

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1901	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congress passes the Platt Amendment making Cuba a US protectorate. Cuba had to append it to its constitution before US withdrawal from the island. The Amendment is repealed in 1934. 2. Insular Cases are decided by the Supreme Court, which states that territory acquired by the US might be subject to the jurisdiction of the US without being a part of it. 3. President McKinley is shot by an anarchist at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY. He dies and Theodore Roosevelt becomes 26th President of the US. 4. US citizenship is granted to the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles). 5. US and Britain sign the second Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which gives the US the right to build, operate, and fortify any canal across the Isthmus of Panama. 6. Secretary of War, Elihu Root, establishes the Army War College. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. US Steel Corporation is organized by financiers headed by Elbert H. Gary and J. P. Morgan. 8. First significant oil strike in Texas at Spindletop, near Beaumont. 9. King C. Gillette begins manufacturing modern safety razor with disposable blades. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. First American Bowling Club tournament is held in Chicago. 11. Frank Norris publishes <i>The Octopus</i>, a realistic novel about California wheat growers. 12. President Theodore Roosevelt urges “Speak softly and carry a big stick” to emphasize the need for strong official policy. The saying becomes very popular, particularly among cartoonists.
1902	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maryland passes the first state workmen’s compensation law. 2. Chinese Exclusion Act is extended to prohibit the immigration of Chinese from the Philippine Islands. 3. Oregon becomes the first state to adopt the use of the initiative and referendum. People can initiate popular vote on laws and override rulings by the legislature. 4. President Roosevelt appoints commission to settle the strike by anthracite coal miners demanding union recognition, an eight-hour day, and a wage increase–f 5. Reclamation Act provides funds from the sale of public lands to finance the irrigation of arid Western areas. President is given authority to retain public lands for public use as parks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Walter Sutton, geneticist, claims that chromosomes occur in pairs and carry the units of heredity. 7. William C. Gorgas, army surgeon, controls an epidemic of yellow fever in Havana by killing mosquitoes and destroying their breeding areas. 8. Telegraph cable is laid from California to Hawaii. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Blue uniforms of U. S. Army are changed for olive drab. Experience during Spanish-American War showed that blue is too easily seen. 10. First post-season football game is held at the Tournament of Roses. Michigan beats Stanford.

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1903	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elkins Act strengthens the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 forbidding railroads to deviate from published rates and holding railroad companies liable in cases of rebating. 2. Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty gives the US a 10-mile strip of land across Panama for \$10 million an annual payment of \$250,000. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Orville and Wilbur Wright launch the world's first successful manned flight in a motorized airplane. The flight, at Kitty Hawk, NC, covered 852 feet and lasted 59 seconds. 4. Henry Ford organizes and becomes president of the Ford Motor Company. 5. First Pacific cable opens. President Roosevelt sends a message around the world; it comes back to him in 12 minutes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. First trip across the US by automobile is completed, A Packard car takes 52 days to drive from San Francisco to New York. 7. Richard Steiff designs the first teddy bears, named after President Roosevelt.
1904	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Party nominates Eugene Debs for President 2. Supreme Court rules the holding company of Northern Securities violates the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. 3. Theodore Roosevelt and Charles W. Fairbanks are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. 4. President Roosevelt asserts US right to intervene in Latin American affairs in order to maintain order and to prevent European intervention. This is known as the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Woman arrested in New York City for smoking a cigarette while riding in an open automobile. 6. First Olympic Games held in the US as part of the Exposition in St. Louis, Mo. US wins 21 events.
1905	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Roosevelt initiates peace conference at Portsmouth, NH, that ends the Russo-Japanese War. He is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1906) for his role as a mediator. 2. Industrial Workers of the World (the "Wobblies"), a radical labor organization, is founded in Chicago by Eugene Debs. It tries to unite all workers and to establish control by unions over production. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The number of registered automobiles rises to 77,988 as compared to only 300 ten years earlier.

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1906	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pure Food and Drug Act prohibits the sale of impure foods and drugs and requires statement of content on labels. 2. Meat Inspection Act is passed by Congress as a result of public disclosure of unclean conditions in Chicago meat packing plants. 3. Congress passes Employers' Liability Act which the Supreme Court declares unconstitutional in 1908. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Fessenden broadcasts the first radio program of voice and music. 5. Edison invents the "cameraphone," a device that synchronizes a phonograph and a projector for sound motion pictures. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Upton Sinclair publishes <u>The Jungle</u>. The book's lurid description of the meat packing industry causes the passage of food inspection laws. 7. The word <i>muckraker</i>, is first used by President Roosevelt to refer to authors who bring about reform by exposing unpleasant or corrupt aspects of American life. 8. Most severe earthquake in US history destroys most of San Francisco. 9. President Roosevelt dedicates Devil's Tower, Wyoming, the first national monument.
1907	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Japan in "Gentlemen's Agreement" recognized the right of the US to refuse Japanese laborers entry into the US. 2. Oklahoma becomes the 46th state. Congress refuses to allow the state to be named after Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee alphabet. 3. US Navy sails the so-called "Great White Fleet" to the Pacific and around the world to exhibit US naval power. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Financial Panic of 1907 begins with the fall of the stock market; many banks fail throughout the country. A study by Congress of the currency and banking systems ultimately leads to the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. First fleet of taximeter cabs, imported from Paris, arrives in New York City. 6. Mother's Day is observed for the first time in Philadelphia through the efforts of Anna M. Jarvis, who arranges a special church service. 7. First public showing of early talking and color motion pictures in Cleveland. Audience sees and hears some grand opera, a bullfight, and a political speaker.
1908	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congress passes bill regulating child labor in Washington, DC, hoping the separate states will do the same. 2. Root-Takahira Agreement between the US and Japan upholds the Open Door Policy in China (1899). 3. William Howard Taft and James S. Sherman are elected President and Vice President on the Republican Ticket. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. GE patents the electric iron and toaster. 5. Hiram Maxim invents the silencer for use on firearms. 6. The 47-story Singer Building in New York City is America's first skyscraper. 7. Ford introduces his Model T, which costs \$850. By 1909 his company is turning out 19,000 automobiles a year. Ford makes his operation so efficient that by 1926 the price drops to \$310. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Lt. Thomas W. Selfridge, of the US Signal Corps, is the first person to die in an airplane accident. He is a passenger with Orville Wright, who is seriously injured in the crash.

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1909	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black and white leaders meet in New York and form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to fight for African-American rights. 2. Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution is sent to the states for ratification. It grants Congress power to levy and collect an income tax. 3. Congress enacts Payne-Aldrich Tariff setting high protective rates. 4. 700,000 acres of government-owned land in Washington, Montana, and Idaho is opened for settlement. 5. Gifford Pinchot, head of the National Conservation Commission, makes first systematic listing of resources on public lands. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Incandescent lamps are used in automobile headlights. They replace carbide flame jets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Lincoln Penny replaces the Indian-head penny which has been in use for 50 years. 8. First substantial animated cartoon is shown. <i>Gertie the Dinosaur</i> is made up of 10,000 drawings by newspaper cartoonist Winsor McCay. 9. Robert E. Peary and his African-American aide, Matthew Henson, are the first to reach the North Pole.
1910	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interstate Commerce Commission orders a reduction in Pullman car rates and in railroad freight rates. 2. President Taft dismisses Pinchot for publicly criticizing the administration's handling of coal lands in Alaska. 3. Theodore Roosevelt makes speeches advocating a "New Nationalism." He is angered by scandals in the conservation program and by liberal Republican policies. 4. Mann-Elkins Act strengthens powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission over railroads. It also places telephone, telegraph, and cable companies under the jurisdiction of the ICC. 5. Mann Act prohibits the transportation of women from one state to another for immoral purposes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Francis P. Rous, discovers that some cancers can be caused by a virus. 7. T. H. Morgan discovers that some inherited characteristics are sex-linked. 8. George A. Hughes begins production of a practical electric cooking range. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. US population is 91.9 million; 8.7 million immigrants have arrived since 1900. Of people over 25 years old, fewer than half have completed grade school, and about 4% have graduated from college. 10. Father's Day is celebrated for the first time. 11. William Howard Taft is the first President to open the baseball season by throwing out the first pitch. 12. Boy Scouts of America and the Camp First Girls are established.

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1911	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robert La Follette, Senator from Wisconsin, helps found the National Progressive Republican League, which seeks adoption of direct primaries, direct elections of senators, and state constitutional reform. 2. US troops are sent to the Mexican border to protect US citizens and property; fighting during the Mexican Revolution occurs so close to the border that US citizens gather to watch. 3. Supreme Court, under the Sherman Antitrust Act, order the dissolution of the Standard Oil Company (for “unreasonable” restraint of trade) and the American Tobacco Company (monopoly). 4. Senate passes bill for direct election of senators under federal supervision. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Carrier invents the air conditioner. 6. John M. Browning, Utah gunsmith, invents the Browning automatic pistol. 7. Isaac N. Lewis, PA inventor, develops the Lewis machine gun that is widely used on World War 1 warplanes. 8. Electric self-starter for automobiles is demonstrated by General Motors. With the new starter it is no longer necessary to crank the engine to get it running. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The will of journalist Joseph Pulitzer calls for the establishment of the now coveted Pulitzer Prize. 10. A fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City kills 146 workers. As a result, the International Ladies Garment Worker’s Union succeeds in improving working conditions and safety for its members. 11. Calbraith P. Rodgers makes the first cross-country airplane flight in 82 hours, 4 minutes.
1912	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Mexico becomes 47th state; Arizona becomes 48th state. 2. Conservative Republicans win control of the National Convention; Taft is re-nominated; Roosevelt delegates withdraw and nominate Roosevelt as the candidate of the Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party). 3. Alaska becomes an organized US territory. 4. Woodrow Wilson and Thomas R. Marshall are elected President and Vice President on the Democratic ticket. 5. Massachusetts passes the first minimum wage law for women and children (invalidated by the Supreme Court in 1923). 6. New York passes 54-hour week labor law; Congress passes eight-hour day labor law for federal employees. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Western Union and Western Electric develop a multiplex telegraph that allows eight messages to be sent over one wire at the same time. 8. Captain Albert Louis makes the first parachute jump in the US from an airplane. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Jim Thorpe, an American Indian, wins both the decathlon and the pentathlon at the Olympics in Sweden. He is called the world’s greatest athlete. Later his medals and honors are taken away when it is discovered that he had played semiprofessional baseball as a summer job while in college. 10. Spreading fad for ragtime music introduces a series of “animal dances.” Among them are: fox trot, crab step, kangaroo dip, camel walk, fish walk, chicken scratch, lame duck, snake, grizzle bear, turkey trot, and the bunny hug. 11. <i>Life</i> magazine lists the slang expressions of the year: <i>flossy</i>; <i>beat it!</i>; <i>peevied</i>; <i>sure</i>; <i>classy</i>; <i>it’s a cinch</i>; <i>what do you know about that?</i>; <i>fussed</i>.

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1913	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sixteenth Amendment (income tax) to the Constitution becomes law. 2. Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution becomes law, providing for direct election of US Senators by the people, instead of by state legislatures. 3. Congress makes the US Department of Commerce and Labor two separate departments, both with Cabinet status. 4. President Wilson signs the Federal Reserve Act which divides the country into 12 districts, each with a federal reserve bank. 5. President Wilson announces policy of “watchful waiting” in Mexican affairs. He asks for the resignation of Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta, and announces US support for the Mexican revolutionaries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ford Motor Company sets up the first moving assembly line and is soon producing 1000 Model T’s per day. Ford pays workers an unheard-of minimum wage of \$5 a day and establishes a 40-hr. workweek. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The International Exhibition of Modern Art (the “Armory Show”) in New York City has an enormous impact on American art. When the show arrives in Chicago, an effigy of Matisse’s painting “Blue Nude” is burned. 8. Hollywood becomes the center of the motion-picture industry, replacing New York.
1914	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Wilson issues proclamation of US neutrality in war between major European powers (World War 1). He offers to negotiate peace between the warring nations. 2. Federal Trade Commission is established and seeks to regulate interstate commerce. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Panama Canal is completed. It is 40 miles long from Atlantic to Pacific and cost about \$365 million. 4. Charles Lawrence, aeronautical engineer, develops the first successful air-cooled airplane engine making long-distance flights possible. 5. Cadillac develops a practical V-8 engine. 	

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1915	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US states that the loss of US ships and lives is a violation of neutrality for which Germany will be held responsible. 2. Wilson vetoes US Senate bill requiring literacy tests for all immigrants. 3. Congress establishes the US Coast Guard. 4. <i>Lusitania</i> and <i>Arabic</i> sinkings with loss of American lives bring strong protest notes from President Wilson. Changes occur in German submarine warfare. 5. US merchant ships are sunk by German submarines. 6. Bryan resigns as Secretary of State. He opposed Wilson's strong notes of protest to Germany, fearing US involvement in World War I. 7. President Wilson reluctantly agrees to US loans to warring nations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Ford plant in Detroit produces its one millionth automobile. 9. Alexander Graham Bell in New York calls T. Watson in San Francisco in the first transcontinental telephone call. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. D. W. Griffith directs a 3-hour spectacle <i>The Birth of a Nation</i>. 11. Margaret Sanger publishes <i>Family Limitation</i> and is jailed for supporting birth control.
1916	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mexican revolutionary Francisco (Pancho) Villa leads guerrilla band on raids into New Mexico and Texas, killing 17 Americans. US troops under General John J. Pershing pursue Villa into Mexico without success. US-Mexican Commission is set up to settle differences. 2. President Wilson sends ultimatum stating that unless Germany stops submarine attacks on unarmed ships, the US will sever relations. 3. Wilson and Marshall are re-elected President and Vice President. For three days the outcome is uncertain until the final count in California shows the state has gone Democratic by less than 4000 votes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Electric clocks are introduced. 5. Brigadier General John Thompson invents the submachine gun, popularly called the "Tommy gun." 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Norman Rockwell begins to create the cover illustrations for <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i>, continuing until 1963. 7. Child labor laws in South Carolina raise the minimum age of children for work in mills, factories, and mines from 12 to 14. 8. Margaret Sanger, Fania Mandell, and Ethel Burne open America's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn. 9. Lawyer and writer Louis D. Brandeis appointed to the Supreme Court, the first Jew to become a Justice. 10. First professional golf tournament is held at Bronxville, NY, by the Professional Golfers' Association, formed earlier in the year.

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1917	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Puerto Rico becomes US territory whose inhabitants are US citizens. 2. Immigration Act with literacy test for immigrants is passed over Wilson's veto. 3. President Wilson outlines to the Senate in "Peace without Victory" speech his Ten Points for establishing an international organization to prevent future war. 4. Publication of secret German note, the Zimmermann Telegram, proposing German-Mexican alliance helps President Wilson gain House approval to arm merchant ships. 5. President Wilson calls for a special session of Congress and asks for a declaration of war which he signs. 6. Congress passes Selective Service Act authorizing registration of all men, Espionage Act, War Revenue Act, and Trading with the Enemy Act. 7. General Pershing is appointed head of the American Expeditionary Force in France. 8. Congress adopts the Eighteenth Amendment which outlaws the manufacture or sale of alcoholic drinks to the Constitution and sends it to the states for ratification. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Radios are used for ground-to-air and air-to-air communication for the first time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. There are 4.8 million motor vehicles registered in the US; 435,000 of them are trucks. In this year, 1.7 million passenger cars and 181,348 commercial vehicles are produced, and there are 25,500 garages and 13,500 repair shops to service them. Average price of a new care if \$750. 11. Four women arrested for picketing for woman's suffrage (the right to vote) in front of the White House are sentenced to 6 months in prison. 12. Representative Jeanette Rankin, Republican from California, is the first woman member in the House of Representatives.
1918	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Wilson outlines to Congress the Fourteen Points, which he feels are indispensable as a basis for peace. 2. US enacts more war mobilization measures. War Finance Corporation is created to support war industries. Sedition Act broadens Espionage Act of 1917, providing heavy penalties for those who obstruct war effort. 3. US troops attack German lines and capture Belleau Wood. Half million US troops under General Pershing defeat Germans at Saint Mihiel. US forces help Allies stop German advance at Chateau-Thierry, Aisn-Marne, and Meuse-Argonne. Wilson's Fourteen Points are accepted by Germany and the Allies as the basis 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Browning invents an automatic rifle. 8. Bell invents a hydrofoil boat that goes 60 mph during a test run. 9. The US is divided into four time zones. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Influenza epidemic, traveling west from Europe, begins in eastern US and spreads to 46 states. Before it ends in 1919, about 500,000 people die. Throughout the world at least 20 million people die and one billion are ill. 11. Daylight saving time goes into effect.

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	<p>of peace negotiations, and an armistice is signed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. President Wilson announces that he will attend the Paris peace conference. He is criticized by many for his “egotism” and for not including an active Republican or a Senator on the peace commission. 5. Supreme Court rules that conscription (compulsory enrollment of men for military service) is authorized by the Constitution in Article 1. 6. Socialist leader Eugene Debs is sentenced to ten years in prison for publicly denouncing the government’s prosecution of persons charged with sedition under the Espionage Act. 		
1919	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wilson urges the establishment of the League of Nations at the Paris peace conference. Commission under Wilson drafts League’s Covenant consisting of 26 articles. 2. Eighteenth Amendment to the constitution is ratified, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, import, or export of liquor in the US. 3. Wilson submits the Treaty of Versailles with Covenant of the League of Nations to the Senate for ratification. 4. Communist Labor Party (now the American Communist Party) is formed in Chicago after split with Socialist Party. 5. Wilson makes a nationwide tour on behalf of the League of Nations and peace treaty, hoping public favor will force its ratification. He becomes ill on tour and returns to Washington, DC, where he suffers a stroke. 6. Congress passes Volstead Act over Wilson’s veto. It provides enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment. Bootleggers (illegal distillers and liquor sellers) immediately begin operations. 7. Calvin Coolidge, Governor of Massachusetts, calls out National Guard to end Boston police strike. 8. Wilson refuses to accept amendments to the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is established. 10. Glen L. Martin invents the Martin Bomber, a warplane. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Daily airmail service begins between New York City and Chicago. 12. War Department officially adopts the shoulder insignia, called a “patch,” to distinguish different Army units in battle.

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	Treaty of Versailles, and the Senate fails to ratify it. US never joins the League of Nations.		
1920	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Red Scare” results in nationwide raids by federal agents, with mass arrests of “anarchists,” Communists, and labor agitators. 2. For the second time, the Senate rejects the Treaty of Versailles and the Covenant of the League of Nations. 3. Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, granting suffrage (right to vote) to women. 4. Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. Harding campaigns from his front porch and promises a return to “normalcy.” 5. Wilson receives the Nobel Peace Prize. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The US has more than 265,000 miles of railroad tracks. 7. KDKA, America’s first commercial radio station, begins operation in Pittsburgh, PA, by broadcasting the results of the presidential election. 	
1921	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congress passes Quota Act, limiting immigration 2. Joint resolution of Congress declares World War 1 ended. Separate US treaties with Germany, Austria, and Hungary are signed and ratified. 3. End of wartime boom causes business depression and high unemployment. National conference proposes job program. 4. Ku Klux Klan promotes “white supremacy” and seeks to control politics in many southern communities. 5. Former President Taft is sworn in as Chief Justice of the United States. 6. President Harding grants pardons to Eugene Debs and 23 others convicted under the Espionage Act. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. John Larson, psychiatrist, invents the “polygraph” (lie detector). 8. James B. Collip isolates pure insulin. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are convicted of murder during a Massachusetts shoe factory robbery. Worldwide protest results, because many people believe the immigrant laborers are convicted for their anarchist beliefs rather than for murder. They are executed in 1927. 10. National Birth Control League and Voluntary Parenthood League are combined to form the American Birth Control League in New York City; League is headed by Margaret Sanger. 11. Knee-length skirts for women become the fashion, causing much comment in the press. 12. Unemployment throughout the US is 5.7 million. Widespread wage cuts in many industries include those of New York Central railroad employees (by 22.5%) and clothing workers (by 15%).

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1922	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arms Conference in Washington, DC, guarantees the US Open Door Policy in China. Nine major powers also sign treaties limiting warships, restricting the use of submarines, and outlawing poison gas. 2. Oklahoma is placed under martial law to control violence and curb Ku Klux Klan activity. 3. Supreme Court unanimously upholds Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. 4. Albert B. Fall, US Secretary of the Interior, leases, without competitive bidding, the Teapot Dome oil reserves in Wyoming and the Elk Hills oil reserves in California to private interests. Senate begins investigation of what becomes the Teapot Dome scandal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Philo T. Farnsworth, 15-year-old Idaho schoolboy, designs an image dissector system that is later developed into television. 6. Ship-to-shore radio-telephone communication begins. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Station WEAJ, New York City, broadcasts first commercially sponsored radio program.
1923	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US troops on the Rhine in Germany are ordered to return by President Harding. 2. Payment of British war debt to the US begins. 3. President Harding dies suddenly in San Francisco on his return trip from Alaska. Coolidge is sworn in as President by his father in Vermont. 4. President Coolidge's first annual message to Congress announces support for a World Court, enforcement of Prohibition, and lower taxes. This is the first official presidential message ever broadcast. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. About 13.3 million automobiles are registered, almost triple the number in 1917. 6. Radio transmission of President Coolidge's annual message is so clear that a rustling noise can be heard as the President turns the pages of his address. 7. Jacob Schick receives a patent for the first electric shaver. 8. The bulldozer is invented. 9. Dupont Company acquires the rights to manufacture Cellophane; first US-made Cellophane is produced in 1924. 	

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1924	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congress passes Soldiers' Bonus Bill over Coolidge's veto. Most veterans are paid 20-year annuities. 2. Albert Fall is indicted for conspiracy and for accepting bribes, the result of Senate hearings on the Teapot Dome scandal. After a series of trials and mistrials, he is found guilty and sent to prison in 1931. 3. Second Quota Law cuts immigration to half of 1921 quota. It provides for national origins plan to begin in 1929. The law also excludes all Asians and is bitterly resented by the Japanese. 4. Dawes Plan on German reparations goes into effect. It provides that reparation payments begin at one billion marks and rise over a period of four years to 2.5 billion marks a year. 5. Progressive Party, backed by the American Federation of Labor, Farm-Labor Party, and Socialist Party, nominates Senator La Follette of Wisconsin for President. 6. Calvin Coolidge and Charles G. Dawes are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. 7. J. Edgar Hoover becomes director of the Bureau of Investigation (renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Test flight for transcontinental air mail made in 17 hours from New York City to San Francisco. Best time in 1848 was 3 months (by ship to Panama, overland across the Isthmus, by ship to San Francisco); in 1869, 7 ½ days by railroad. 9. RCA demonstrates wireless telegraph transmission of photographs from New York City to London; process takes about 25 minutes per photograph. 10. The portable electro-cardiograph is introduced. It uses vacuum tubes to amplify the weak electrical signals produced by the heart. 11. There are 2.5 million radios in the US; in 1920 there were only 5000 sets, used mostly by professionals. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Congress passes act making all native-born Indians full US citizens. 13. After a sensational trial, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb are sentenced to life imprisonment for the kidnaping of Bobby Franks. Leopold and Loeb, intelligent and well educated, apparently decided to kill someone just to see how it would feel and picked a young boy at random.
1925	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nellie Tayloe Ross becomes Governor of Wyoming, the first woman governor in the US. 2. US agrees to drastic reduction of war debts owed by European countries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. American Telephone and Telegraph (AT & T) and General Electric (GE) jointly establish Bell Laboratories for research in physics. 4. First international radio broadcast is made between London and Maine. 5. Electric percolators are introduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Charleston becomes popular dance step with professional entertainers and the public. Children dance it for pennies on the side streets and in front of theaters at intermission. 7. Tennessee schoolteacher John T. Scopes arrested for teaching the theory of evolution, forbidden by state law. "Monkey trial" attracts enormous attention; Scopes is convicted and fined \$100.

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1926	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US fails to join the Permanent Court of International Justice and Arbitration at The Hague. 2. Congress creates the Army Air Corps. 3. Senate ratifies World War debt funding agreements with European countries. 4. Supreme Court upholds President's exclusive power to dismiss executive officials, thus voiding the Tenure of Office Act of 1867. 5. Progressive Party wins seats in Congress in fall elections. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Robert Goddard launches the first liquid-fuel rocket. 7. RCA organized the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) as the first nationwide entertainment radio broadcasting network; Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is set up in 1927. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Hemingway publishes <i>The Sun Also Rises</i>. 9. Gertrude Ederle at 19 is the first woman to swim the English Channel, in 14 hours 31 minutes. 10. Air-mail service starts between New York City and Boston.
1927	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conference to limit naval armament, called by President Coolidge, ends in stalemate at Geneva, Switzerland. 2. Supreme Court rules unconstitutional a Texas law forbidding Blacks to vote in Democratic primary elections. 3. Supreme court declares that lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserves to a private company by former Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was illegal and fraudulent. Oil fields are restored to the US government. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Synchronized sound and action motion pictures are developed for commercial use in theaters. 5. 15 millionth Model T car is produced by the Ford Motor Company, and its production is discontinued. 6. First successful airplane flight from San Francisco to Honolulu made by 2 Army Air Corps pilots. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Willa Cather publishes <i>Death Comes for The Archbishop</i>. 8. Charles A. ("Lucky Lindy") Lindbergh flies across the Atlantic from New York to France, a 3600-mile, 33 ½ hour solo flight in the <i>Spirit of St. Louis</i>. 9. Babe Ruth sets home run record when he hits 60 for the season.
1928	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socialist Party nominates Norman M. Thomas for President. 2. McNary-Haugen Bill for relief of farmers is vetoed by President Coolidge on grounds it would fix prices and stimulate overproduction. 3. US signs Briand-Kellogg Pact outlawing war. Eventually, 63 nations sign it. 4. Herbert Hoover and Charles Curtis are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. Hoover wins 40 of the 48 states. 5. Congress appropriates \$32 million to enforce Prohibition during the next year. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Station WGY, Schenectady, NY, begins scheduled television broadcasts. 7. New York Times mounts first animated electric sign in the US around Times Building, Times Square, NY. Used to report election returns, it is called the "zipper" because of the way it encircles the building. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Walt Disney releases first Micky Mouse cartoon, <i>Plane Crazy</i>; he also produces <i>Steamboat Willie</i>, first animated film to use sound. 9. First sound film, <i>The Lights of New York</i>, is released by Warner Brothers. 10. First coast-to-coast bus line is Yellowway Bus Line with service from Los Angeles to New York City; 3433-mile trip takes 5 days, 14 hours.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1929	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National origins plan goes into effect. US consuls are told to reject any immigrant who might become a “public charge.” 2. President Hoover meets with important businessmen at the White House in order to stabilize the nation’s business. Stock market crash brings depression, with unemployment and business failure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Bell Laboratories experiments with transmitting color TV signals. 4. Clarence Birdseye introduces fresh-tasting, quick-frozen foods. 5. Kodak introduces 16mm color movie film. 6. Patent issued to Sabastiano Lando for coin-operated vending machine that cannot be defrauded. 7. In first instrument flight, Lt. James Doolittle flies entirely by radio signals received in his airplane. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Hemingway publishes <i>A Farewell to Arms</i>. 9. Stock Market Crash. Before the stock market crash, 60% of US citizens had annual incomes of less than \$2000, estimated as the bare minimum for the “basic necessities of life.” 10. The “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre” takes place in Chicago when 6 members of the notorious Moran gang are lined up against a garage wall and shot by a rival gang.
1930	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate ratifies London Naval Treaty, in which the US, Britain, and Japan agree to limit cruiser construction. 2. Hoover signs Smoot-Hawley Tariff, raising duties to an all-time high. US undergoes a sharp decline in international trade, and the Depression deepens. 3. Charles Evans Hughes becomes Chief Justice of the United States. 4. Supreme Court rules that buying bootleg liquor is not a violation of the Eighteenth Amendment. 5. Congress establishes the Veterans Administration to aid former serviceman and their dependents. 6. Hoover asks Congress for \$100 to \$150 million for public works programs, announcing there are 4.5 million people unemployed. Congress appropriates \$116 million for construction work and \$45 million for drought relief. 7. State Department makes public Undersecretary of State J. Reuben Clark’s memorandum on the Monroe Doctrine. It repudiates the Roosevelt Corollary of 1904 and emphasized US doctrine to protect Latin American countries from the aggression of European powers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Bell Laboratories develops a two-way television communication system. 9. Vannevar Bush, electrical engineer, develops a differential analyzer, the first analog computer. 10. Quartz-crystal clocks are introduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Sinclair Lewis becomes the first American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. 12. Population is 122.7 million; life expectancy is 61 years. One of every five Americans owns an automobile. 13. New York City’s Bank of the United States closes because of stock market crash. Bank has 60 branches and almost half a million depositors. During this year more than 1300 banks are forced to close.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1931	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wickersham Commission reports that enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment is breaking down. It recommends revision, but no repeal of the law. 2. Congress passes Veterans Compensation Act over Hoover's veto. It permits cash loans equal to half the 1924 bonus allowances to soldiers. 3. Hoover proposes a one-year moratorium on all World War debts and reparations in order to break the worldwide depression. Congress and US financial leaders support it. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The 77-story, stainless steel capped Chrysler Building and the 102-story Empire State Building are completed in New York City. 5. Fiberglass is introduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Pearl Buck publishes <i>The Good Earth</i>. 7. Unemployment is estimated at between 4 and 5 million. Bank panic spreads. In September, 305 banks close; in October 522. 8. "Star-spangled Banner" is officially made US anthem.
1932	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) is established, headed by Charles Gates Dawes. 2. Congress submits the Twentieth ("Lame Duck") Amendment to the states for ratification. It provides for the convening of Congress on January 3rd and for inauguration day on January 20th. Vice President-elect shall succeed to the presidency if the President-elect should die before inauguration. 3. Veterans of World War 1 camp out in Washington, DC, to force Congress to pass bill for payment of their bonus certificates. Federal troops led by Douglas MacArthur disperse the "Bonus Army." 4. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John Nance Garner are elected President and Vice President on the Democratic ticket. Roosevelt's "New Deal" program stresses federal support for the economy and for social reconstruction. 5. US states that the Japanese occupation of Manchuria violates the Open Door Policy in China. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. RCA demonstrates electronic TV using a cathode-ray picture tube. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Depression reaches low point: monthly wages are about 60% of 1929; industry operates at half of 1929 volume, more than 5000 banks have closed since 1920; average monthly unemployment is 12 million. 8. Wisconsin passes first unemployment insurance law in America. 9. Amelia Earhart is first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic. Her flight from Newfoundland to Ireland takes 13 ½ hours and covers 2026 miles. 10. Radio City Music Hall opens in New York City. 11. Mrs Hattie T. Caraway, Democrat from Arkansas, is the first woman elected to the US Senate.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1933	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. 2. FDR declares a national bank holiday, suspending the activity of the Federal Reserve System and all banks. He gives first radio "fireside chat." Public confidence in the currency and the banks is restored. 3. FDR appoints Frances Perkins Secretary of Labor, the first woman Cabinet member in the US. 4. Congress enacts a wide program of anti-depression measures, including the Emergency Banking Relief Act, Economy Act, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA). 5. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) becomes an independent government agency to develop the natural resources of the Tennessee River basin. 6. Federal Securities Act requires sworn statements about all securities for sale to be filed with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). 7. Twenty-first Amendment to the Constitution, repealing Prohibition, is ratified. 8. National Recovery Administration (NRA) stimulates business and helps reduce unemployment. National Labor Board establishes the right of labor to bargain collectively. Public Works Administration (PWA) provides funds for the construction of public projects. 9. Farm Credit Act helps farmers refinance mortgages. 10. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is established. 11. National Guard is made part of the US Army. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Armstrong develops frequency modulation (FM) radio broadcasting. 13. Farnsworth develops an electronic TV receiver. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Affected seriously by the depression, 2000 rural schools do not open for the fall semester; 200,000 teachers are out of work; and about 2.3 million children are not in school; in addition, a number of colleges and universities are forced to close. 15. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employs 500,000 people to improve the environment (continues until 1942).

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1934	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gold Reserve Act grants the President authority to regulate the value of the dollar. 2. Tydings-McDuffie Act grants independence to the Philippines in 1946. 3. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is set up to control the trading of securities and to correct violations in the market. 4. Federal Communications Commission begins to regulate all national communications by telephone, radio, and cable. 5. Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation provides easier credit to farmers in debt 6. President Roosevelt initiates his “Good Neighbor Policy” with the Latin American nations; it opposes armed intervention by any foreign power. 7. Wheeler-Howard Indian Organization Act returns to various Indian tribes reservation lands which had been for sale under the 1887 Dawes Severalty Act. 8. Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act authorizes the President to raise or lower tariffs 50% for countries giving the US favorable trade agreements. 9. Federal Housing Authority insures loans to homeowners by private institutions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Wallace Carothers, chemist, produces “polymer 66,” later known as nylon. 11. Boston police begin using mobile 2-way radios. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Congress establishes the death penalty for kidnaping across state lines, a result of the kidnap-murder of the 20-month old son of Charles Lindbergh in 1932. 13. Censorship of motion pictures is begun by the Catholic Legion of Decency. 14. First general strike takes place in San Francisco in support of 12,000 striking dock-workers.
1935	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works Progress Administration (WPA) ends direct relief funds from the federal government but continues to make jobs for workers on public projects. 2. Soil Conservation Service is set up to stop soil erosion caused by the severe drought in the Great Plains (the “Dust Bowl”). 3. Rural Electrification Administration is set up to construct power lines and to provide electricity for areas not served by private companies. 4. New National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is established to oversee collective bargaining by employees and to prevent unfair labor practices by employers and unions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The first round-the-world telephone conversation covers more than 23,000 miles. It is routed from New York to San Francisco, Indonesia, Holland, England, and back to New York—to an office less than 50 feet from the phone where the call started. 12. Demster discovers U-235, an isotope of uranium later used in nuclear weapons and in nuclear power plants. 13. Pan American Airways begins transpacific air service from San Francisco to Manila. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Committee for Industrial Organizations is founded by heads of eight unions in the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Its goal is to develop industry-wide unions that include clerical and unskilled workers, as well as skilled workers who are eligible for the AFL. 15. Social Security Act establishes federal payroll tax to finance cooperative federal-state system of unemployment insurance. 16. Alcoholics Anonymous is organized in New York City.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Social Security Act provides a federal-state program of unemployment compensation and a federal program of old-age retirement insurance. 6. Wealth Tax Act increases income tax rates for wealthy individuals and corporations and raises gift and estate taxes. 7. Federal Conservation Reserve Program returns 28 million acres of crop land to grassland and forests. 8. Government restricts public utility monopolies. 9. Huey Long, Senator from Louisiana and critic of FDR, is assassinated in the state capital at Baton Rouge, La. 10. US citizens are told to travel on ships of nations at war at their own risk. 		
1936	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act gives funds to farmers who practice soil conservation. 2. Republican Party nominates Alfred M Landon for President. Republicans criticize the unconstitutionality of FDR's New Deal programs. 3. Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act sets minimum employee wages for companies having government contracts. Eight-hour day, 40-hour week, and no child labor is enforced. 4. Roosevelt and Garner are re-elected President and Vice President on the Democratic ticket. Roosevelt carries every state but Vermont and Main, winning 523 electoral votes to 8 for Landon. Congress is 80% Democratic. 5. FDR opens Inter-American Conference at Buenos Aires. Latin American nations will consult with the US for "mutual safety." 6. Gross national debt increases to about \$34 billion; government expenditures rise because of relief programs. 7. Many Americans go to Spain to fight with the Spanish Loyalists against the Fascists. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Boulder (Hoover) Dam on the Colorado River in Nevada and Arizona is completed, creating Lake Mead, America's largest reservoir with a capacity of more than 10 trillion gallons. Dam is the highest in the world. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Margaret Mitchell publishes her only book, <i>Gone With the Wind</i>. 10. Eugene O'Neill becomes the first American playwright to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. 11. It is estimated that there are 160,000 automobile trailers on the road. Some predict that soon half the country would be living in trailers. 12. Baseball Hall of Fame is established at Cooperstown, New York.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1937	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDR restricts US munitions trade with Japan. 2. Congress resists Roosevelt's plan to increase the number of Supreme Court justices from 9 to 15. He is charged with "packing the court." 3. Supreme Court upholds the Social Security Act and other New Deal legislation. 4. Neutrality Act prohibits the exporting of munitions to nations at war and the use of US ships for carrying munitions into war zones. 5. Farm Security Administration is empowered to make 40-year loans at 3% interest to help farmers, tenants, and laborers. 6. Judicial Procedure Reform Act permits federal judges to retire at 70 with full pensions after serving 10 or more years. 7. Supreme court rules the federal government can regulate local dealings of labor unions. 8. Housing Act gives loans to local communities for low-cost construction and for rent subsidies. 9. Japanese planes bomb and sink US gunboat <i>Panay</i> in Chinese waters. Japan apologizes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Dow Chemical begins manufacturing polystyrene plastic products. 11. Golden Gate Bridge is completed; main section is 4200 feet long. It is the longest span bridge up to this time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. John Steinbeck publishes <i>Of Mice and Men</i>. 13. Walt Disney produces the first feature-length cartoon, <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>, with music by Frank Churchill. 14. Amelia Earhart disappears while on a flight across the Pacific Ocean. 15. During winter of 1936-37, more than 500,000 workers quit their jobs; many engage in new, illegal sit-down strikes. 16. Minimum wage law for women is upheld by the US Supreme Court. 17. Dirigible <i>Hindenburg</i> explodes near mooring at Lakehurst, NJ, killing most passengers and crew.
1938	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDR proposes appropriations for military expansion to keep the country defensively strong. 2. House of Representatives shelves the Ludlow Resolution, which calls for a national referendum to decide a declaration of war. 3. Agricultural Adjustment Administration extends government financing of farmers and sets up crop insurance corporations. 4. Congress establishes the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) to investigate Communist, Fascist, Nazi, and other "un-American" organizations. 5. Fair Labor Standards Act raises scale of minimum wages and lowers scale of maximum hours. It also forbids child labor in industries engaged in interstate commerce. 6. US protests Japanese violations of the Open Door Policy in China. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Chester Carlson produces the first xerographic copy using a modified form of inkless electrostatic printing. 10. DuPont markets the first nylon product—a toothbrush. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Committee for Industrial Organizations, expelled from the AFL, crates independent group called Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO); leading unions are steel, auto, and mine workers. John L. Lewis elected its president. 12. "Invasion from Mars," a radio play produced by Orson Welles, causes panic when listeners think account of an attack from Mars is an actual news broadcast. 13. President Roosevelt signs Wage and Hours Act: raises minimum wage for workers engaged in interstate commerce from 25 ¢ to 40 ¢ an hour. Hours limited to 44 a week the 1st year, to 40 after the 3rd.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Most Americans accept the Munich Pact as a means to maintain peace in Europe. 8. For the first time since 1928, Republicans gain seats in Congress during elections. 		
1939	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supreme Court rules that sit-down strikes are illegal. 2. FDR asks Congress for \$535 million defense appropriation over two years. 3. Administration consolidates many New Deal programs; WPA workers are reduced. 4. Congress passes amendments to Social Security Act that broaden it to provide benefits to the dependents and survivors of workers. 5. FDR urges arbitration with Germany, Poland, and Italy to avoid war. In radio “fireside chat,” he declares US neutrality. 6. Hatch Act prohibits political-campaign activities by most federal employees. 7. Congress repeals prohibition of arms exports and authorizes sale of arms to nations at war on a “cash and carry” basis. 8. FDR orders all US ports and waters closed to submarines of nations at war. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Color television is demonstrated. 10. At the urging of Wigner, Szilard, and Teller, Einstein urges President Roosevelt to develop an atomic bomb. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The film <i>Gone With the Wind</i> premieres. 12. Irving Berlin releases the popular patriotic song “<i>God Bless America</i>,” sung by Kate Smith. 13. Steinbeck publishes <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>. 14. Nylon stockings are sold for the first time.
1940	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US does not renew its commercial treaty with Japan. 2. US sends surplus war supplies in reply to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s appeal for aid. 3. FDR asks Congress for defense appropriation of \$4.26 billion and for production of 50,000 airplanes a year. 4. Smith Act (Alien Registration Act) requires the registration and fingerprinting of all aliens and makes it illegal to advocate the overthrow of the US government by force. Registration shows approximately 5 million aliens. 5. US gives 50 outdated destroyers to Britain in exchange for 99-year leases on naval and air bases in Newfoundland and the West Indies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Peter Goldmark develops a commercially practical system for broadcasting color TV. 13. George Washington Carver Foundation for Agricultural Research is established at Tuskegee Institute (Alabama) in honor of the former slave who is best known for discovering 300 uses for the peanut. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Population is 131.6 million. More than 56% of people live in places of 2500 or more population. Life expectancy is 63 years. 15. Hemingway publishes <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i>. 16. Disney’s <i>Fantasia</i>, an animated expression of classical music, features Stokowski conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra. 17. 40-hour work week part of Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, goes into effect.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Congress creates the Selective Service System, the first US peacetime program of compulsory military service. It requires all men between ages 21 and 36 to register. 7. FDR orders an embargo on shipments of scrap iron and steel to all nations except Britain and those in the Western Hemisphere. 8. John L. Lewis asks all members of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to support Wendell Wilkie, Republican candidate for President. Lewis says he will resign CIO presidency if Roosevelt is re-elected. 9. Roosevelt is re-elected President. Henry A. Wallace is elected Vice President. Democrats also retain control of Congress. Lewis resigns as President of the CIO. 10. US Office of Production Management for Defense is set up to coordinate work in defense plants. It is authorized to send aid to countries fighting the Axis Powers. 11. National Defense Advisory Commission coordinates US civilian defense protection. 		
1941	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDR delivers his "Four Freedoms" speech, outlining what is needed for postwar peace. 2. Lend-Lease Act lends war materiel to friendly nations. 3. US agrees to defend Greenland for Denmark in exchange for the right to build and maintain military bases there. 4. Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply is set up. It immediately freezes steel prices and later announces tire rationing to conserve rubber. 5. FDR orders the freezing of all German, Italian, and (later) Japanese assets in the US. 6. US forces land in Iceland to defend it against possible attack. 7. Roosevelt and Churchill, at a secret meeting off Newfoundland, enunciate the Atlantic Charter, pledging to destroy Nazi tyranny. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Manhattan Project, under the direction of Leslie Groves, begins top-secret research to develop an atomic bomb. 16. National Nutrition Program begins; vitamins and minerals are added to milk, bread, and other common foods. 17. FCC authorizes TV broadcasting. By the end of the year, 1` million sets are sold. 18. Aerosol spray cans are introduced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin casts the only vote in Congress against declaring war on Japan after Pearl Harbor attack. 20. Orson Welles directs and stars in <i>Citizen Kane</i>, a film which introduces many new techniques 21. Mount Rushmore National Monument in South Dakota is completed.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Selective Service System repeals the 900,000-man limitation of the Army and extends the length of service of draftees to 18 months. 9. US lends the USSR \$1 billion worth of war materiel. 10. German submarines sink US destroyers <i>Kearny</i> and <i>Reuben James</i>. More than 100 Americans are lost. 11. Joseph C. Grew, Ambassador to Japan, informs FDR that Japan might attack the US. 12. Japanese naval and air forces make surprise attack on US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7th. Eighteen US warships are sunk or damaged, about 170 planes are destroyed, and about 2000 Americans are killed. 13. US declares war on Japan. 14. After Germany and Italy declare war on the US, Congress passes resolution recognizing a state of war between the US and these nations. 		
1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US & Filipino troops under General Mac Arthur retreat to the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines. Japanese force them to withdraw after strong US resistance at Corregidor. US prisoners are forced to make “Bataan Death March” to prison camps. 2. Government wartime agencies take control of housing, alien property, shipping and transportation, foreign relief, censorship, and scientific research. 3. In February, in response to pressure from military officials and west coast political leaders, the President creates the War Relocation Authority (WRA), to oversee the internment of Japanese-American citizens. There were approximately 127,000 persons of Japanese descent in the US—about 1/3 were unnaturalized, first-generation immigrants (Issei); 2/3 were naturalized or native-born citizens of the US (Nisei). Eventually, about 100,000 would be “interned” in camps away from so-called “sensitive” areas that included all of the west 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Szilard and Fermi produce the first nuclear reaction and split the atom. 14. Bell Aircraft builds and tests the first US jet, the XP-59. 15. Seaborg, now directing the top-secret “Plutonium Project,” develops a process for removing plutonium from uranium. 16. US and Canada establish the Nutrition Foundation, recognizing nutrition as a formal science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. FBI captures German saboteurs brought by submarines to coasts of Florida and Long Island, NY. 6 are executed and 2 imprisoned. 18. Rationing of foods and materials needed for the war effort begins; sugar, coffee, fuel oil, gasoline, butter, meats, cheese, canned goods, and, finally, shoes are rationed. 19. Gasoline rationing in 17 eastern states. Limit is 3 gallons a week for non-essential driving. A coupon system begins in July.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<p>coast. Most of these were released by the end of 1944; official permission to return to the west coast was not given until 1945.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Japanese defeat US fleet at the Battle of Java Sea. 5. General MacArthur is made commander of Allied forces in Southwest Pacific. 6. US carrier-based planes bomb Gilbert and Marshall Islands. US bombers led by Major General James Doolittle make surprise raid on Tokyo and other Japanese cities. US warplanes defeat the Japanese at the Battle of the Coral Sea, halting southward Japanese advance. Japanese naval forces are crippled at the Battle of Midway. 7. US Marines invade Japanese-held island of Guadalcanal and win major victory in 1943. Marine and Army forces attack Japanese on new Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Butaritari in the central Pacific. 8. Congress enacts measures forming Women's auxiliary corps of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. 9. US B-17's make first bombing attacks in Europe. 10. US troops under Lieutenant General Dwight Eisenhower invade North Africa with support from British naval and air units. 11. Congress lowers the draft age to 18. 12. US begins strict rationing of food and materials needed for the war effort. 		
1943	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDR confers with Churchill at Casablanca, Morocco, concerning military strategy. They agree to demand unconditional surrender from the Axis Powers. 2. Eisenhower becomes Commander-in-Chief of all Allied forces in North Africa. US forces capture Bizerte, Tunisia, and combine with the British to drive the Axis forces out of Africa. 3. US bombers sink Japanese convoy of 22 ships at the Battle of Bismarck Sea. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. The tiny town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is suddenly populated by 50,000 scientists and aides, all conducting secret atomic research. 15. Large-scale production of penicillin begins to meet the demand as the drug is being used to treat a variety of infectious diseases. 16. Kaiser develops techniques of prefabrication that allow him to build a 100,000-ton <i>Liberty</i> ship in 4 days. 17. Robert Oppenheimer organizes the Manhattan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. US Army engineers complete the Pentagon building. This 5-sided building, headquarters of the Department of Defense, remains the largest office building in the world 19. US Supreme Court reverses 1940 decision and holds that children cannot be required to salute the flag in school if their religion prohibits it; case brought by Jehovah's Witnesses. 20. Infantile paralysis (polio) epidemic kills 1151 people and cripples thousands.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. US forces recapture Attu, Kiska, and Agattu in the Aleutian Islands. 5. Burma declares war on the US. 6. US naval and amphibious forces begin island-hopping operations in the Pacific, capturing key Japanese bases. Japanese are forced to retreat on New Guinea. 7. Eisenhower directs the invasions of Sicily and Italy. US 7th Army under General George Patton conquers Sicily. US forces land south of Naples and push back German and Italian defenses. 8. US planes bomb Rome and Rumania’s Ploesti oil fields. 9. Roosevelt attends war conferences in Quebec (with Churchill), Tehran (with Churchill and Stalin), and Cairo (with Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek). 10. US Marines capture Tarawa and Butaritari in the Pacific. 11. Eisenhower is names Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force that plans an invasion of Western Europe. 12. US bombers sink Japanese chips at Rabaul on New Britain Island (now a port on Papua New Guinea). 13. Roosevelt repeals the Chinese Exclusion Acts (1882, 1892, 1902). 	<p>Project’s top-secret Weapons Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. In salvage drives, 255,513 tons of tin cans, 6 million tons of newspaper, and more than 26 million tons of iron and steel scrap are collected for use in essential industries. 22. Standard male outfit of “hepcats” and young Black males is the zoot suit. It includes a long, on-button jacket with broad, padded shoulders, high-waisted trousers that grip the ankles, a knee-length key chain, and a broad-brimmed hat. 23. Jitterbug is the most popular dance.
<p>1944</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US planes bomb Berlin for the first time. 2. US Marines establish footholds in the Marshalls and Marianas, island groups in the Pacific. 3. General Joseph (“Vinegar Joe”) Stilwell, commander in Southeast Asia, leads US-Chinese forces in successful campaign against Japanese-Burmese forces. 4. US 5th Army helps drive the Germans out of Rome. 5. US troops establish beachheads at Utah Beach and Omaha Beach during the Allied invasion of Western Europe (D-day). General Omar Bradley leads US 1st Army into Normandy, France, and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Uranium pile is built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Tennessee Williams publishes <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>. 12. Aaron Copland composes the ballet <i>Appalachian Spring</i>, with choreography by Martha Graham. 13. Congress creates new rank, General of the Army (“five-star general”), for Generals Eisenhower, Henry Arnold, MacArthur, and George C. Marshall. 14. Declaration of Independence and other historic documents, sent from Washington, DC, for safekeeping in December 1941, are displayed again at the Library of Congress. 15. Meat rationing ends, except for steak and choice

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<p>captures Cherbourg. US 3rd Army under General Patton sweeps through northern France, relieves Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, and crosses the Rhine into southern Germany. US 7th Army invades southern France and fights up the Rhône River.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. US long-range superfortresses bomb southern Japan. US forces heavily damage Japanese at the Battle of the Philippine Sea. 7. US forces under MacArthur return to the Philippines at Leyte. Japanese fleet is heavily damaged at 6-day Battle of Leyte Gulf. 8. Roosevelt is re-elected President for a fourth term. Harry S. Truman is elected Vice President on the same Democratic ticket. 9. FDR signs Serviceman's Readjustment Act ("G. I. Bill of Rights"), establishing benefits for veterans after the war. 		<p>cuts of beef.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. New York Hospital, New York City, establishes the first eye bank, which stores human corneas to be used to restore sight in certain kinds of blindness. 17. The US Supreme Court rules in <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> that the forced internment of Japanese-Americans was legal.
1945	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDR, Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin (the "Big Three"), meet at Yalta in the Crimea. 2. US troops cross the Rhine at Remagen, enter the Ruhr Valley in Germany, and capture Mannheim, Frankfurt am Main, and Nuremberg. They reach the Elbe River; at Torgau, they meet Soviet troops marching from the east. 3. US B-29's bomb Tokyo. US Marines seize Iwo Jima in the western Pacific. US 6th Army lands on Luzon, and General MacArthur enters Manila, liberating the Philippines. Heavy Japanese air attacks fail to thwart successful US invasion of Okinawa. 4. President Roosevelt dies of a cerebral hemorrhage; Vice President Truman becomes President. 5. After Germany's surrender, the US takes control of southwestern Germany and one sector of Berlin. 6. United Nations opens in San Francisco. Senate ratifies UN Charter by a vote of 89 to 2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. The first atomic bomb, code-named <i>Trinity</i>, is exploded near Alamogordo, New Mexico. Three weeks later, a U-235 atomic bomb (equal to 20,000 tons of TNT) is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days after this, a plutonium-based A-bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Both cities are destroyed and more than 130,000 people are dead or missing as a result of the most powerful weapons ever used in a war. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. E. B. White publishes the children's classic <i>Stuart Little</i>. 14. US armed forces total 7.2 million. War casualties: 292,000 killed or missing; 613,611 wounded. 15. Rationing of shoes, butter, and tires ends. 16. On a foggy Saturday morning a B-25 bomber flies into the Empire State Building in New York City at the 78-79th floors; 13 persons die. 17. Medal of Freedom is established. Awarded to civilians for meritorious acts of service.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, killing or injuring about 135,000 people. After US drops second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan announces its unconditional surrender on August 14th (V-J Day) and signs document aboard US battleship <i>Missouri</i> in Tokyo Bay. US forces under General MacArthur take over supervision of Japan. 8. US troops enter Korea south of the 38th parallel to replace Japanese. 9. War Production Board lift ban on manufacture of consumer goods. Military plan production is cut in half. National Wage Stabilization Board replaces National War Labor Board. 10. President Truman asks congress for special admission of displaced persons to the US. 11. Lend-Lease program ends; US aid to the Allies amounts to about \$49 billion. 		
1946	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government lifts most price and wage controls. 2. Strike by United Mine Workers begins. Truman seizes mines after employers reject government negotiated contract. 3. Chinese Communists tell the US to stop supplying arms to the Nationalist Chinese. US gives up trying to mediate the civil war in China. 4. Bernard Baruch, US Representative to the UN Atomic Energy Commission, formulates plans for international control of atomic energy. 5. US grants independence to the Philippines, which leases military bases to the US. 6. Army and Navy are permitted to manufacture atomic weapons. 7. Henry Wallace, Secretary of Commerce since 1945, is forced to resign because of his public opposition to Truman's foreign policy. Wallace favors cooperation with the Soviets, despite increasing "hard line" from Truman administration. 8. US holds trials of German war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. John Eckert and John Mauchly develop ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Calculator), the first electronic digital computer. 13. Atomic Energy Commission is established. 14. Printed circuits are developed. 15. Fairey Aviation Co. builds a pilotless rocket missile. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. After 10-month trial of 24 major Nazis for crimes against peace, humanity, and the laws of war at Nuremberg, Germany, 12 are sentenced to death. 17. Trial of high-ranking Japanese leaders results in sentences of hanging for 7 and life imprisonment for 16 others. 18. The "ranch-type" home becomes popular; many find the low-slung, single-story homes appealing.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. US announces it will keep troops in South Korea until Soviet troops leave North Korea and a free government is established for a unified country. 10. UN accepts donation of \$8.5 million from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to purchase the site for the UN headquarters in New York City. 11. Churchill makes speech at Fulton, Missouri, warning of Soviet expansionism and coining the phrase the “Iron Curtain.” This marks the start of the “cold war.” 		
1947	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truman states the principle of Soviet containment (Truman Doctrine). Soviets attack the US as “war mongers” in the UN General Assembly. 2. Congress approves economic and military assistance for Greece and Turkey. 3. Secretary of State George Marshall proposes the European Recovery Program (the Marshall Plan) to give economic aid to certain war-torn European nations. 4. Wartime draft ends. 5. US ratifies peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania. 6. Congress enacts the Labor Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Labor Act) over Truman’s veto. It limits power of labor unions and puts restrictions on use of the strike, closed shop, and political activities. 7. Hoover Commission is formed to correct government inefficiency. 8. Presidential Succession Act designates the Speaker of the House, President pro tempore of the Senate, and Cabinet members according to rank as next in succession after the Vice President. 9. National Security Act unifies all branches of the armed services into a new Department of Defense. James V. Forrestal becomes the first Secretary of Defense. 10. UN gives the US trusteeship over the Carolines, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Von Neumann develop EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer) which is able to store programs in its memory. 13. Land introduces the Polaroid camera for instant photographs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Jack R. (“Jackie”) Robinson becomes first Black major-league baseball player in this century when he signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<p>the Marshalls, and the Marianas–island groups in the Pacific.</p> <p>11. President Truman initiates a loyalty program for civil servants; federal government is attacked for loose security.</p>		
<p>1948</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congress approves four-year recovery expenses for the Marshall Plan. 2. US recognizes the state of Israel. 3. Whittaker Chambers accuses Alger Hiss, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former State Department official, of being a Communist Party member. 4. Selective Service Act authorizes the registration of all men between 18 and 25 and the drafting of men to create an army of 837,000. 5. Republican Party again nominates Thomas Dewey of New York for President; he was first nominated in 1944. 6. Progressive Party, opposing Truman’s foreign policy, nominates Vice President Wallace for President. Communist Party supports Wallace. 7. Southern Democrats bolt the Democratic Party’s support of a civil rights platform. They nominate Governor J. Strom Thurmond for President on the States’ Rights (“Dixiecrat” white separatist) ticket. 8. Truman is re-elected President. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky is elected Vice President. Democrats also take control of Congress. 9. Communist Party leaders in the US are indicted and charged with instigating the overthrow of the US government. 10. US helps airlift good and other supplies to West Berlin, blockaded by the Soviets in hope of forcing the Western powers to give up control of the area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley invent the transistor. 12. Goldmark develops the long-playing (LP) phonograph record. 13. Oak Ridge National Laboratory begins to develop peaceful uses for atomic energy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. General Motors Corporation signs first sliding wage scale union contract with United Automobile workers; it includes clause that adjusts wages to cost-of-living index (escalator clause). 15. First woman army officer sworn in.

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1949	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truman outlines his “Point Four” proposal for US technical aid to underdeveloped countries. He also proposes a program of domestic legislation called the “Fair Deal,” which favors repeal of the Taft-Hartley Labor Act, farm price supports, expansion of social security, low rent public housing, and more civil rights laws. 2. Hoover Commission recommends streamlining the executive branch. Truman signs Reorganization Act. 3. US occupation forces in West Germany are replaced by US civilian commission. 4. US airlift ends after Soviets withdraw Berlin blockade 5. Senate ratifies agreement establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). 6. US military advisers remain after US occupation troops leave Korea. 7. Eleven US Communist Party leaders are found guilty of conspiracy to overthrow the government and sentenced to prison terms. 8. Permanent headquarters of the UN is dedicated in New York City. 9. Alger Hiss is tried on two counts of perjury concerning his dealings with chambers. Jury is unable to reach a decision, but at a second trial (1950) Hiss is found guilty and given a five-year prison term. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Eckert and Mauchly build BINAC (Binary Automatic Computer), the first computer with self-checking devices. 11. American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute warn that cigarette smoking may cause cancer. 12. Atomic Energy Commission designs a breeder-reactor that produces power by nuclear fusion, creating more fuel than it uses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Brief bathing suits for women, called “bikinis,” are introduced to the American fashion scene. 14. Arthur Miller publishes the Pulitzer Prize winning <i>Death of a Salesman</i>.

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1950	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US recognizes new state of Vietnam. US advisers are sent to teach the use of weapons to the Vietnamese. 2. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin charges the State Department has been infiltrated by Communists. 3. Truman authorizes the use of US forces in Korea, following the invasion of South Korea by North Korean troops. A naval blockade of Korea is ordered. 4. Guam becomes a territory administered by the US and Guamanians are made US citizens. 5. Congress passes the McCarran Act (Internal Security Act) over Truman's veto. It provides for the registration of Communists and Communist-front organizations. 6. Two Puerto Rican nationalists make unsuccessful attempt to kill President Truman. 7. Federal Communications Commission authorizes color television broadcasting. 8. Truman authorizes the Atomic Energy Commission to produce the hydrogen bomb (H-bomb). 9. Truman orders Army to seize railroads to prevent a general strike, following rail union's rejection of wages. Railroads are returned to the owners after new contract is accepted in 1952. 10. US signs military aid pact with France, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (SEATO). 11. Defense Production Act grants the President emergency powers over wages and prices. 12. US bars trade shipments to Communist China. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. FCC licenses CBS for color TV Broadcasts. RCA objects, claiming that its system is more sophisticated and effective than that of CBS. 16. Scientists are divided on Truman's approval of development of a hydrogen bomb. Bethe and Szilard warn that the use of such powerful nuclear weapons could destroy all life on Earth by blanketing the planet with a cloud of deadly radiation. 17. Congress establishes the National Science Foundation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Population is 150.6 million. People living in cities make up 64% of population. Since 1940 many Southern Blacks have moved to the north.