangers by sending merchant ships in convoys with escorts, and by developing escort ships that could carry aircraft that attacked submarines. In sending supplies to the Pacific, Americans faced the challenges of vast distances, the tropical climate and the fact that the European campaign took priority in receiving supplies. In some cases, the need for supplies delayed Allied advances.
* Americans and British delayed opening a second major front in Western Europe while the Soviets faced most of the German army; instead Americans and British sent troops to North Africa, Sicily and Italy.
* On “D-Day” (June 6, 1944), the Western Allies opened a second front in Western Europe by landing troops on the beaches of Normandy in the largest amphibious operation in history.
* After D-Day, American and British forces advanced on Germany from the west while Soviet troops advanced from the east. Soviet troops occupied Berlin in April 1945. Germans fought ferociously in the Battle of Berlin, which led to the destruction of much of their city. Hitler committed suicide at the end of April and the German army officially surrendered in early May.
* The Battle of Midway (June 1942) was the turning point in the war against Japan. In this naval battle, the United States used its superior intelligence to trick the Japanese and destroy several of their aircraft carriers.
* The United States began a campaign of “island hopping,” taking some Pacific islands and passing over others.
* After the surrender of Germany, the United States put its full efforts into the campaign against Japan; after fierce fighting on several islands, Americans prepared for a full-scale invasion of Japan.
* The top-secret “Manhattan Project” developed the world’s first atomic bombs. Two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in early August 1945 on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to the Japanese surrender and the end of World War II.

**Chapter 16: Truman and Eisenhower Administrations:**

* After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union entered into a “Cold War”: the United States promoted democracy and capitalism, while the Soviet Union promoted its system of communism.
* The Cold War began in response to Stalin’s failure to fulfill his agreement at Yalta to allow free elections in Poland. Instead, communist governments were put into place in all those countries occupied by the Red Army, and an “Iron Curtain” fell on Eastern Europe.
* President Truman decided to oppose any further expansion of communism in Europe with his “containment” policy—the United States would not challenge communism in Eastern Europe, but would not permit communism to spread any further.
* When Greece and Turkey were threatened by communism in 1947, Truman announced the “Truman Doctrine”—the United States would assist all free peoples resisting communism. Under the Truman Doctrine, the United States sent financial aid, weapons, and military advisers to Greece and Turkey, enabling these countries to resist communism.
* To help European nations struggling with the economic devastation of World War II, the United States introduced the Marshall Plan in 1948—a program of economic aid from the United States. This program helped Western European nations rebuild their economies, resist communism, and become future trading partners with the United States.
* When communist North Korea attacked South Korea in 1950, President Truman sent U.S. troops with U.N. authorization to help the South Koreans. Although the North Korean army had almost overrun all of South Korea, General MacArthur was able to save the situation by landing forces close to Seoul and chasing the North Koreans out of South Korea. When MacArthur advanced into North Korea all the way to the border with China, China entered the war. MacArthur wanted to use nuclear arms against China. He publicly criticized President Truman, leading to his own dismissal. The war dragged on inconclusively until the election of Dwight Eisenhower. An armistice was finally concluded in 1953, which left Korea divided just as it had been before the war.
* The struggle against communism led to a new “Red Scare” at home. Some believed the fall of China and the Soviet development of nuclear weapons could be blamed on communist spies in the United States. Senator Joe McCarthy claimed to have a list of communists in the State Department and later made similar unsubstantiated claims against other government departments. His accusations caused anti-communist hysteria that lasted several years and destroyed many people’s careers, until people realized he had no evidence to support his claims and he was censored by Congress.
* The G.I. Bill gave important benefits to World War II veterans, including unemployment payments, payments for college or other further training, low-cost loans for home mortgages, and loans to start their own businesses. With the development of massproduced tract housing, many veterans could afford to buy their own homes in the suburbs, while two million veterans returned to college to use their G.I. benefits. The G.I. Bill contributed to the postwar prosperity of the United States.
* President Truman ordered the racial integration of the armed services in 1948 with Executive Order 9981.
* President Eisenhower helped unify the country and promote prosperity by proposing the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act. This act, passed by Congress in 1956, led to the construction of our interstate highway system. These interstate highways link different parts of our country, make it easier for people living in suburbs to commute to urban centers, and make it easier to move troops in the event of a national emergency.
* In *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the earlier decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), by ruling that racial segregation had no place in public education because separate educational facilities were “inherently unequal.” As a result of *Brown*, public schools across the South had to be integrated, although this took several years and was often fiercely resisted by Southern state governments.
* Americans were shocked when the Soviet Union was the first to send a satellite into outer space with the launching of Sputnik in 1957. Many feared this meant the Soviets could also send intercontinental missiles with nuclear warheads to the United States. In response to Sputnik, President Eisenhower created NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to oversee the U.S. space program, and Congress passed the National Defense Education Act to provide federal funding for math and science education. Three years later, President Kennedy announced that Americans would land a man on the moon by the end of the decade, which they succeeded in doing in 1969

**Chapter 17: The Kennedy and Johnson Administrations**

* + John F. Kennedy’s performance in television debates helped him win the 1960 Presidential election.
  + Kennedy authorized the Bay of Pigs invasion hoping to overturn Fidel Castro. The invasion failed and drove Castro closer into the arms of the Soviet Union.
  + In October 1962, U.S. spy planes saw sites in Cuba were being prepared for Soviet missiles with nuclear warheads capable of striking the United States. This triggered the “Cuban Missile Crisis,” when the world came dangerously close to nuclear war. Kennedy instituted a naval blockade and threatened to invade Cuba if the missiles were not removed. Soviet leader Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles for a pledge that the United States would not invade Cuba and would remove its missiles from Turkey.
  + Civil rights groups used marches, demonstrations, “sit-ins,” “freedom rides,” and other tactics in the struggle for equal rights.
  + Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was arrested in Birmingham and wrote his “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” He explained why, after 340 years, African Americans could no longer wait patiently for their constitutional rights.
  + Kennedy proposed a civil rights bill. Dr. King and other civil rights leaders held a “March on Washington” in support of the bill. Dr. King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in which he told of his dream that one day America would honor its creed that “all men are created equal.” King dreamt of the day when Americans of all races, colors, and religions would “sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”
  + In November 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated. In the aftermath of Kennedy’s death, President Lyndon B. Johnson was able to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex or religion by public accommodations affecting interstate commerce (for example, hotels, motels, and restaurants).
  + President Johnson declared a “War on Poverty.” After his re-election in 1964, Johnson introduced his “Great Society” programs to help eliminate poverty. These included Medicare and Medicaid, increased federal aid for education and urban development, and aid to the poverty-stricken region of Appalachia.
  + Cesar Chavez organized migrant farm workers, who demanded better wages and living conditions. Chavez started the United Farm Workers Association and led marches, strikes, and boycotts.
  + The introduction of television had a great impact on American politics and culture. Kennedy’s performance in televised debates helped him win the 1960 election. News coverage showing the brutality of the police and state troopers in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, increased nationwide support for the Civil Rights Movement and led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Live coverage of the horrors of the war in Vietnam turned many viewers against the war. Television also permitted Americans to share common moments, such as the moon landing in July 1969.
  + In 1954, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam. The North came under the rule of a communist government led by Ho Chi Minh. When South Vietnam refused to participate in nationwide elections with the North, Vietcong (Vietnamese Communists) aided by North Vietnam began a rebellion in the South.
  + Americans intervened to protect South Vietnam. American leaders believed in the “domino theory”—that if South Vietnam fell to communism, nearby states would follow.
  + In August 1964, the U.S. government claimed that North Vietnam had shot at U.S. ships in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving the President full powers to act in Vietnam against North Vietnamese aggression. In March 1965, President Johnson sent the first American combat troops to Vietnam.
  + Americans proved unable to win the war despite their superior technologies and escalation in their troop strength. By 1968, there were half a million American troops in Vietnam.
  + 1968 was a year of turmoil. The Tet Offensive showed that the North Vietnamese and Vietcong could launch powerful attacks in South Vietnam and that the war was far from over. The U.S. military requested 200,000 more troops in Vietnam but Johnson’s advisers told him the war could not be won. Johnson began a partial bombing halt and invited the North Vietnamese to peace talks. On March 31, President Johnson announced he would not seek re-election as President.
  + On April 4, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Tennessee. Dr. King’s assassination led to rioting in many American cities, including Washington, D.C. Police and federal troops were needed to stop the rioting.
  + Robert F. Kennedy—the younger brother of the deceased President—decided to run for President. Kennedy won the Democratic primary in California but was assassinated at his victory celebration. The nomination of Vice President Hubert Humphrey by Democrats was assured. Antiwar protesters came to demonstrate at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where they faced police violence. Television crews showed the violence on the streets of Chicago. Eight of the demonstrators were placed on trial.
  + Republicans nominated Richard Nixon, who claimed to have a secret plan to end the war and promised “peace with honor.” With the Democrats badly divided, Nixon won the election.

**Chapter 18: Nixon, Ford, and Carter:**

* + President Nixon promised to end the war in Vietnam by giving Americans “peace with honor.” He withdrew American troops through the process of Vietnamization, while increasing the bombing of North Vietnam and widening the war to neighboring Cambodia and Laos.
  + The United States and North Vietnam finally agreed to a cease-fire in the Paris Peace Accords (1973): the United States withdrew its troops; North Vietnam released American POWs; and North Vietnamese troops were permitted to remain in South Vietnam.
  + Congress passed the War Powers Act to strengthen Congressional influence on foreign policy and limit the President’s ability to fight wars without their approval.
  + Nixon visited communist China in 1972 and began the process of normalizing U.S.Chinese relations. Nixon hoped this step might put pressure on North Vietnam. This development opened the way for later U.S.-China trade.
  + Nixon approved the legislation creating the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA.
  + The Women’s Liberation Movement sought equal opportunities for women. Supporters organized the National Organization for Women, or “NOW,” which was founded in 1966.
  + Nixon resigned the Presidency because of the Watergate scandal. Tapes of White House conversations showed he had participated in the cover-up and had attempted to pay off the Watergate burglars, who had broken into Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Complex in Washington, D.C.
  + A month after becoming President, President Ford pardoned Nixon for any possible criminal activity he might have committed. The pardon was very unpopular.
  + Jimmy Carter, the former Governor of Georgia, was elected President in 1976 as a Washington “outsider.”
  + President Carter asserted the importance of human rights in U.S. foreign policy. He brought Prime Minister Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt together at Camp David, Maryland for twelve days, where they concluded the Camp David Accords. Egypt would establish diplomatic relations with Israel, and Israel would return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt.
  + In 1979, the Shah of Iran was overthrown in a popular revolt. Ayatollah Khomeini and other religious leaders took over and declared Iran to be an Islamic Republic.
  + On November 4, 1979, students in Iran’s capital city of Tehran seized the staff of the U.S. Embassy and held them hostage. Carter was unable to obtain their release through either negotiations or military action, weakening his Presidency.
  + Carter lost the Presidential election of 1980 against Ronald Reagan.

## Chapter 19: Reagan, George HW Bush, Clinton, George W Bush, Obama

* President Reagan applied “Reaganomics” to fight stagflation: he lowered tax rates, reduced spending on welfare and other domestic programs, and cut back on government regulations. This was a turning point in the degree of government involvement in the economy.
* Reagan attempted to “roll back” communism. He proposed the Strategic Defense Initiative to defend Americans from a nuclear attack.
* Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced reforms into Soviet society, including greater openness. His reforms led Eastern Europeans to demand their independence. Gorbachev refused to use force to suppress Eastern Europe, leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.
* Reagan met with Gorbachev several times and they began reducing the number of nuclear missiles.
* Following the example of Eastern Europe, the different republics of the Soviet Union, including Russia, also demanded their independence. This finally led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, when George H.W. Bush was President.
* The focus of George H.W. Bush’s Presidency was on foreign affairs. In his economic policies, he generally followed Reagan.
* During Bill Clinton’s Presidency, Americans enjoyed prosperity caused by reductions in military spending, lower taxes, increased trade, and a revolution in information technology.
* President Clinton was impeached in the House of Representatives for having lied under oath about his relationship with a White House intern. The Senate did not have enough votes to remove him from office.
* George W. Bush, the son of George H.W. Bush, became President after one of the closest election contests in U.S. history.
* Shortly after Bush became President, al Qaeda terrorists crashed commercial jet planes into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., leading to the deaths of about 3,000 people.
* In response to the September 11th attacks, President Bush called for a “War on Terror.” This led him to launch an invasion of Afghanistan to topple the Taliban, to create the Department of Homeland Security, to conduct increased wiretapping and surveillance, and to invade Iraq in 2003.
* At the end of his Presidency, Bush faced a severe economic crisis. He authorized government bailouts and expenditures to prevent an even worse crash.
* The Presidential election of 2008 was historic because it showed an African American could be elected as President of the United States only 40 years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
* During these years (1980–2008), Americans experienced a revolution in information technology—with the introduction of the personal computer, the Internet and social media. These changed the ways in which Americans worked, entertained themselves, and communicated.