Review Catalog for U.S. History & Government Regents Exam

Created by the New-York Historical Society Student Historians

2011-2012
How to use this guide:

The New-York Historical Society, one of America’s pre-eminent cultural institutions, is dedicated to fostering research, presenting history and art exhibitions, and public programs that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world of today. Founded in 1804, New-York Historical has a mission to explore the richly layered political, cultural and social history of New York City and State and the nation, and to serve as a national forum for the discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history.

Student Historians are high school interns at New-York Historical who investigate pieces from our museum collection and conduct research using the resources available to them within a museum setting. Their project this academic year was to create a guide for fellow high school students preparing for U.S. History Exams, particularly the U.S. History & Government Regents Exam. They chose pieces from our museum and library collection that they felt represented a historical event or theme often tested on the exam, collected and organized their research, and wrote about their piece within the context of the event or theme. The intent is that this will provide a valuable supplemental review material for high school students preparing for U.S. History exams.

The following summative essays are all researched and written by the 2011-12 Student Historians, and compiled in chronological order. Each essay is prefaced with a title page depicting the object or artwork from the N-YHS collection that serves as the foundation for the U.S. History content. Review questions, taken from past U.S. History & Government Regents exams, follow each collection of essays related to the same topic or historical theme. Please use this guide not only as a resource, but as a workbook for your own active study for exams.

For more information on the New-York Historical Society and our opportunities for high school students please visit our website: www.nyhistory.org

Enjoy!

Chelsea Frosini
Museum Educator –Coordinator of Teen Programs
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Title: *Washington Crossing the Delaware*

Artist: George Washington Mark

Date Created: 1850

Content Relates to:

- Colonial Era
- Revolutionary War Period
- Early Democracy
- Missouri Compromise
The Revolution took root in the early 1760s. It was at the end of the French and Indian War, and the British had achieved victory, defeating their European rivals France in only the most recent of a series of French defeats at their hands. It was a seemingly pleasant time; the British (and therefore the colonists) gained the long sought after fertile land of the West. However, in this there was a problem. The Native Americans of the West, who had sided with the French in this war, became afraid of British incursion on their land, and threatened sustained violence if the British colonists were to advance. So came the British Proclamation that in 1763 declared that colonials were unable to cross the Appalachian Mountains. This proclamation, however, created divisions.

The Colonials had fought for the British with the understanding that they would gain the benefit of new lands, alleviating some of the social class pressure on the Eastern Seaboard. In the year following, the Parliament passed more controversial legislation in the form of new taxes and duties on commonplace goods so the Colonies would help pay for the French and Indian War financially (something that was initially not a condition for colonial involvement in the war). James Otis, a wealthy lawyer of prominent background, argued that it was not right that the Colonies held no parliamentary seats, subsequently putting forth the first idea of “taxation without representation” at this time.

Then came the law that would go down in history as one of the most famous pieces of legislation in history, the Stamp Act, an act that placed a duty on paper used for all things printed, whether it be cards, or documents, etc. Through the next decade, more tax laws were passed, such as the Townshend Acts, and more violence was committed by the recipients, such as Samuel Adams’ Circular Letter, a letter that circulated throughout the colonies in protest of the British tax laws and more generally the lack of representation in Parliament. Boycotts on British goods were formed, and resistance spread.

In 1770, the first American propaganda is made famous at the “Boston Massacre” with Paul Revere’s print:
As resistance spread further, the citizens of Massachusetts were particularly enthusiastic, and in 1773, organized the Boston Tea Party. The British proceeded to impose a blockade on Massachusetts and try to choke off the revolutionary spirit. This attempt at colonial restriction however, failed. The first Continental Congresses were formed in 1774 and 1775, and they concluded after many attempts at negotiation, such as the Olive Branch Petition, that there was no choice except to go to war.

Though the war proved difficult in the early years, George Washington led the Colonials to some key victories, like Trenton, Ticonderoga (After which the French got involved), and Yorktown (which in effect ended the war). Eventually, with French support, the United States was free. During the war, the Continental Congress had drawn up what was to be the first Constitution, the Articles of Confederation. However, this system was inherently weak due to the fact that there was no real central power, and was a
governmental system in need of drastic change. So, in 1787, the Constitution was signed, with the Bill of Rights coming shortly afterwards. In this Constitution, the issue of slavery was put off until 1808, when it was put off again.

Early in its life, the Republic achieved something of awesome importance: a peaceful transition of power from one political faction to the other in the transfer of the presidency from John Adams to Thomas Jefferson in 1800, thus setting off the “Virginia Dynasty,” a string of presidents all hailing from that state. Jefferson, during his presidency accomplished much, chief among which was a purchase that doubled the size of the U.S., the Louisiana Purchase from France. Jefferson believed in an agrarian Republic, and this was his first push towards this.

After Jefferson came Madison, and the war of 1812. This war solidified the legitimacy of the U.S. as a nation, although the capital, Washington D.C. was burned. After, Madison, James Monroe came into office, and he is remembered for two things: One, he established what came to be known as the “Monroe Doctrine,” a theory upon which many presidents have based their foreign policy off of since, and two: he oversaw the Missouri Compromise, the late response to the 1808 deadline for a slavery decision, as well as the settlement of the issue of balance in Congress, which in effect delayed the decision further by thirty years. Thus, the fledgling years of the Democratic Experiment ended, leaving behind a nation of vast potential, and also one with some tragic flaws.

- Alex Goddard
Sources Cited:


Title: *Pulling Down the Statue of King George III*

Artist: Johannes Adam Simon Oertel

Date Created: 1852-1853

Content Relates to:

- American Revolution
The American Revolution, the founding of our nation today, has its roots in the Enlightenment philosophy of Europe. These ideas, which stressed natural rights, a government of and for the people, and equality, were the pushing force behind the protests and battles that caused eventual American independence. The Boston Tea Party, Sons of Liberty, and Non-importation agreements were all manifestations of the American people’s idea that this is not how things should be. We are our own people, their actions cried, we will no longer be told what to do and will no longer stand to be exploited as we have been for so long.

Their discontent grew to the point of battle as Britain's colonial control grew too. The Salutary Neglect they had enjoyed for so long was history. With the passing of the Proclamation of 1763, forbidding colonists to live west of the Appalachian Mountains, the spark for revolution was ignited. Parliament then passed the Molasses Act, the Stamp Act, and the Quartering Act, adding even more fuel to the fire. In attempting to have greater control over the American colonies, Britain was actually creating more and more disdain among them.

Many of the colonial Americans, who had considered themselves to be Europeans, with full British rights, were outraged. No longer could they sit idly by as their rights were denied and their ideas of liberty and justice blatantly ignored. By 1765, a group of individuals met secretly in New York City where they wrote the Declaration of Rights and Grievances. It was here where the slogan of the coming revolution was coined by Patrick Henry, “No taxation without representation”. Despite what the English Bill of Rights said, the colonists were being taxed without direct representation in Parliament. The principle of Virtual Representation that Grenville argued was not fooling anyone.

Successfully repealing the Stamp Act by causing a recession in Britain and dumping $3 million worth of tea into Boston Harbor was not enough for the colonists. Reform would not be good enough, only revolution would suffice their burning desire for independence. By 1775, the Second Continental Congress had decided to assemble the
Continental Army of 15,000 troops. The next year, Thomas Jefferson published the Declaration of Independence. What had started as simple protest had grown into a full-on revolution for colonial independence.

*Pulling Down the Statue of King George III* symbolizes these ideas. The pull of the rebellious Americans to break free from their colonial oppressors, the British, is literally shown by the pulling down of King George’s statue in Bowling Green Park in New York City. Only days after the Declaration of Independence was written, it was read to Washington’s troops on July 9, 1776. As a result of the excitement of finally hearing their grievances and desires read aloud, and knowing that King George himself would read those very same words, the soldiers pulled down the symbol of his leadership and authority at the start of the American Revolution.

- Danielle Raskin

Sources Cited:


### Practice Questions from Past U.S. History Regents Exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Thirteen Colonies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>Approximately 12,000,000</td>
<td>Approximately 2,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>Highly developed and flourishing</td>
<td>Practically none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Money</strong></td>
<td>Richest country in the world</td>
<td>No money to support the war effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Army</strong></td>
<td>Large, well-trained army plus mercenary Hessians</td>
<td>All-volunteer forces — willing to fight but poorly equipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaders</strong></td>
<td>Mary dedicated and able officers</td>
<td>Few officers capable of leading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td>Strange land with long distance to base of supplies</td>
<td>Familiar land with easy access to limited amounts of supplies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which conclusion about the American Revolutionary War is most clearly supported by information in this chart?

1. England had few advantages in a war with her American colonies.
2. The thirteen colonies had more advantages than disadvantages upon entering the war.
3. England did not believe that the thirteen colonies were worth the expense of a war.
4. The thirteen colonies had few, but important advantages in the war with England.

Which important reason for the American victory in the Revolutionary War is missing from the chart?

1. Naval superiority of the thirteen colonies
2. Aid from foreign nations
3. Control of railroads and canals
4. Greater number of Indian allies

The primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to

1. Establish a basic set of laws for the United States
2. Strengthen colonial ties with England
3. State the reasons for the American Revolution
4. Demand freedom of speech and of the press

Which statement is most accurate about the movement for independence in the thirteen colonies?

1. The independence movement began soon after the founding of the Plymouth Colony.
2. Protests against British colonial policies gradually led to demands for independence.
3. The King of England required the colonists to become economically self-sufficient.
4. The movement for independence was equally strong in all of the colonies.
Title: Reynolds's Political Map of the United States

Artist: William C Reynolds

Date Created: 1856

Content Relates to:
- Missouri Compromise 1821
- Compromise of 1850
- Civil War
- Slavery
In 1821 the **Missouri Compromise** settled the dispute within the U.S Senate over the balance of power between the Northern and Southern states; neither side wanted its opponents to gain ground in terms of the number of free or slave states. In order to settle the dispute over Missouri entering the Union as a slave state, Maine was carved out of Massachusetts. And slavery above the 36° 30´ latitude line in the remainder of the Louisiana Territory became illegal.

On December 2, 1823 the **Monroe Doctrine** was introduced by **President Monroe**, the fifth president of the United States. It stated that the United States would not interfere with existing colonies but it would intervene with any new colonization efforts in the western hemisphere. And at the time, because it was in their best interest, Britain supported the United States in this decision.

Andrew Jackson was a devoted military man; he was a strict officer but was popular with his troops. They said he was "tough as old hickory" wood on the battlefield, and therefore he acquired the nickname **Old Hickory**. After years of land disputes with the Native Americans, and then the British in the **War of 1812** (where Jackson and his soldiers fought diligently and won decisively in the Battle of New Orleans), followed by the **First Seminole War** in 1817, he decided to enter the political arena.

Using his war-related fame, he ran for president in 1824 and lost (although it was considered a corrupt election given to John Quincy Adams in a deal made with Henry Clay), but successfully ran in 1828, becoming the seventh president of the United States. During his Presidency, Jackson was primarily remembered for his strengthening of the Presidency through actions such as implementing the **Spoils System**, destroying the **Second National Bank of the United States**, his handling of the Nullification Crisis with **force**, and his **bypassing of the Supreme Court with the enforcing of the Indian Removal Act**.

Truthfully the Mexican American War was desired by most Americans, who strongly believed in the ideal of **Manifest Destiny** (the belief that America had a God-given right, or destiny, to expand the country's borders from 'sea to shining sea'). **Disputes over the**
border lines sparked military confrontation, helped by the fact that President James K. Polk eagerly sought a war in order to seize large tracts of land from Mexico. The Mexican American War was also brought on by America’s desire to Annex Texas, although many Mexicans still considered Texas a part of Mexico and just an area out of control.

After the war, the United States acquired the northern half of Mexico. This area later became the U.S. states of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. U.S. General Zachary "Old Rough and Ready" Taylor used his fame as a war hero to win the Presidency in 1848. Relations between the United States and Mexico remained tense for many decades to come, with several military encounters along the border.

The Compromise of 1850 was a series of five bills composed by the 70 year old "Great Compromiser" Henry Clay. Its goal was to counter and settle the large amount of sectional conflict between the North and South by dealing with the spread of slavery in the territories and to balance the interest of the two sides. But it also repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1821, by declaring it un-constitutional and opening up all territories to popular sovereignty (people voting in the state voted for slavery or no slavery in their constitution). The passing of the Compromise of 1850 came with the passing of a much stronger Fugitive Slave Act which had the opposite effect because many abolitionists ended up increasing their anti-slavery actions to counter it.

- Shean Hinds
Title: "The Harper's Ferry Insurrection - The U.S. Marines Storming the Engine-House - Insurgents Firing through Holes in the Doors"

Artist: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

Date Created: October 29, 1859

Content Relates to:

- Slavery in America
- Civil War
- Bleeding Kansas
- John Brown
**Bleeding Kansas occurred from 1854-1858.** It was caused by the flooding of Kansas with anti-slavery Northerners and pro-slavery Southerners or “boarder ruffians” because most of them came from Missouri. **Both sides wanted to push the state into what they wanted and with opposing factions living as neighbors, violence broke out.** Some consider the fighting in Kansas to be some of the first battles of the Civil War. **Kansas eventually entered the Union in 1861 as a free state.** One of the most famous abolitionists who participated in the violence of Bleeding Kansas was **John Brown.** He also led a raid on Harpers Ferry (a federal Arsenal in Virginia) to get weapons for a slave revolt; although he succeeded, the slaves were unaware of his plan and did not revolt.

- Shean Hinds
Title: *John Brown’s Blessing*
Artist: Thomas Satterwhite Noble
Date Created: 1867
Content Relates to:

- John Brown
- Slavery
- Civil War
Later the wounded Brown and his tiny band were captured and Brown was hanged. **Ironically, Brown achieved more in death than in life. He inspired many other Northerners, some who even compared him to Jesus, sacrificing himself for a noble cause.** Brown although being considered clinically insane knew he was much more valuable to the cause dead than alive writing to his brother, "I am quite cheerful in view of my approaching end, being fully persuaded that I am worth inconceivably more to hang than for any other purpose....I count it all Joy."

**The Civil War lasted from 1861-1865,** caused by divisions between the North and South over the issue of slavery within America. *When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in the election of 1860, 11 southern states left the Union.* Lincoln, who had been in office for only six weeks, declared these acts of secession illegal and marked the start of the American Civil War. More American lives were lost during the Civil War than in all other wars that involved American troops.

- Shean Hinds
Title: *Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama*

Artist: Julian Oliver Davidson

Date Created: 1886

Content Relates to:

- Civil War
- Naval Battles
For example, **The Battle of Mobile Bay** was one of the many unknown naval battles of the American Civil War although it’s one of the most famous. During the Civil War, the Union had set up a blockade of the Southern part of the Atlantic Coastline, and this battle was to close the Mobile Bay blockade running. **The Battle was an overwhelming victory for the Union with 1,822 casualties with 1,500 of them being Confederates.**

The American Civil War had many results - the destruction of the southern planter aristocracy, the passing of the **Thirteenth Amendment**, and the South's struggle to recover economically and psychologically (**Southern Reconstruction**). Lastly, the **Civil War answered many of the fundamental questions** of the American experiment: free or slave, one or many, united or divided. But it did so at a tremendous cost.

- Shean Hinds

Sources Cited:

“U.S.-Mexican War” Last modified March 14th, 2006 http://www.pbs.org/kerausmexicanwar/prelude/


“Andrew Jackson” Copyright 2012 Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia http://millercenter.org/president/jackson


Title: *Negro Life at the South*

Artist: Eastman Johnson

Date Created: 1859

Content Relates to:

- Slavery in America
- Civil War
- Early American history
“Negro Life in the South”, by Eastman Johnson, represents the pre-Civil War climate in America. The scene painted in 1860 depicts two homes side by side in Maryland. The tensions illustrated in the painting correspond to the impending war. Maryland had a unique past with slavery that informed its role in the Civil War as well as its future.

The colony of Maryland was settled in 1634. Initially, slaves and mulattos were considered indentured servants who could work towards their eventual freedom. By 1664, the demand for tobacco increased and a law was passed equalizing slaves to property. Counties in southern Maryland, especially Prince George’s County, had ideal climate and soil conditions for tobacco growth. Though the demand for tobacco fluctuated over the course of the Colonial Era, and slavery importation was outlawed in 1783, by 1800, slaves made up 58% of the county’s population. The conditions of slavery in Maryland were harsh as tobacco plantations were grueling and unforgiving workplaces, much like the cotton plantations in the Deep South.

Freedom in Maryland for slaves was not at all the same as freedom for white men. Blacks were granted their limited freedom if they fit one of the following qualifications: 1. Were born free, that is to parents who were both free. If one parent was a slave and one was free, the children automatically become slaves. 2. If they were freed by the slave owner. 3. Purchased by a family member. 4. Freed by order of law. Once free, they had to carry around proof of their freedom as well as proof of employment. Without a license to sell or manufacture goods, they would be sold into slavery and/or jailed. Furthermore, if a freedman left the state for more than ten days, he was not allowed to return. Also, visits from other freedmen were only allowed to last a maximum of ten days. Children of free blacks had to find work as soon as they were able to. There was no education system for free African children.

Maryland placed these restrictions on freed slaves because of the fear of being outnumbered. As the demand for tobacco decreased and Maryland became less industrial, there was less of a need for unskilled slave labor. At this point, efforts were made by the government and slave owners to apprentice skilled blacks. Slave owners would loan out their slaves to do carpentry or ironwork and collect their salary. Sometimes, the slaves
were allowed to keep all or a portion of what they earned. Maryland reacted to the decrease in demand for slaves by deporting them to Liberia. After the war for independence, assimilation for African slaves into white America seemed preposterous. To some, it appeared the solution was complete separation and the return of the slaves to Africa. By the mid 1860’s, the government of Maryland was bent on reducing the number of slaves on the state. They urged slave owners to repatriate their slaves to Liberia. The Maryland Colonization Society was established to facilitate slaves’ journey to Africa. If a freed slave did not go to Africa, they were expelled from the state.

During the Civil War, Maryland proved to be a crucial state for the Union as it could “determine the capital’s fate.” The state had voted against Lincoln in the presidential election and many buildings and homes flew Confederate flags. On April 19th, the 6th Massachusetts Regiment, the first to respond to Lincoln’s call for troops marched through Baltimore. As they walked through the city, the tensions that had been brewing under the surface bubbled up and exploded into a full-blown riot. Sixteen deaths were the result of this mob attack. Maryland acted as a microcosm of the Civil War in that the Eastern part of the state was overwhelmingly pro-Confederate while the Western part was clearly pro-Union.

Eastman Johnson’s “Negro Life in the South” painting is sometimes mistakenly called “Old Kentucky Home” when it is really a portrayal of slavery in Maryland. This common mistake shows how Maryland is often thought of as fully pro-Union when, in reality, it was very divided. Ultimately, the painting provides interesting insight into the complex history of slavery in Maryland.

- Sophie Jacob

Sources Cited:


Smithsonian. “Slavery in Maryland.” http://anacostia.si.edu/Plummer/Docs/Teacher_Resources/High_School/hsslaveryreading.pdf. anacostia.si.edu/Plummer/Docs/Teacher_Resources/High_School/hsslaveryreading.pdf (accessed May 1, 2012)
Title: *John Brown’s Blessing*

Artist: Thomas Satterwhite Noble

Date Created: 1867

Content Relates to:
- Civil War
- Abolitionism
- Harpers Ferry, Slavery
John Brown grew out his beard as a disguise, but everyone recognized him in this moment. As Brown was led to his execution on December 2, 1859, he stopped nobly to kiss a slave child on the head. Thomas Satterwhite Noble’s life-sized painting memorializes the sacrifices John Brown made for the cause, and the slaves were grateful of his dedication. Brown stands under a saintly light, surrounded by soldiers as the mother and her baby gaze up at him, appreciative of his courageous efforts to end slavery in America.

John Brown was born in 1800 into a religious family, who raised him to believe slavery was a sin. He developed into a radical abolitionist who believed in immediate emancipation by any means necessary, particularly violence. He and his sons were major activists; their actions were extremely radical and left a lasting impact on the United States. To Brown, slave participation in the abolitionist fight was essential for progress. As tension between the North and South grew in the 1800’s with several events, he became more determined to make a change.

The Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850, giving federal agents the right to return escaped slaves and requiring citizens to help recapture fugitives. This included citizens in free states. The anger was heightened when the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. Congress repealed the 36-30 line of the Missouri Compromise that divided the country into slave and free states in 1820. Instead, popular sovereignty was used to decide whether these territories would be slave or free states. Settlers from the North and South rushed into both areas to vote their way. Northerners was especially upset about the imbalance of slave and free states caused by this, and Brown took the opportunity to take action. He led several violent attacks on proslavery groups. 55 were left dead and the confrontations became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

The next event that gave way to John Brown’s last fight against slavery was the Dred Scott court case. The decision of the of case, made by Chief Justice Taney, was that African Americans were not citizens of the United States and Congress did not have the power declare a state free in the territories. Northerners were furious and tension was dangerously high, and Brown used this as momentum for his next move.

The final push in John Brown’s fight was the most important. On Sunday, October 16, 1859, Brown and a group of men prepared for attack. The plan was to capture the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Brown encouraged black involvement, which he hoped would inspire slaves across the country to fight. There were five black men in the
group and seventeen white men, including some of Browns sons. Together they successfully captured the armory, arsenal and rifle factory. But soon their plan began to fall apart. Colonel Robert E. Lee and a group of federal troops moved in and quickly captured Brown and his men.

John Brown was found guilty on the charges of slave insurrection, treason against Virginia, and murder. Southerners became paranoid after the raid, suspecting slaves of rebellion and whites of betrayal. Northerners were ecstatic; they saw Brown as a hero. He was executed on December 2, 1859, but his legend lived on in America. Some argue that the raid on Harpers Ferry was the final event that made the Civil War inevitable. He was violent and murderous, but John Brown knew what he believed in and he knew how he wanted to achieve his goal. Some of his final words before he was put to death, Brown said, "If it is deemed necessary that I should forfeit my life for the furtherance of the ends of justice, and mingle my blood further with the blood of my children and with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are disregarded by wicked, cruel, and unjust enactments-I submit; so let it be done."

- Fanny Cohen

Sources Cited:

John Brown: The Abolitionist and His Legacy
Catalogue adapted from an exhibition developed by James G. Basker, Sandra Trenholm, Susan Saidenberg and Justine Ahlstrom
2009

"John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid"
West Virginia Division of History and Culture, "http://www.wvculture.org/history/jnobrown.html"
2011
Title: *Dred Scott (ca. 1795-1858)*

Artist: Unidentified

Date Created: after 1857

Content Relates to:

- Slavery and the Constitution
- Dred Scott v. Sanford
- 13th Amendment
A Most Necessary Amendment

On December 18, 1865, Secretary of State William H. Seward, proclaimed that involuntary servitude was officially illegal in the United States. The 13th Amendment to the United States was the official piece of legislation that brought the necessary change to American society. But why was an amendment to the Constitution necessary in the first place? And why were all men not legally created equal? Since its inception, the Constitution had been modeled to protect the institution of slavery, despite of Mr. Jefferson’s promise in Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal.”

In 1787, the year of the Constitutional Convention, opposition against slavery was not a high priority on the Nation’s moral conscience. The overall intent of our nations creators was to create a strong Union that was built on unity, and respected the culture and institutions that existed in each sovereign state. That being said, many of our founding fathers had disagreements, especially regarding slavery. President Washington himself, an owner of over three hundred slaves, had qualms over his own practicing of slavery. "Your late purchase of an estate in the colony of Cayenne, with a view to emancipating the slaves on it, is a generous and noble proof of your humanity. Would to God a like spirit would diffuse itself generally into the minds of the people of this country; but I despair of seeing it (Mount).” It was a time when many were against slavery, but there were few at the Constitutional Conventi111on who actively opposed it. The Constitution itself is a compromised document, whose creation was solely based upon the mutual consent of all thirteen states. Slavery was an integral part of both southern and northern commerce, and it would not be in the interests of this new Union to divide itself from the very beginning. Based on these circumstances, one can conclude that the Constitution originally intended to preserve and respect the institution of slavery. (Mount)

In two different places, the Constitution recognized the existence of slavery, but the document never specifically stated it was something that the government had to protect. The Enumeration Clause, the clause that specifies number of states each states has, states that all “other persons” are considered to be three fifths a person, and Article 1, Section 9, which prohibits the slave trade; however, Justice Taney’s opinion in Dred Scott v. Sanford
is the most important example why a Constitutional Amendment was needed in the first place.

The Dred Scott decision had the potential to keep slavery alive and well in the United States for many years to come. There were ultimately three consequences from the Court’s opinion. First, it was declared that Scott was property, not a person, and therefore could not settle disputes in court, second, the Missouri Compromise was declared unconstitutional, and third, if a slave is property, then the government cannot confiscate or take away that property without due process of law. Mr. Taney, a man who appears to praise the current United States Justice Anton Scalia’s concept of “originalism,” spent much of his opinion justifying that the founder’s recognized the inferiority of the black race to the white race. The Three Fifths Compromise shows that the Founders did not consider slaves to be a full person, because they did not even consider slaves to be worthy of a full citizenship. So according to Justice Taney’s logic, because the Founders did not consider slaves a full citizen, only property, slaves did not have the right to express their grievances in court. (“loc.gov) This component of Mr. Taney’s opinion was probably the most controversial aspect because he is justifying that the Constitution classifies the black race as inferior and property. He also states that the Fifth Amendment will protect that property from government intrusion. In 1857 as a result of this decision, it appeared more and more unlikely that the slaves would or could ever be emancipated. (“loc.gov”) Mr. Taney showed the country that the only piece of legislation that could officially end slavery was an amendment to the Constitution.

The first major challenge to the status quo in regards to slavery was President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. However, President Lincoln and Republican leaders in Congress understood that the Proclamation only had any jurisdiction as a wartime measure, and would hardly be able to stand in peacetime. Also, the Proclamation only freed slaves in the areas that were in a state of rebellion against the Union, so in Border States such as Maryland and Delaware, slavery was still protected as a result of Dred Scott.

The Emancipation Proclamation is one of the finest examples of the political genius of Abraham Lincoln, largely because of how he twisted Justice Taney’s words in the opinion of Dred Scott case. Dred Scott officially classified slaves as property and not people;
therefore, if those slaves were property, then that property was aiding a rebellion against the government of the United States. It was now the sovereign duty of all members of the United States Military to confiscate that property, and thereby setting that property free. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln escalated a war that was originally about preservation, and he made that war into a moral imperative against slavery ("archives.gov). Not much later, the Congress of the United States would continue on the path that President Lincoln set forth for them, and conceived the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Because the Succeeded States were essentially not members of the Union in 1865, the 13th Amendment was approved by the necessary 3/4 majority of states with ease. As Southern States rejoined the Union in the following years, the 13th Amendment had to also be ratified as a requirement for rejoining. The 13th Amendment is one of those pivotal pieces of legislature that helps bring Thomas Jefferson’s promise “that all men are created equal” into being. An evil practice was now locked away in a dark chapter of American history, and a new united nation was conceived upon the passage of this amendment, as well as the 14th and 15th. Before these Amendments, the United States was always referred to as these United States, which is a symbol of a fragmented nation. Following the passage of these amendments, the new united United States embarked on the rocky path to ensure “equal protection under the law” for all its citizens. And to finally fulfill Mr. Jefferson’s promise.

- Gabe Skoletsky

Sources Cited:

Title of Paper: *The Evolution of Disaster Response throughout the History of New York City*

Dates Discussed: 1835-2001

Content Relates to:

- The Great Fire of 1835
- The Civil War Draft Riots
- September 11<sup>th</sup> Terrorist attacks
Disasters, caused by both nature and humans have plagued every civilization throughout history. Especially with the rise of metropolitan cities, the impact of crises ranging from fires to riots has also made tremendous impacts on political and social actions taken by communities in response to these disasters. This paper examines three separate but similar incidents that occurred throughout the history of New York City, the appropriate action taken by public and private institutions, and their transformation and influence on the development of the city.

On a frigid evening on December 16th 1835, fire broke out at a five-story warehouse at 25 Merchant Street, between Hanover Square and Wall Street. The strong winds blowing from the Northwest quickly spread the fire throughout lower Manhattan in snow-covered New York City, a metropolis that became the premier location of America for industry and culture just at the turn of the century. At the time, the city had no firefighting department; instead, its disaster response corps was comprised mainly of watchmen and proactive citizens. Unable to break through the frozen East River, and with the water hoses and pumps freezing, these volunteer firefighters could not quell the fire; as a result; 50 acres of land and 530-700 buildings were destroyed, the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars today. Known in the aftermath as the Great Fire of 1835, New York City’s disaster response corps of 1500 proved no match for the powerful forces of nature.

With the aftermath of the Great Fire, New York’s city municipality greatly increased the efforts of increasing the volunteer fire department, yet did not establish a government service that could deal with crises. Perhaps the final straw came with the Civil War Draft Riots in 1863, where working-class Irishmen and Germans revolted and expressed their discontent with country’s wartime draft policies, which allowed wealthy men to pay money a fee to escape the draft. Over a period of three days, stores, homes, and buildings were burned and looted; dozens of blacks in the city were lynched and killed by the working-class who were seen as the instigators of war. In the aftermath of the riots, politicians finally realized that organized disaster response was needed, especially in turbulent times, and subsequently established the Metropolitan Fire Department in 1865. Along with the creation of the New York Police Department two decades before, the city asserted the importance of dealing with crises in a rapidly growing city that was very much vulnerable to chaos and disorder.
On September 11th, 2001, four passenger airplanes were hijacked from the United States by terrorists of the Islamist militant group Al-Qaeda, two of which were flown into the World Trade Centers in downtown Manhattan. For disaster response, the FDNY deployed over half of its units throughout the city to the site, along with police officers and other emergency personnel. Firefighters were able to immediately establish command centers to facilitate work, while locations such as St. Paul’s Chapel was utilized as an emergency treatment center across the street from the attacks. The September 11th attacks demonstrated the success of the city’s ability to respond to emergencies; not only were professional responders there immediately, but even amateur radio operators assisted in restoring communications and maintained emergency networks, along with other volunteer servicers.

Over a period of 250 years, New York City has developed from a small beaver fur trading post known as New Amsterdam to the sprawling center of the financial world of 8 million residents, as it is today. At the same time, the city has had much experience in dealing with crises. Throughout this history, the Great Fire of 1835, the Civil War Draft Riots, and the September 11th attacks have accompanied the evolution of New York City’s disaster response corps from a group of volunteer ‘night-watchmen’ to a complex network of firefighters, police officers, medical workers, and such. Clearly this evidence demonstrates that methods of both natural and social control are needed in the development of the city. It is only with the establishment of a strong and organized corps of disaster responders that has allowed New York City to thrive unlike any other place in the world.

- Albert Han

Sources cited:
The purpose of the Three-fifths Compromise, which was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1787, was to

1. balance power between states with large populations and those with smaller populations
2. provide a means of deciding disputed Presidential elections
3. allow Congress to override a Presidential veto of an act passed by both Houses
4. reduce the fear of loss of representation by Southern States with large slave populations

One way that “Bleeding Kansas,” the Dred Scott decision, and John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry had a similar effect on the United States was that these events

1. ended conflict over slavery in the territories
2. eased tensions between the North and the South
3. contributed to the formation of the Whig Party
4. made sectional compromise more difficult

During the 1840s, abolitionists opposed annexation of new western territory because they

1. feared the admission of new slave states
2. wanted to limit the power of the national government
3. were concerned with the legal rights of Native American Indians
4. supported an isolationist foreign policy

Both the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850 settled conflicts between the North and the South over

1. admission of states to the Union
2. Supreme Court decisions
3. presidential election results
4. voting rights

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,
For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS AND Slave Catchers,
And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.


This poster from the 1850s appeared in response to the

1. passage of the fugitive slave law
2. start of the Civil War
3. issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation
4. enactment of the 13th Amendment

“Compromise Enables Maine and Missouri To Enter Union” (1820)
“California Admitted to Union as Free State” (1850)
“Kansas-Nebraska Act Sets Up Popular Sovereignty” (1854)

Which issue is reflected in these headlines?

1. enactment of protective tariffs
2. extension of slavery
3. voting rights for minorities
4. universal public education
By the time of the Civil War, slavery had nearly disappeared in the North mainly because
1. slave rebellions in Northern states had forced the end of slavery
2. the United States Constitution required the end of slavery in Northern states
3. slaves had become too expensive for Northern farmers
4. slavery did not fit the economic interests of the North

The Dred Scott decision on the issue of slavery upheld the Southern viewpoint that
1. the power of the Supreme Court does not extend to cases of race
2. Congress could not pass a law depriving territorial residents of their property
3. a national vote should be held to decide the legality of slavery
4. the economic well-being of the western states depended on slave labor

The institution of slavery was formally abolished in the United States by the
(1) Compromise of 1850
(2) Emancipation Proclamation of 1863
(3) creation of the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865
(4) ratification of the 13th amendment in 1865

Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. ________________</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Nullification crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Kansas-Nebraska Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Dred Scott v. Sanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Election of Lincoln (1860)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Foreign Policies of the United States
(2) Government Policies Toward Native American Indians
(3) Consequences of Manifest Destiny
(4) Causes of Sectional Conflict

Prior to 1850, what was a main reason the North developed an economy increasingly based on manufacturing while the South continued to rely on an economy based on agriculture?
(1) Protective tariffs applied only to northern seaports.
(2) Geographic conditions supported different types of economic activity.
(3) Slavery in the North promoted rapid economic growth.
(4) Manufacturers failed to make a profit in the South.

**Historical Context:**

The Civil War and the period of Reconstruction brought great social, political, and economic changes to American society. The effects of these changes continued into the 20th century.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

- Identify and discuss one social, one political, AND one economic change in American society that occurred as a result of the Civil War or the period of Reconstruction
Artist: Unidentified artist

Title: Untitled [Women Suffrage Party] (detail) 1917 Carbon Print

Date Created: 1917

Content relates to:

- Women’s Suffrage
- 19th Amendment
- Women’s Rights Movement
In 1848, the first women’s right convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York where 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments marking the start of the women’s rights movement. This also was a set of resolutions for women to be treated equally under the law and also that women could vote. In May of 1869, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Women Suffrage Association. Their goal was to achieve voting rights for women by Congressional amendment to the Constitution, which became known as the Women’s Rights Suffrage Movement. Susan B. Anthony started the movement by going to an election booth and voting, she was later arrested and released with a fine of $100, but this was only the start of the movement. In 1850 the first National Women’s Rights Convention took place in Worcester with more than 1,000 people in attendance. In November, Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell formed another group known as the “- American Women Suffrage Association their goal was to gain voting rights for women in individual states. By December 10, 1869 Wyoming passed the first Women’s suffrage law.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed; it gave former slaves the right to vote. The amendment just created suffrage for men, so no women could vote. The 15th Amendment received final ratification, but by its text women are not specifically excluded from the vote. During the next two years, approximately 150 women attempted to vote in almost a dozen different jurisdictions from Delaware to California. The women were becoming very active; they were having marches in the middle of the streets and protesting. This led Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to join the National Women Suffrage Association, and the American Women Suffrage Association together and create the National American Women Suffrage Association as known as NAWSA. They started to get more people involved by creating suffragist newspaper evening speeches and raising money for the cause.

There were many conventions that were held throughout states to keep people involved and achieved in the movement. This was a shock for men at first, but many men started to agree with the women and some even got involved with the movement. For the first time in the century, the US Senate voted on suffrage for women. It lost, 34 to 16.
Twenty-five Senators did not bother to participate in 1887.

A few years later they voted again, and on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was approved, giving all American women the right to vote.

- Tyanna Mclean

Sources Cited:


When Susan B. Anthony refused to pay a fine for voting illegally in the election of 1872, she stated: “Not a penny shall go to this unjust claim.” Her action was an example of
(1) anarchy (2) judicial review (3) civil disobedience (4) vigilante justice

The Declaration of Sentiments from the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 proclaimed that
(1) the abolition of slavery was necessary
(2) all men and women are created equal
(3) California should be admitted as a free state
(4) the sale of alcoholic beverages should be illegal

The main goal of the Seneca Falls Convention (1848) was to
1 obtain equal rights for women
2 make the public aware of environmental problems
3 correct the abuses of big business
4 organize the first labor union in the United States

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott were best known for their struggle to
1 prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcohol
2 form labor unions
3 secure the right of women to vote
4 expose government corruption

“Resolved, That all laws which prevent woman from occupying such a station in society as her conscience shall dictate, or which place her in a position inferior to that of man, are contrary to the great precept of nature and therefore of no force or authority.”

— Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

The writers of this passage were protesting
(1) British treatment of American colonists
(2) the absence of a bill of rights in the Constitution
(3) gender discrimination against women
(4) lack of legal protection for African Americans
Title: Snake Jug
Artist: Anna Pottery
Date Created: 1871
Dedicated to Thomas Nast, Political Cartoonist
Content Relates to:

- Industrialism/ Gilded Age Political Corruption
- Tammany Hall
- William “Boss” Tweed
- Thomas Nast
- Political Cartoons
Ever since English Colonization, labor primarily involved work done by skilled artisans, people who are known as silversmiths, cabinetmakers, and goldsmiths. But as years passed on and technology transitioned and became more modern, factories became the new setting of the workforce. During the Industrial Revolution, new technology and machines allowed the workplace to transition into factories. The country altered the workforce from one’s home to working under one roof with fast-paced machines to make their desired products, which became known as factories. This transition eventually gave true meaning to the nation’s capitalistic society. The Industrial Revolution started in England by the 1770s, as they had abundant coal and iron for fuel and make the necessary machines and technology used in their factories, making production faster, more efficient and consistent with the growing demand of that product. This revolution did not come to the U.S. until much later, when capitalism noticed that this system would most benefit agriculture and its shipping, especially during the Napoleonic Wars of 1812, which gave the nation an opportunity to build more factories, taking advantage of abundant laborers, modern technology of that time, and utile waterways for powering new machines in the factories next to them. As a result, people received income for their families as prices decreased, helping make products affordable for many working class citizens.

Capitalism became stronger than ever in the 19th century, providing people with factories, machines, and the opportunity to have a privately owned business. Investment in companies eventually helped businesses gain profit and hire more people during the expansion of industrialism. During the 1880s, Karl Marx, known as the great critique of this system, believed that capitalism allowed a nation to categorize its people into levels of their economic status and ultimately determined one’s social class. He defined capitalism’s effect as catastrophic, segregating people into the upper and lower class of wealth and power in their society. However, this criticism did not impede rapid production or effective manufacturing. After the War of 1812, textile factories were opening, allowing manufacturing operations to be under the same roof. Before the Civil War, the textile industry was popular enough for its cheap labor and quick production. As production became more efficient, supplies and resources were demanded by more businesses.
With the abundance of coal and steel needed to fuel factories, new railroads were built as an easy way to transport goods across the nation. In 1850, the government allowed property to be used for building new tracks such as the Transcontinental Railroad. These modes of transportation added an opportunity for people to create new businesses in that field. Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Company, but also created a system that helped production increase at a faster pace, a system known as the assembly line, a production system allowing faster production.

This opportunity to start a business, create jobs, and make profit from production benefited people and the economy. However, this also created an opportunity for corruption, scamming people of money from businesses, public funds, or the government. Before the 1800s, William “Boss” Tweed and members of the group Tammany Hall, mostly businessmen and politicians, defrauded millions of people by selling jobs to their friends and taking from public funds. It was believed that they stole $6 million dollars. As businesses opened or started to seek people for jobs, Tammany Hall would give those jobs to friends they knew, instead of the job-seeking public. This jug [give title of museum object], in the New-York Historical Society collection, was meant to honor Thomas Nast, a political cartoonist who depicted Tammany Hall as a corrupt group. Tammany Hall has been visually portrayed as a tiger, killing a person representing Democracy. Boss Tweed would be a fat man with stripes representing his group and all the criminals in it. This jug symbolizes the way Nast helped end the corruption of his time, a special jug that reminds us of the extent people will go for power.

The middle of the 19th century allowed for there to be robber barons, businessman that created dominating industries within the market, yet created reasonable prices for the American consumer. Andrew Carnegie worked to make the Carnegie Steel Company, and John D. Rockefeller founded the Standard Oil Company. With the transition into the 20th century, the industrial revolution allowed urban cities to stop using their horse-drawn carriages, using electric streetcars, elevated tracks, and subways instead. Evidently, the use of electricity became useful for communication, not only inventions in the telegraph and telephone, but also the founding of the Edison Electric Light Company and General Electric. These companies ultimately allowed for urbanization and evidently benefited the people in the nation. All these inventions and the new modern lifestyle helped industrialization...
became an important time period in American history symbolizing capitalism, labor opportunities, and the advancement of technology at work.

- Kevin Noyola

Sources Cited:


Watkins, Jeffrey. Oswego City School District Regents Exam Prep

Title: Portable chain stitch sewing machine

Artist: Willcox & Gibbs Sewing Machine Co

Date Created: ca. 1883

Content Relates to:

- The Gilded Age
- Industrialization
- Labor Unions
- Progressivism
The sleek black metal of the 1883 Willcox and Gibbs’s portable sewing machine gleams with use, its fingerprints of well-worn hands fade from the tirelessly turned wooden handle. Its bright medallion that rests on its base proudly boasts its makers, and it stands as testament to an era of mass production and industrialization. A witness to an American society experiencing a dramatic change in its economy, this sewing machine is a relic of the Gilded Age.

After the Civil War, a new industrial landscape had taken root, as the development of the railroad spearheaded the movement towards rapid industrialization and created a more tightly connected national market which now the formerly secluded countryside now could have access to. The lucrative profits of the railroad industry pioneered the organizational innovations in other big business that would lead to the development of trusts – corporations that became monopolies through the reduction of their competitors and their control over market prices. During this revolution of business methods such as vertical integration, where a corporation would buy out all the companies involved in a particular production process, and horizontal integration, where a corporation would buyout its competitors, captains of industry would dominate not only the national market but global markets as well. However, these men, such as John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, were also known as robber barons for their corruption and greed, as their questionable business practices flourished with unchecked power. Thus the Gilded Age, a satiric title for the era coined by Mark Twain, was time of industrial prosperity and material excess that superficially covered the problems of society.

However, the rapid industrialization that resulted in the creation of trusts dramatically changed the nature of the workplace and the labor force. With the dramatic increase in the number of factories, came the correlating increase in demand for workers. The need for skilled laborers, artisans, and craftsmen decreased, for factories required simple unskilled workers that could perform menial, repetitive tasks for low wages. This “deskilling” of labor welcomed the hiring of immigrants as factory workers, furthering competition in the job market. And since there would always be an abundance of jobs available to the corporations, these big businesses were able “exact a steep human price” of their laborers in their ruthless pursuit of rapid production and lower costs. Long hours, abusive management, low wages and a high accident rates in a factory with harsh
conditions left laborers in poverty and miserable; with the invention of Thomas Edison’s light-bulb came an extended workday as workers battled their exhaustion as they toiled at their machines.

Not only did men work under these conditions, but women and even children would operate machines, like this sewing machine, in overcrowded and badly ventilated factory sweatshops to support their families with their meager incomes. These terrible conditions were tolerated because the workers understood that they could always be replaced – by other workers willing to accept the horrifying working conditions for a lower pay and by immigrants hungry for work and eager to achieve the American Dream. The constant threat of unemployment hanging over the workers’ heads left the managers confident that the workers would remain acquiescent to their working environment.

But despite this threat of replacement that endeavored to oppress each worker into quiet, submissive isolation, many workers found solidarity with each other that manifested itself in the institutional form of labor unions. Two major unions emerged each with different strategies. The Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor (founded in 1869) was a very inclusive labor union whose diverse membership accounted not only for its strength as it sought to challenge the wage labor system. But the Haymarket Square incident of 1886, when a bomb killed eleven people, weakened the Knights of Labor and the resulting media tarred the organization’s name, the following walkouts crippled the labor’s strength. And another labor union, the American Federation of Labor that was founded in 1886 and was open to craft workers, became the prominent labor union under the leadership of Samuel Gompers. However, after a setback in the Pullman strike against George Pullman’s Palace Sleeping Car Company, the union was disbanded when a leader of an allying group, Eugene V. Debs, was arrested. As industries flourished, the workers’ organization into unions and strikes to express their frustrations were often combated against by the employers who fought to split apart the power of the labor union.

But while the Gilded Age was named for its corruption and scandal, the era was a time of reform where the desire for change extended beyond the horrifying conditions of the workplace to address other societal problems that plagued America.

- Pauline Ceraulo
Sources Cited:


Title: Snake Jug
Artist: Anna Pottery
Date Created: 1871
Content Relates to:
- Tammany Hall
- Political Machines
- Immigration in the late 19th century
In 1871, Cornwall and Wallace Kirkpatrick created the *Snake Jug* to pay homage to the renowned Thomas Nast. This gift depicted the fraudulent practices of the Tammany Hall Ring, which Thomas Nast exposed. As seen slithering up the jug, William Tweed, Peter Sweeney, and other operators of Tammany Hall crawled their ways into New York City’s treasury, which the jug itself symbolizes. The duplicitous nature of the Tammany Hall ring confused residents as these men padded their pockets with tax money, while they helped immigrants receive jobs. The fact that these men’s heads are attached to snake bodies highlights their dishonesty and deception. The only head not attached to a snake body is that of Thomas Nast, demonstrating that he was not swayed by Tammany Hall.

As portrayed in *Snake Jug*, the issues of bossism, political corruption and immigration were all prevalent during the late nineteenth century. America’s rapid industrialization was coupled with a major influx of immigrants. In New York City, vast amounts of Irish immigrants dwelled in tenements and were in constant need of jobs, which were often scarce. Immigrants were given a taste of what it was to be Americans in their direct involvement with American politics. Politicians, both at the state and federal levels, toyed with the aspirations of these immigrants in order to maintain their power and financial status.

The majority of these immigrants came with the intention of fulfilling the American Dream, and envisioned a new life for themselves. They worked long and hard hours for little pay, and faced discrimination as newcomers. While American wealth wasn’t guaranteed, its democracy was certain. City governments were more intimate with the people in these growing urban areas. They were able to rise and stay in power because of their influence over these immigrants. They had a strong and reciprocal relationship in which politicians exchanged jobs for political power. In New York City specifically, officials protected the jobs of Irish immigrants. These officials were mostly a part of the political organization, Tammany Hall, which appealed to immigrants as it gave them specious access to American politics.

Political machines, such as Tammany Hall, were corrupt institutions that controlled political parties in different cities. Tammany Hall, led by William Macy Tweed, controlled the Democratic faction of New York. Tweed, son of a Scottish immigrant, grew up in
Tenement districts. Tenement houses were communal housings with inferior ventilation and inhumane conditions that dominated immigrant neighborhoods. He rose from these districts, as he became an elected member of the city council. While Tweed was head, or grand Saychem, of Tammany Hall, New York’s deficit went from 36 million in 1868 to over 100 million in the span of two years. Much of this is attributed to Tammany Hall’s regime as Tweed and others took money from state taxes and spread the wealth around to poor immigrants in return for political popularity.

Some may argue that Tammany Hall’s reign had benefits for immigrants despite that it stole tax money from the upper and middle classes of New York City under Tweed’s leadership. Tammany Hall used this money to create jobs and improve the infrastructures of immigrant neighborhoods. In addition, Tammany Hall bosses manipulated their insider knowledge to gain economic standing. An example of their dishonest graft included that they bought land that was about to become economically valuable before it was even put on the market. Fortunately by the mid-1970s Boss Tweed was put in jail after corruption was brought to surface. By the end of the 19th century, reformers ended the debauchery of political machines.

Much of the collapse of the Tweed regime was attributed to Thomas Nast. Nast, a German born immigrant fulfilled the American dream by becoming an intellectual elite of New York City who belonged to the upper-middle class. He rose to fame at the end of the nineteenth century with his political cartoons. In particular, through his “Who Stole the Money” cartoon Nast widely publicized the vice of Tammany Hall.

- Laura Pena and Rosed Serrano

Sources Cited:
In the last half of the 1800s, which development led to the other three?
(1) expansion of the middle class
(2) growth of industrialization
(3) formation of trusts
(4) creation of labor unions

During the late 1800s, industrialization in the United States led to
(1) the growth of the middle class
(2) an overall decline in labor union membership
(3) the creation of affirmative action programs
(4) a decrease in the use of natural resources

Which development led to the other three?
(1) growth of tenements and slums
(2) shift from a rural to an urban lifestyle
(3) rapid industrial growth
(4) widespread use of child labor

Which statement describes a result of the Industrial Revolution in the United States?
(1) Farm production decreased.
(2) Slavery in the South increased.
(3) The population of the cities decreased.
(4) Immigration to the United States increased.

According to the theory of laissez-faire capitalism, prices of products are determined by the
1 interaction of supply and demand
2 cost of producing the products
3 government
4 bankers

Industrialists of the late 1800s contributed most to economic growth by
(1) supporting the efforts of labor unions
(2) establishing large corporations
(3) encouraging government ownership of banks
(4) opposing protective tariffs

In the late 1800s, the creation of the Standard Oil Trust by John D. Rockefeller was intended to
(1) protect small, independent oil firms
(2) control prices and practices in the oil refining business
(3) increase competition among oil refining companies
(4) distribute donations to charitable causes

Mark Twain labeled the late 1800s in the United States the “Gilded Age” to describe the
(1) end of the practice of slavery
(2) absence of international conflicts
(3) extremes of wealth and poverty
(4) achievements of the labor movement

Business leaders John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, and Cornelius Vanderbilt were referred to as robber barons primarily because they
(1) bought titles of nobility from foreign governments
(2) were ruthless in dealing with competitors
(3) stole money from state and local governments
(4) gained all of their wealth by illegal means

One factor that furthered industrialization in the United States between 1865 and 1900 was the
(1) development of the airplane
(2) expansion of the railroads
(3) mass production of automobiles
(4) widespread use of steamboats


In the cartoon, the figure of John D. Rockefeller represents a
1 philanthropist
2 robber baron
3 government economist
4 small-business owner

Which feature of the United States economy in the late 1800s is symbolized by the rose in the cartoon?
1 technological improvements in agriculture
2 dependence on imported oil
3 creation of monopolies
4 governmental success in regulating business competition
Title: Votes for Women Pennant

Artist: Henry Schwartz

Date Created: 1910-1920

Content Relates to:

- Women’s Rights Movement
- 19th amendment
- World War I
The issue of women’s rights is one that has manifested for many years within the United States and extends far into the history of our country, as far back as 1776, when Abigail Adams reminded her husband to “remember the ladies” while a new government was organized. Though her decision to state such ideas was unusual, it was a sentiment shared by many women of the time. The fight for women’s right was a long one, plagued by discrimination and innumerable obstacles. However, during World War I and World War II women were offered an opportunity to become more involved and ultimately show the government, composed of men, that they were capable of much more and that they deserved the right to vote in a country that they offered their support to.

In 1848, the women’s rights movement was kicked off with the introduction of the Declaration of Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Convention. This document, inspired by the Declaration of Independence, acknowledged the troubles of women and expressed that women should be allotted the same rights as men. When World War I ensued, the women’s suffrage movement was brought to a halt, just as it had been when the Civil War commenced. During these dire times, men called upon women to cease what they were doing and support their country. While men went off to defend the United States, women took over the work force. It was at this time that women demonstrated that they could excel in multiple aspects of society, and that they were just as valuable to the country as men were. After World War I, women were able to be active members of society, especially as far as the work force was concerned, and they were able to obtain many jobs they previously had not been able to.

During World War I, the phrase “Food will win the war” became common. It was based upon the idea that food waste was not acceptable as the soldiers in the war had to be fed. The Women’s Committee of the Council of National Defense, led by a suffragist named Dr. Shaw, was in charge of the efforts of women during the war. They helped support the war by conserving food as well as selling bonds.

As part of the war effort, the U.S Food Administration created a poster showing the female personification of America, Columbia, dressed in robes with the design of the United
States flag with the statement “Be Patriotic, sign your country’s pledge to save the food” in order to engage women and their families in the food conservation movement.

When World War I ended, though the women’s suffrage movement had been bought to a halt, their cause had been advanced by the hard work they offered during the war. As a result of their hard work and dedication, President Wilson offered his support to the women’s suffrage movement and by 1920, with the passing of the 19th Amendment, women had the right to vote. By the time World War II began, workers were desperately needed to fulfill the jobs men had left unoccupied. At the same time, the demand for guns, planes, and other necessary military goods skyrocketed and many companies wondered who would take over the jobs in the factories. Initially they were hesitant to hire women to take over these jobs but soon realized that, if they wanted to win the war, they had no other choice. With this turn of events, Rosie the Riveter emerged as a symbol of the country’s strong female workforce. Rosie, who was created as a form of propaganda used by the government in order to encourage women to join the workforce, was an instant success. Besides the use of propaganda, women were also encouraged to work as a result of economic and social issues. Many women left low pay jobs and moved on to higher wages at the factories. They also realized that if they offered their support during the war they might receive more recognition as equal citizens, similar to what had occurred post World War I.

Without both world wars the women’s rights movement may have taken much longer to accomplish what it did. If the country had not seen that women were equal members of society and were capable of much more than they had been accredited, there is no saying if women would have the rights they do now.

- Celena Gonzalez
Sources Cited:


“This is a man’s world, but it would be nothing without a woman or a girl” – James Brown. For many years, men have held the power in our society. Historically, men have held the highest jobs and earned higher salaries. Due to gender stereotypes, there were limited job opportunities for women. Women have fought for years to gain the same amount of power men have and the fight continues in today’s society. Although there are still fights for women’s rights today, the success of women over the years are all owed to the women that created and were involved in the Seneca Falls Convention.

The Seneca Falls Convention is considered to be the start of the women’s suffrage movement. The women’s suffrage movement was a period in time where women protested and fought for the right to vote. In 1848, there was a high demand for rights for women. The Seneca Falls Convention was an organization put together by a group of women, who came together to discuss ways to get voting rights guaranteed to them. Some of the most well-known women associated with the women’s suffrage movement are Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucy Stone. In 1870, the 15th Amendment—which gave black males the right to vote—was passed. This outraged the women because their protests for suffrage were ignored, yet the right to vote was granted to males. As a result of this, Susan B. Anthony and other women decided to take a stand and created reform groups to further their mission to gain voting rights and prove to society that women too can make a change.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony created the National Women’s Suffrage Association (NWSA). They sought to gain voting rights for women, and end any injustice towards women in wages and employment. Lucy Stone created the American Women Suffrage Association. After a while, these two organizations came together to form the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The original creators of these organizations could no longer run the groups so they allowed Carrie Chapman Catt to take over. Catt later created, from all the women’s organizations, the Women’s Suffrage Party.
In 1910, artist Henry Schwartz added his support to this movement by creating a felt pennant reading “Votes for Women”. This pennant was used by the women during protests and parades. In 1920, after all the protesting and petitions, women were finally granted the right to vote with the 19th Amendment. Although they were granted the right to vote, women still struggle with equality today. They battle to be equal in employment money, property, etc. Given the success of women’s rights movements over the past years, the future continues to look bright for women and it may not me just a man’s world after all.

- Nerisha Penrose

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"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex...."
— 19th Amendment, United States Constitution

Which group of women worked for the passage of this amendment?
(1) Harriet Tubman, Jane Addams, and Dorothea Dix
(2) Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
(3) Madeline Albright, Geraldine Ferraro, and Sandra Day O'Conner
(4) Clara Barton, Amelia Earhart, and Eleanor Roosevelt

According to this poster, what were two reasons that people should vote in favor of the 19th Amendment supporting women's suffrage?

(1) ________________________________  Score ___
(2) ________________________________  Score ___

During World War I, many American women helped gain support for the suffrage movement by
(1) protesting against the war
(2) joining the military service
(3) lobbying for child-care facilities
(4) working in wartime industries

In 1920, women gained the right to vote as a result of a
(1) presidential order
(2) Supreme Court decision
(3) national election
(4) constitutional amendment

Which amendment to the United States Constitution realized the principal goal of the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848?
(1) 13th, ending slavery
(2) 16th, creating a graduated income tax
(3) 18th, establishing Prohibition
(4) 19th, providing for women's suffrage

Which social movement was most affected by World War I?
1 repealing Prohibition
2 ending restrictions on immigration
3 adopting women's suffrage
4 providing aid to the unemployed
Title: Time Capsule Chest

Date Created: 1914

Content Relates to:

- World War I
- Woodrow Wilson
Have you ever found a time capsule and wondered what’s inside? A time capsule can contain an array of items, from clothing, to music, and even food, but usually, the items included in a typical time capsule are placed there to show what life was like at the exact moment the capsule was sealed. On May 23rd, 1914, the Lower Wall Street Business Men’s Association deposited a sealed, gold-plated chest at the New-York Historical Society with the intention that it be opened in 1974, then sealed again and reopened in 2074. Until 1974, no one knew the contents of the time capsule; however, after looking at the historical events surrounding the early 1900’s, one could make an educated guess as to what was inside.

The early 1900’s were a time of great turmoil for Europe. World War I, also known as “The Great War,” was a major conflict between Austria-Hungary, aided by Germany, and Serbia, aided by Britain, Italy, France, and (until their revolution in 1917) Russia, that spanned the years between 1914 and 1918. World War I, as aforementioned, was fought entirely in Europe, the US taking a vow of neutrality in order to keep Atlantic waterways open to trade from all nations. However, as time progressed and the war became more heated, the U.S. sidled into a position of power on the warfront. Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States between 1913 and 1921, was determined to keep U.S. troops from entangling themselves in what looked like a messy bloodbath of angry Europeans attacking each other (the war resulted in over 20 million fatalities), but was perfectly content to profit from the whole ordeal. Between 1914 and 1916, America became one of the largest providers of goods and services to almost all of the European nations involved in the war due to their ability to cross the Atlantic and trade. However, the German blockade the British placed upon them made it practically impossible for the United States to trade with Germany. This blockade became the main incentive for Germany to introduce unrestricted submarine warfare into the battlefield which, ultimately, became the reason for America’s entry in the war.

On February 4th, 1915, Germany declared the merchant shipping zone around Britain to be fair military ground. Any ships sailing in this area, other than those commanded by fellow Germans, would be legitimate targets. Wilson, however, did not agree with this, seeing as America had declared total neutrality, and promised to hold Germany at fault if anything was to happen to American ships in this area. On May 7th,
1915, German U-Boats sunk the Lusitania, a British ocean liner, believing (with no hard evidence) that the ship was being used to transport war materials. The RMS Lusitania shipwreck caused over 1,100 deaths, which included 128 American civilians. Woodrow Wilson, in keeping with his promise, blamed Germany, and tensions rose in the neutral nation, helping to spur the US into entering the war a few years later.

On the whole, Americas' involvement in the war did little to affect the course of World War I overall. The US did very little fighting on the battlefield overseas, mostly focusing on providing support for the anti-German troops and pushing for the armistice with the allied forces that would eventually end the war in 1918. Wilson made a great effort to let WWI remain a strictly European war and, aside from the Selective Service Act, War Revenue Act, the Sedition Amendments to the Espionage Act, and The Fourteen Points (which laid out what Wilson believed to be the biggest war aims of the US at the time), the American public was fairly removed from the war itself, unlike World War II, which was heavily scrutinized by the American people. World War I became a symbol of what America wanted to reject, even going as far as naming it “The War to End All Wars.” Little did they know that what they faced during WWI was just a glimpse of what the world would face in years to come.

- Alexandria Taliaferro

Sources Cited:


At the beginning of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson followed a traditional United States foreign policy by
(1) refusing to permit trade with either side in the conflict
(2) sending troops to aid Great Britain
(3) declaring American neutrality
(4) requesting an immediate declaration of war against the aggressors

In the years before the United States entered World War I, President Woodrow Wilson violated his position of strict neutrality by
(1) secretly sending troops to fight for the democratic nations
(2) openly encouraging Mexico to send troops to support the Allies
(3) supporting economic policies that favored the Allied nations
(4) using United States warships to attack German submarines

Which situation was the immediate cause of the United States entry into World War I in 1917?
(1) The League of Nations requested help.
(2) The Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor.
(3) Nazi tyranny threatened Western democracy.
(4) German submarines sank United States merchant ships.

During his reelection campaign in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson used the slogan, “He kept us out of war.” In April of 1917, Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. What helped bring about this change?
(1) Bolshevik forces increased their strength in Germany and Italy.
(2) Britain was invaded by nations of the Central Powers.
(3) Russia signed a treaty of alliance with the Central Powers.
(4) Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare.

Data from this graph support the conclusion that World War I
(1) caused the United States trade deficit to increase
(2) cost the United States many billions of dollars
(3) was a significant benefit to the American economy
(4) created an unfavorable balance of trade
Title: Presidential Campaign Kerchief for the Socialist Party

Year Created: 1932

Content Relates to:

- Red Scare of 1920
- Red Scare of 1950
- Anticommunism
The Red Scare of 1917–1920 began as World War I was ending. It was spurred by the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia, where the Communists seized control of Russia. The United States feared this because Communist doctrine encourages the working class to overthrow the upper class through a series of worldwide revolutions.

After the Bolshevik Revolution, Americans began to fear that communism would spread to the United States. The influx of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe fueled the nationwide paranoia. The immigrants were suspected of having communist affiliations. They were viewed as a threat to American stability and security. Americans came to believe that Communist immigrants were plotting a revolution in the United States.

Labor unrest in the early 1910s also led to the rise of the Red Scare. During World War I, approximately nine million people worked in war industries, and another four million were serving in the armed forces. Once the war was over and veterans came back home, these workers were displaced from their jobs as the veterans took their place. Economic difficulties and worker unrest increased in the post-World War I era. Union activity increased.

The International Workers of the World was one such labor union. They were centered in the northwest portion of the country. They did not support World War I and they were also associated with socialism. As a result, many Americans were suspicious of them.

One of the first major strikes after the end of World War I was the Seattle shipyard strike in 1919. It was associated with the International Workers of the World. 35,000 shipyard workers in Seattle participated in the strike. Despite the lack of violence or arrests, the strikers were viewed as Communists and they were accused of trying to incite a communist rebellion.

A series of bombings by anarchists also paved the way for the Red Scare. As a result, a fear of communists, socialists, anarchists, and other dissidents swept through the nation. The government responded to these threats by attacking potential communist threats. The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed in the late 1910s to prosecute suspected communists.
In 1919 and 1920, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer led raids on leftist organizations such as the Communist Party and the International Workers of the World. He hoped that it would assist him in his campaign to become president in 1920. He created the precursor to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and he gathered the names of thousands of known or suspected communists. In November 1919, Palmer ordered government raids. They resulted in the arrests of 250 suspected radicals in 11 cities. Nationwide, more than 4,000 alleged communists were arrested and jailed, and 556 immigrants were deported. Then, in the early 1920s, the fear seemed to dissipate just as quickly as it had begun, and the Red Scare was over.

Yet, this was not the end of anticommunist sentiments in the United States. In the 1950's, after Russia fell to the Bolsheviks, a widespread wave of fear and paranoia began once again; this time, however, the American fears were amplified by the looming risk of nuclear destruction. The hysterical paranoia of this time period is commonly referred to as “McCarthyism,” in reference to Senator Joseph McCarthy, who seemed to find communists in every branch of the government during the early years of the 1950’s. He met his downfall starting in 1953, when he audaciously accused the U.S. Army of harboring communist spies. However, he made a lasting impression in history; he ruined the careers of many important people, and he was the primary contributor to what historians now call the “Second Red Scare.”

- Nian Hu

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Which factors were the major causes of the Red Scare and the Palmer Raids, which followed World War I?

1. success of the Communist Party in congressional and Presidential elections
2. race riots in Los Angeles and the revival of the Ku Klux Klan
3. failure of the United States to join the League of Nations and the unpaid German war debts
4. the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia and workers’ strikes in the United States

McCarthyism in the early 1950s resulted from
(1) new commitments to civil rights for African Americans
(2) opposition to the Marshall Plan
(3) charges that Communists had infiltrated the United States government
(4) increased public support for labor unions

The Espionage Act (1917) and the Sedition Act (1918) were used by President Woodrow Wilson’s administration during World War I to
1. discourage congressional support for the war effort
2. place German Americans in internment camps
3. remove Communists from government positions
4. silence critics of the war effort

The Palmer Raids of 1919 and 1920 and McCarthyism of the 1950s were similar in that both were
1. responses to the large numbers of immigrants entering the United States
2. reactions to the fear of communist influence in the United States
3. direct causes of United States entry into war
4. long-term results of Presidential foreign policies

One way in which the Red Scare of the 1920s and McCarthyism of the 1950s were similar is that both
(1) jeopardized the rights of individuals suspected of un-American activity
(2) occurred during times of economic depression
(3) addressed the issue of increased government bureaucracy after a world war
(4) led to the imprisonment of ethnic minorities during wartime
Title: *Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's Reception*

Artist: Theresa Bernstein

Date Created: 1924

Content Relates to:

- Post World War I
- Pre-Great Depression
- Roaring 20s
In 1924, Theresa Bernstein painted the “Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney’s Reception” which now resides in the New-York Historical Society. This painting depicts the luxurious lifestyle of the wealthy class during that time period. In the painting they do not seem to face much hardship as they are spending their time at Whitney’s Reception. There is a large number of guests at the party but no clear notion of the mood of this reception because the facial expressions are not clear. Despite the hazy strokes that the artist uses, which do not show the audience any clear expressions or a solid background, the audience is still able to understand the general idea of the painting. In fact, the hazy strokes of the artist do not lessen the quality of the painting that the audience sees. Instead, the technique actually enhances it because it allows the audience to think about why the artist painted the way she did, and to question whether or not there was an underlying meaning to it.

When one takes a glance at the painting, they will only see exactly what is in the painting - a number of prosperous guests at a fancy party held by the Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. However, as the person carefully examines the painting, they slowly question themselves as to what is actually happening and may or may not come to create their own conclusions.

During the 1920s, there were many changes in the economic and social aspects of life. It was a time of mass consumption since new technologies created a consumer goods economy. The rising automobile industry, electrical industry, radio and motion pictures led to an increase in social equality, a more homogenized national culture, and a transformed life filled with leisure due to the consumer goods. However, Americans also faced a struggle with social change since America was now an urban, industrial nation. Consequently, there were many developing tensions between new and traditional lifestyles, while nativism also resurfaced. As the environment changed, so did the values. Many of the new values were based upon wealth, possessions, recreation, and sexual freedom. The “Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney’s Reception”, which was painted during this time of change, illustrated these new values. The period post-World War I consisted of returning to normalcy. However, there was an ongoing recession from 1918 to 1921. After 1923, there was a brief period of economic recovery when Calvin Coolidge became President but this only lasted until 1929, when the stock market crashed.
The average unemployment rate after 1923 was 5 percent or less. On the contrary, farmers did not benefit from the Coolidge prosperity unless they were commercial farmers because there was an overproduction resulting in decreased prices of both farm products and farmland. As farm income fell by 50 percent during the 1920s, many farmers lost their land and the number of farmers declined, too. Native Americans also had the highest unemployment rate because they were left to live on reservations without any running water or heat.

The role of women significantly changed during the 1920s. The number of women in the workforce increased steadily and the changes that were occurring in technology and scientific management also created new opportunities for women. Many of the jobs that women took were work as secretaries, salespeople and telephone operators. These jobs were labeled as “female only” because it was low-paying, low-status, and low-mobility. It was, however, in the 1920s, that women also gained the right to vote.

- Chris Kim

Sources Cited:


Title: *The Great White Way-Times Square, N.Y.C.*

Artist: Howard Thain

Date Created: 1925

Content Relates to:

- The Roaring 20s
- The Great Depression
The 1920s marked an enormous shift in American society across the country. After World War I, people entered a different mode; they wanted to have fun, and more people were moving into the cities. A multitude of factors drew people into cities, many which still exist in today’s world. More people were moving away from the rural areas to obtain jobs. The excitement of city life was very appealing in contrast to the slow and isolated life in the country. In 1923, New York produced 1/12th of all goods manufactured in the nation (and the country’s wealth more than doubled in this decade.) In addition, New York City in the 1920s had almost 6 million residents and was a hub for manufacturing, commerce, and culture. Immigrants coming to the city fed the economy, and about 200,000 African Americans moved to New York from the south between 1917 and 1925. Like others in the states, they moved to New York because of the opportunities, but they were also lured by the culture of Harlem, especially Harlem’s jazz and blues music scene.

New York’s Times Square came to life in the evenings, the buildings ablaze with lights and advertisements and surrounded by the relentless activity and fast pace of New Yorkers and tourists alike. The signs usually advertised the various types of theatrical productions taking place in the area, including vaudeville, operetta, melodrama, and jazz. The pinnacle of Times Square’s success took place in the season of 1927-1928, in which 264 shows opened. Most of the time, it was the city’s elite classes who attended the performances.

Times Square was not only the heart of theater; it was also the center of transportation in the early twentieth century. It became a gathering place for New Yorkers and tourists who were astonished by the bright lights and frantic activity never before witnessed. Ticker tape-style signs broadcasted up-to-the-minute news of sporting events, politics, elections, and world affairs. These components and attributes of Times Square in the 1920’s are depicted in Howard Thain’s painting “The Great White Way” (another name for Times Square), located in the Henry Luce III Center at the New-York Historical Society. It was given this name for its glorious effects of illumination on the streets of New York City’s theater district.
When the Great Depression hit New York City, it caused a huge shift in the cultural foundations of Times Square. Many theaters closed and were forced to convert to burlesques and cinemas as the privileged class was diminishing and average incomes were rapidly dropping. Dance halls, peep shows, and penny restaurants populated the area, and crime rose. The few theaters and playwrights that did survive began producing more serious dramas, which reflected the depressing and somber tone of the times. Times Square enjoyed a slight return to glory immediately after World War II, but then became an increasingly rough area until a major cleanup and revitalization occurred in the 1990s.

The Great Depression that followed the Wall Street Crash of October 1929 had effects around the globe. After World War I, America had become a globally dominant economic power. Thus, the success of the economy of other countries around the world depended on the success of the American economy. America’s national income fell by almost 50 percent between 1929 and 1932, and its government was having a hard time dealing with unemployment and the discontent of its citizens. The Great Depression not only had a massive impact on the world economically, but also socially and politically. Instead of the countries working collaboratively with one another to further their economies (this brought back ideas which had originated prior to World War I) the world was driven by national self-interest and the dominance of military forces.

The Depression also created more anxiety for America and other capitalist nations in regard to the power of the USSR, for now the USSR’s potential for spreading communism into broken European cities would increase. Soviet propaganda stated that the Depression was proof of the “inherent failings of capitalism”, and that communism was inevitably going to be its replacement. Britain and France also had to deal with the increasing nationalist and independence movements in their empires, which not only increased their anxiety, but also the money that had to be spent to control these movements. In addition, what the League of Nations used as their main threat –the imposing of economic sanctions– would no longer be undertaken by the members of the League. The countries were concerned with saving their own economies, and imposing sanctions on another country could potentially hurt their own economies even more.
Furthermore, the responses to the Depression by the democratic states appeared to foster a return to the old ways of diplomacy, such as alliances and agreements outside of the League. In the meantime, America receded further into isolationism.

- Victoria Sadosky

Sources Cited:


Title: *Palais D'Or*

Artist: Howard Thain

Date Created: 1928

Content Relates to:

- The Roaring Twenties
- Prohibition
- Consumer Economy
- The Great Depression
The Roaring Twenties

For a person with money to spend, New York was the place to be in the nineteen twenties. It also attracted penniless migrants from the rural parts of the country in search for jobs and a more exciting lifestyle, like Howard Thain, the painter of *Palais d’Or New York City*. Thain moved to New York from Dallas, Texas in 1928 and his paintings reflect the excitement, energy and decadence that filled New York in the Twenties. New York was a hot destination for people all over the country because the economic boom in the 1920s created scores of new jobs in the cities, while farmers across the nation were suffering from inflation and crop failures. A new consumer economy developed in America after World War I, meaning that American factories produced products that people would buy and use in their normal, everyday lives. Products that are now staples of modern life, like electric Toasters, light bulbs, washing machines, Kleenex, Scotch tape and refrigerators became available to the general population for the first time.

African Americans migrated en masse to the Northern cities for these opportunities and to escape the restrictive sharecropping system in the South. Black communities gathered in certain areas of cities, like Harlem, and started to form a unique culture with distinctive jazz music, poetry and politics. Americans were not the only ones with an urge to move to the city. People from around the world were attracted to American industrial centers for their economic opportunities and prosperity.Unfortunately for them, immigration was restricted in the Twenties and quotas were set for each foreign nation, and most immigrants allowed to enter were from Western Europe. Those few people lucky enough to get into America faced harassment from the Klu Klux Klan, which had influence in the North and the South, which was a powerful, secretive organization dedicated to white supremacy and focused on targeting Catholics, Jews and African Americans.

Despite its social issues, America seemed to be running smoothly throughout the Twenties. The nation’s gross domestic product (the combined value of all its companies, industries and services) rose from $69 billion to $93 billion in just three years. But all of
that money seemingly vanished into thin air on October 29th, 1929, when the Stock Market crashed. Americans, who had been living luxuriously days before, lost their life savings in an instant and the nation plunged headfirst into the Great Depression. How did this happen? How could America be overflowing with money and opportunity one week, and destitute the next? As it turns out, the economic success of the Twenties was built upon shaky foundations. Because most of American industry was controlled by a select group of huge monopolies, most of the nation’s wealth was held by a small number of people.

In 1929, the richest one percent of American families owned forty-five percent of the nation’s wealth. This meant that most Americans could not afford to spend money on consumer goods, so factories had to scale back production and fire workers. Even throughout the best times of the decade, forty percent of Americans made less than the minimum family subsistence level. Because the American economy was based on the sale and production of consumer goods, this was an especially serious problem. Also, Wall Street businessmen and traders had far too much confidence in the American economy. There was massive over-speculation, meaning that people invested too much money in the stock market without being careful about what they were investing in and bought stock on credit (took out loans). So when the market finally did crash, it did much more damage than it would have and America would suffer the consequences all throughout the next decade of the Great Depression

- Natalie Friedberg
Sources Cited:


Practice Questions from Past U.S. History Regents Exams

What was a major result of Prohibition in the United States during the 1920s?
(1) restriction of immigration  
(2) growth of communism  
(3) destruction of family values  
(4) increase in organized crime

The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s can best be described as
(1) an organization created to help promote African-American businesses  
(2) a movement that sought to draw people back to the inner cities  
(3) a relief program to provide jobs for minority workers  
(4) a period of great achievement by African-American writers, artists, and performers

Which generalization can best be drawn from the experiment with national Prohibition (1919–1933)?
(1) Social attitudes can make laws difficult to enforce.  
(2) Americans resent higher taxes.  
(3) Morality can be legislated successfully.  
(4) People will sacrifice willingly for the common good.

A result of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s was the
(1) restoration of buildings and the infrastructure in New York City  
(2) increased recognition of African-American writers and musicians  
(3) end of racial segregation laws in New York State  
(4) appointment of several African Americans as presidential advisors

The “flappers” of the 1920s gained public attention mainly because they
1. often refused to conform to society’s expectations  
2. fought for the right of women to vote  
3. fled the United States to live in Europe  
4. worked for equal status in employment

The 1920s are often called the “Roaring Twenties” because the decade was noted for

1. changing cultural values  
2. economic depression  
3. political reform  
4. overseas expansion

The changing image of women during the 1920s was symbolized by the
(1) passage of an equal pay act  
(2) drafting of women into the army  
(3) popularity of the flappers and their style of dress  
(4) appointment of several women to President Calvin Coolidge’s cabinet

The Harlem Renaissance was important to American society because it
(1) highlighted the cultural achievements of African Americans  
(2) isolated African Americans from mainstream society  
(3) provided new political opportunities for African Americans  
(4) brought an end to racial segregation in the North
Title: *Grand Central Station N.Y.C.*

Artist: Howard Thain

Date Created: 1927

Content Relates to:

- Great Depression
- World War II
The Great Depression began when America was preparing for World War II. It represents one of the darkest periods in American history. It was believed that the Great Depression started in October of 1929 with the famous Black Tuesday stock market crash, however, it was soon pointed out by historians and economists that it had started earlier that year. The Great Depression took place in the late 1920’s and early 1930’s. It was a time of severe worldwide economic depression in the decade leading to World War II. In most countries the time of the depression varied, but a number of countries had their Great Depression start around 1929 and lasted until the late 1930’s or the early 1940’s. Unemployment reached its highest point in 1933, when 25% of American workers were idle. Some of the conditions during the Great Depression were very harsh and brutal for men, women, and children.

FUN FACT: Did you know that one reason the Great Depression occurred and ended was because of Germany?

After WWI, Great Britain, France, and Italy created a treaty which stated that Germany should pay for all of the damages, death, and failure of the economy caused by WWI. Of course Germany was unable to pay the amount that the allied countries had requested. The United States decided to help by offering Germany a loan, forgetting the economic issues that they were going through. When it was time for Germany to pay back the U.S., they were unable to do so. Germany’s negligence was one of the reasons why the Great Depression occurred.

The Great Depression had such a great impact on the lives of many artists and writers that numerous people decided to record life during the 1930’s. Two artists who have recorded life before and during the Great Depression were Irving Browning and Howard Thain. Irving Browning was a photographer who captured the life of the people who were affected by the Great Depression. He even got the perspective of the people on the streets and those who were less fortunate than others. His photography really caught the eye of others by showing people what they would often ignore during that time period, and that is what makes him such a great photographer. Howard Thain was a painter and even though his works were recorded before the Great Depression, they still coincided with
it. Today, people use the work of Howard Thain and Irving Browning as a good reference to life in New York during the Great Depression.

FUN FACT: Howard Thain and Irving Browning’s works are here at the New York Historical Society. (Howard Thain’s Eye) Two paintings in particular to look at from Howard Thain would be *Madison Square* and *Grand Central*.

- Ebony Anderson-Brown

Sources Cited:


Title: *Empire State Building, N.Y.C.*

Artist: Victor Perelli

Date Created: 1940

Content Relates to:

- The New Deal
- The Works Progress Administration
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
During the 1930s, the United States was on its road to recovery from the Great Depression that had plagued it early in the decade.

On October 29, 1929, also known as Black Tuesday, the American stock market crashed, resulting in a worldwide economic depression. President Hoover, believing the economy would heal itself, did little to help. It was not until Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hoover’s successor, became president, that America’s economy began to rise from its weakened economic state.

Roosevelt’s plan to revive the American economy was known as the New Deal, which consisted of three main goals- relief, recovery, and reform.

Roosevelt’s first concern was human relief. To provide jobs to lessen unemployment, Roosevelt created the Public Works Administration, hoping that an increase in employment would stimulate the economy. After the Public Works Administration failed, Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration, providing 9 million jobs for unemployed Americans. The Works Progress Administration was the most famous of Roosevelt’s New Deal Programs, employing individuals to build hospitals, schools, and airports, as well as employing artists, writers, and musicians. One such painting is Empire State Building N.Y.C. by Victor Perelli, an artist hired by the Works Progress Administration to create portraits of New York City.

The New Deal also had the goal of bringing recovery to the economy. In an attempt to save banks from failing due to overdraws, Roosevelt called a National Bank Holiday in which all American banks were ordered closed. During this time, he convinced Congress to pass a bill that would help failing banks. Roosevelt also implemented many programs to further the recovery of the economy. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) paid farmers to not grow crops in order to reduce surpluses and thus increase crop prices. The Federal Housing Administration provided small loans for home construction, stimulating the building and construction industries. The National Recovery Administration was established to manage businesses and quotas in order to end wage and price deflation as well as to restore competition.
The final aim of the New Deal was to bring about reforms that would prevent another Great Depression. To achieve this, Roosevelt once again implemented programs that would directly and indirectly protect Americans from another economic disaster. One of the first reform programs was the establishment of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which was set up to monitor stock market activity and prevent fraud. Roosevelt also established the Social Security Administration to provide pensions and aid to dependent mothers, children, and the disabled. The National Labor Relations Act was put into effect to protect laborers’ rights to organize and collectively bargain. It was these and many other reform programs that have protected America from another drastic economic decline.

The New Deal set in motion by President Franklin Roosevelt helped the United States rise out of the Great Depression. The programs implemented brought not only direct relief to Americans by providing them with food and clothing, but also strong reform programs that remain in effect today. Roosevelt restored Americans’ confidence in their country and government, as well as reinforced the idea of America’s strength after being able to rise from such damage. Much of the success of company regulation and social welfare today can be attributed to the New Deal. It was indeed one of the most progressive time periods in America.

- Genesis Nunez

Sources Cited:


Victor Perelli’s painting of the Empire State Building reflects the role that the American government played in its citizens’ lives during the Great Depression. Perelli’s canvas was sponsored by the Works Progress Administration, a program that President Franklin Roosevelt introduced as part of the New Deal. While his predecessor, President Hoover, was largely criticized for the limited role that the government played in addressing the Great Depression, Roosevelt embraced a multitude of economic programs to help Americans. Agencies such as the Work Progress Administration, instituted in 1935, addressed the immediate needs of Americans, while Roosevelt’s other programs, such as the Social Security Act and the Glass-Steagall Act, would be a response to safeguard America from future economic problems. Because of Roosevelt’s hands-on approach to the Great Depression, he was praised for his direct response to the needs of Americans and criticized for his extensive political and economic intervention.

With the Stock Market Crash in October of 1929, Americans were awakened from their comfortable and frivolous lives that marked much of the 1920’s. President Hoover, whose ascent to the White House came with humble beginnings as a poor orphan, held a rugged individualistic view on economic affairs. His “pick yourself up by your own bootstraps” approach however failed to adequately satisfy the demands and needs of Americans. Although Hoover did introduce a handful of economic programs, his focus to aid the private sector, which in turn would reinvest its capital in the economy, missed the overwhelming issues of unemployment and poverty. In the 1932 elections, Americans would swiftly replace Hoover with Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In his inaugural address, Roosevelt proclaimed, “This nation asks for action, and action now. Our greatest primary task is to put people to work.” Roosevelt’s stance on the government’s role in the people’s lives marked a distinct shift from that of Hoover. Within his first hundred days, Roosevelt swiftly convinced Congress to pass a variety of New Deal legislation that directly worked to improve the lives of Americans. The Civil Works Administration offered jobs to approximately 2.5 million jobs in conservation. The Works Progress Administration, which enabled Victor Perelli to paint the Empire State Building, sponsored projects for artists, writers, and musicians. A handful of Roosevelt’s bills also
worked to secure the economic stability of America in the long-term. The Glass-Steagall Banking Act in 1933 established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which secured Americans’ bank accounts up to $5000. Roosevelt’s Social Security Act in 1935 provided a welfare program for Americans, providing old age insurance and unemployment benefits. The lasting legacy of the FDIC and the Social Security Act today is a testament to Roosevelt’s practical and perhaps necessary action for America.

Roosevelt’s direct intervention in the lives of Americans drew praise from those who resented Hoover’s “hands-off” approach to the economy. However, critics of Roosevelt maintained that his excessive economic and political intervention was unnecessary and in certain circumstances, unconstitutional. The Supreme Court’s rejection of several of the New Deal programs—including the Agricultural Adjust Act, which was declared unconstitutional for its illegal taxation—was an indication of the expanding role in which Roosevelt defined his presidency. Roosevelt’s response to the Supreme Court was itself a manifestation of his eager political intervention. The proposed Judiciary Reorganization Bill of 1937, which would enable Roosevelt to appoint six justices to the Supreme Court, alarmed many Americans and signified Roosevelt’s clash with the judicial system. Through his desire to lift America from its Depression, Roosevelt walked a fine line between executive authority and executive breach of power.

Learning from the lessons of Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt worked to ensure a stronger government role in the economy. Although his programs—collectively known as the New Deal—were lauded by many Americans, the depression would continue until the onset of the Second World War. Though critics argue of Roosevelt’s overextension of power, it was through his economic and political actions that America would take its first step away from the Depression.

- Paul Ngu
Sources Cited:


A condition of the 1920’s that helped cause the Great Depression of the 1930’s was
1. overspeculation in land in the West
2. overdependence on foreign trade
3. overproduction of goods by factories and farms
4. overspending on social programs by the government

Which situation helped cause the stock market crash of 1929?
(1) excessive speculation and buying on margin
(2) unwillingness of people to invest in new industries
(3) increased government spending
(4) too much government regulation of business

One difference between the administrations of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Herbert Hoover is that Roosevelt was
(1) unwilling to allow government agencies to establish jobs programs
(2) unable to win congressional support for his economic program
(3) able to ignore economic issues for most of his first term in office
(4) more willing to use government intervention to solve economic problems

Which combination of factors contributed most to the start of the Great Depression of the 1930’s?
1. immigration restrictions and a lack of skilled workers
2. high taxes and overspending on social welfare programs
3. United States war debts and the declining value of the dollar
4. overproduction and the excessive use of credit

Which conditions are most characteristic of an economic depression?
(1) high unemployment and overproduction
(2) large business investments and low taxes
(3) too much money in circulation and high stock prices
(4) high employment and increased real estate investments

The New Deal tried to solve many problems of the Great Depression by
(1) providing federal aid to many sectors of the economy
(2) reducing taxes on big business to stimulate job creation
(3) lowering federal spending to maintain a balanced budget
(4) decreasing foreign competition by raising tariffs

Much of the domestic legislation of the New Deal period was based on the idea that the federal government should
(1) favor big business over labor and farming
(2) assume some responsibility for the welfare of people
(3) own and operate the major industries of the country
(4) require local communities to be responsible for social welfare programs

An important factor contributing to the start of the Great Depression in the United States was the
(1) increase in military spending
(2) failure to maintain the gold standard
(3) reduction of tariff rates
(4) uneven distribution of wealth

New Deal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) were primarily intended to help
(1) farmers
(2) homeowners
(3) businesses
(4) unemployed workers

The strongest opposition to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs came from
(1) western farmers
(2) business leaders
(3) factory workers
(4) recent immigrants
“The tools of government which we had in 1933 are outdated. We have had to forge new tools for a new role of government in a democracy — a role of new responsibility for new needs and increased responsibility for old needs, long neglected.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt made this statement in order to
1 justify an increase in the number of new Supreme Court Justices
2 defend the New Deal programs
3 support a renewal of laissez-faire government
4 secure aid for democratic countries in Europe

Which statement best illustrates a basic idea of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal?
(1) Communism provides the only real solution to economic problems.
(2) Unemployed workers should rely on the states rather than on the federal government for help.
(3) The United States reached its economic peak in the 1920s and is now a declining industrial power.
(4) The economy sometimes needs public money to encourage business activity.

“In times of economic depression, it is the responsibility of government to create programs that would provide jobs to the unemployed. The revenues that would be generated will repay the government expenditures.”

This philosophy was most clearly carried out by the Presidential administration of

1 Woodrow Wilson
2 Warren G. Harding
3 Herbert Hoover
4 Franklin D. Roosevelt

The New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the United States economy by
(1) restoring the principle of a balanced budget
(2) expanding the trustbusting practices of Progressive era presidents
(3) encouraging greater production of agricultural goods
(4) increasing government involvement with both business and labor

Which heading would be most appropriate for the partial outline below?

I. _______________________
A. Wages lagging behind the cost of living
B. Overproduction of consumer goods
C. Excessive buying on credit

(1) Mercantilist Economic Theory
(2) Features of a Bull Stock Market
(3) Monopolistic Business Practices
(4) Causes of the Great Depression

Theme: Presidential Decisions

During the last 100 years, United States Presidents have made important decisions in an effort to solve crucial problems.

Task:

From your study of United States history, identify two important Presidential decisions made during the last 100 years.

For each decision identified:
- State one goal the President hoped to accomplish by making the decision
- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the Presidential decision
- Describe the extent to which the decision achieved the President’s original goal
- Discuss one immediate or one long-term effect of the decision on United States history

You may use any important Presidential decision from your study of 20th-century United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: Woodrow Wilson seeks ratification of the Versailles Treaty (1918); Franklin D. Roosevelt institutes the New Deal program (1933); Harry Truman decides to drop atomic bombs on Japan (1945); Dwight D. Eisenhower sends Federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas (1957); John F. Kennedy places a naval blockade around Cuba (1962); Lyndon Johnson proposes the Great Society program (1965); Richard Nixon visits China (1972); and Jimmy Carter meets with Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin at Camp David (1978).

You are not limited to these suggestions.


Date Created: 1944

Content Relates to:

- End of World War II
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
The presidential election of 1944 garnered great interest from the American public because the incumbent president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was seeking his fourth term. Americans expressed varied emotions about this unprecedented feat, ranging from ardent disapproval to wholehearted support. However, a matter of greater interest than President Roosevelt running a fourth term was who would become his vice presidential candidate. Roosevelt himself was 62 at the time of the election and his health was rapidly declining. Upon much deliberation with his staff, Roosevelt finally chose Senator Harry S. Truman to be his running mate. Truman epitomized the idea of a “self-made man” and upon Roosevelt’s death, his presidential term sought to empower the middle and working classes that he identified with.

The dynamics between Roosevelt and Truman’s relationship reveal that Truman embodied everything that Roosevelt was not. While Roosevelt came from a wealthy family with a history of political activity, Truman was the first of his family of modest Southern farmers to become a politician. Likewise, while Roosevelt pursued an education at Harvard University and later on Columbia University with the help of familial legacy, Truman could not afford college tuition and spent his youth working at clerical jobs and eventually fighting in World War I. However, from the beginnings of his political career, Truman successfully embodied the American ideal of becoming a “self-made man.” Ascending the political ladder systematically, Truman first undertook positions in his local county government and eventually created a favorable reputation for himself that helped him become the senator of his state. In Washington, D.C., Truman quickly noticed that other senators did not care to know who he was due to his lack of political connections and wealth. Therefore, Truman decided to make his own name by means of hard work—he established the Truman Committee during World War II, which sought to investigate American military expenditures and eliminate wasteful, corrupt spending. The committee ended up elevating Truman’s reputation because he dedicated much diligence and effort into his endeavors. He personally travelled across the country to inspect construction fields, prosecuted the board officers of corporations under conviction, saving the U.S.
government millions of dollars. Truman had made his reputation through his hard work ethic, and he continued to adhere to it during the latter part of his political career.

After Truman became Roosevelt’s vice president, he was both unprepared and unaware of the fact that he would soon become the President of the United States. Roosevelt died in April of 1945, leaving Truman with little guidance for the presidency. Consequently, Truman worked diligently with his cabinet and various White House staff members to absorb much presidential knowledge in a short span of time. In spite of his busy schedule, Truman never lost sight of his identity as a “self-made man,” and his domestic policies reflected this. He strove to pass legislation that sought to promote equality and welfare for the working and lower classes of America. For instance, his 21 Points Program, which was presented to Congress in September 1945, addressed socioeconomic disparities by proposing measures such as increases in minimum wage, tax reforms, and an increase in war veterans’ aids. True to his roots, Truman never lost sight of his beginnings as a “common man.” His political ascension towards the U.S. presidency symbolized the culmination of all his efforts. He truly embodied the image of a “self-made man,” the epitome of the American dream.

- Hammie Park

Sources Cited:


Title: The Little Rock Nine: Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Elizabeth Eckford, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Terrence Roberts, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Melba Beals and Ernest Green

Date Created: 2009

Artist: Platon

Content relates to:

- The Civil Rights Movement
- Plessy Vs Ferguson
- Brown Vs Board
The American Constitution is editable; however, doing so would be extremely difficult. To edit the American constitution, a case brought to trial must have exhausted its home state’s uppermost court and must then go through a lengthy review process to go before America’s highest judicial authority, the Supreme Court. Most cases that make it to the Supreme Court hardly ever elicit grounds for constitutional revision. The last amendment to the constitution was in 1991.

The interpretation of the constitution is perhaps one of the most challenging jobs in America. Similar to politics, there are conservative justices and liberal justices on the Supreme Court. Conservatives are very traditional and rely solely on the text and previous court rulings as precedent for their actions. Liberals come to their decisions utilizing a combination of legal precedent, current social and legal climate and possible future implications of their ruling.

Jim Crow laws legally sanctioned segregation in the United States for decades. Settlement patterns, economics, demographics, and court cases all contributed to how legal sanctions for segregation and discrimination evolved and changed in the military, transportation, and educational systems. Plessy vs. Ferguson challenged segregation in transportation. Unfortunately, the outcome of Plessy proved to be disastrous. It resulted in the court ruling of “separate but equal.” This ruling legally sanctioned division of all areas of public life. Every aspect of American life was segregated, from restaurants, theaters, sports and the military. Most American public schools were segregated. Students had to travel great distances to get to their schools where they were met with unpaved roads, crime-ridden neighborhoods, traffic, and other hazards.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, led by attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, challenged an 1879 state law that permitted segregation of pupils based on race in public schools in the United States. This would be the 12th case to challenge this law in the state of Kansas. Thirteen parents filed a suit against the Topeka Board of Education, on behalf of their children. Oliver Brown was the first parent listed in the suit, which gave the case its name. Thurgood Marshall took over the case after Houston died. Brown vs. Board immediately outlawed segregated facilities but some states were slow to follow suit.
On May 17, 1954 a unanimous decision was made to overturn Plessy vs. Ferguson where it was determined that “separate education facilities are inherently unequal.” Educational segregation violated the 15th amendment and was deemed unconstitutional. In September of 1954, Little Rock, Arkansas was in a crisis. Nine new students were set to begin school at Little Rock Central High School. These new students were all black. The Governor of Arkansas and the majority of the white population protested integration. The Governor of Arkansas deployed the Arkansas National Guard to aid the segregationists and stop the black students from entering the school. President Dwight D. Eisenhower immediately intervened at the request of Woodrow Nilson Mann, the Mayor of Little Rock. The President sent the US Army to act as the Little Rock 9’s armed escort to the school on the morning of September 24th. It was a very rough year for the Little Rock 9 but their plight for access to equal education reverberated across America and became a catalyst in the civil rights movement.

- Carlos Runge, Jr.

Sources Cited:


Title: *John Lewis*

Artist: Platon

Date Created: January 2010

Content Relates to:

- The 1960s
- The Civil Rights Movement

Title: Vietnam War Anti-war button

Date Created: circa 1966

Content Relates to:

- The Anti-Vietnam War Movement
- The 1960s
One can best describe the 1960s as a decade of complexity. The 1960s was a departure from “normal America” ushering in one of radicalism and domestic revolution. For the first time in massive numbers, conformity was rejected. Instead of adherence to cultural norms or tradition, the 60s generation of Americans began to distance themselves from their parents of the “Greatest Generation” to develop their own unique American identity. Defying status quo, this generation addressed the issues of equality and morality culminating in the two historic and defining movements of our nation’s history: The Civil Rights Movement and the Anti-Vietnam War Movement.

The Civil Rights Question

The oppression of African Americans in all forms had become entrenched in American society by mid-twentieth century. However, a shift in the attitudes of African Americans would occur in the years immediately after. The valorous African American GI’s understood the contradicting nature between their unfortunate circumstances and American values. The NAACP would achieve few successes in the 1940s, but is considered to have had success following the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision. The organization’s Legal Defense Fund argued for the integration of public schools citing Plessy v. Ferguson, establishing “separate but equal”, as immoral and an injustice to all Americans. The Supreme Court agreed with the NAACP. Next, the shocking and brutal murder of Emmett Till captured the attention of the nation. The success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott which nearly crippled the city’s public transportation system proved that with activism and patience civil rights would be obtained.

Early 60s Civil Rights

The 60s movement defined the African American identity. The leaders of this moral revolution, as it should be called, were smart in their approach to use the tactics of civil disobedience and non-violence. The sit-ins of 1960 were the first significant developments
of the decade. African American students sat at white only counters refusing to leave until they were served, only to be thrown out by angry mobs of white citizens. 1961 was another tumultuous year. Civil rights workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized a series of Freedom Rides through the South in the spring and summer.

While in the Deep South, white resistance became apparent in virtually every subsequent city. In Montgomery, Alabama, future Congressmen John Lewis was brutally beaten while on a Freedom Ride. Attorney General Robert Kennedy felt compelled to prevent any further incidents and granted the riders protection. The next year, the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) was forcibly integrated by a student, James Meredith. President Kennedy agreed with Meredith’s enrollment and ordered federal marshals to protect him as he proceeded with enrollment. The following year (1963) the most dramatic tales of this history unfolded within the same city. Between April and May 1963, the “safety machine” of Eugene Bull Conner prevented mass public demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama. Conner’s officers used aggressive tactics against African American protesters between the ages of 12 and 19. They were all jailed, but the brutal treatment of young Americans, black or white, caused public support to turn in the favor of African Americans. Also, the 16th Street Baptist Church exploded resulting in the deaths of four girls attending Sunday school.

Furthermore, 1963 was the year of the assassinations of Medger Evers and President Kennedy, as well as Martin Luther King’s famous March on Washington. 1964 was the year of Mississippi. “Freedom Summer” as it was called was an initiative to register voters in the state of Mississippi. Three civil rights workers were killed in Mississippi in 1964. The triumph of ’64 came with the passages of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawing discrimination against African Americans and ended racial segregation in public facilities and the 24th Amendment prohibiting poll taxes. The turning point of the civil rights movement came in 1965. The passage of the Voting Rights Act and Selma March were the last significant events of the first Civil Rights Movement. At Selma, voting rights were the issue at hand. While crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, marchers were brutally assaulted by armed troopers. The Voting Rights Act prohibited Southern states from using literacy
testing to exclude African Americans from voting. The consequence was a surge in voter 
registration. The Civil Rights Movement achieved its original goal of political equality but 
what of social and economic equality? Those issues were to be tackled aggressively in the 
last five years of the decade, but war would prevent large scale reform.

**The Lost Cause**

The 1968 Presidential Election was a referendum on the failure of the Vietnam War. The 
embarrassment of the near defeat of Southern Vietnamese forces during the Tet 
Offensive signaled a decline for morale support of the war. Additionally, the horrible 
massacre at the village of My Lai in which five hundred Vietnamese civilians were 
massacred by American infantrymen in March 1968 outraged the public. This added fuel to 
the fire of the anti-war movement. Some historians argue that the first anti-war rally was 
created by Students for a Democratic Society on April 17, 1965. At these protests, twenty-
five thousand students turned out to speak of the injustice of the Vietnam War. SDS 
members openly spoke of rejecting the conscription and US invention in the region 
contradicted the nation’s ideals. The same organization called for a march on Washington 
to reestablish popular democracy on November 27 in front of the White House. The anti-
war movement was becoming one of morals and preserving democracy. As the draft 
became strictly enforced, the saying “Hey, Hey, LBJ, How Many Kids Did You Kill Today, 
was one of the taunts thrown at the President. A major addition to the anti-war movement was the inclusion of war 
veterans. John Kerry’s testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a committee which he 
would later chair, provides insight into the rationale of a Vietnam vet. Testifying, he told the committee:

![Image](http://www.multied.com/vietnam/bigantiwar.html)
They told the stories at times they had personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires from portable telephones to human genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, blown up bodies, randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan, shot cattle and dogs for fun, poisoned food stocks, and generally ravaged the countryside of South Vietnam.

Such a horrific description of war on a nation forum would have evoked passionate emotions. Additionally, antiwar sentiments would reflect music of the day. A classic anti-war song is Country Joe and the Fish's *I Feel like I'm Fixin' to die* which reads in one verse:

Come on mothers throughout the land,
Pack your boys off to Vietnam.
Come on fathers, and don’t hesitate
To send your sons off before it’s too late.
And you can be the first ones in your block
To have your boy come home in a box.

The election of 1968 resulted in a victory for Republican Richard M Nixon. The following year, the antiwar movement organized a second march on Washington drawing an estimated 500,000 participants. Nixon’s Vietnamization plan diminished support for the anti-war movement. Despite the demise of the anti-war movement, its ideals would live on throughout the twentieth century and more recently remerge as a result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- Jonathan Brown
Sources Cited:


Title: *Liberty/Liberte*

Artist: Fred Wilson

Date Created: 2006

Content relates to:

- Slavery in America
- Civil War
- Early American History
- Civil Rights Movement
By birth, we are born with certain unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is in receiving these rights that we identify as righteous proud Americans. Liberty is often a skewed concept; manipulated, agitated, and easier said than done. Though the principle of liberty has been infused into America’s culture since our nation’s founding, certain social groups have always been excluded. They came to gain the liberty that they were unable to realize in their homeland. It is ironic that those very people who first preached the principle of liberty were more often than plantation owners and had slaves. Artist and sculptor Fred Wilson explores this sensitive concept in his controversial installation *Liberty/Liberte*.

Fred Wilson is of African, Amerindian, European and Native American descent. He considers himself to be the epitome of what it means to be an American. A graduate of the Music and Art School (now the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School), and a political and social activist, he no longer feels a need to create art with his hands. He now identifies as an installation artist. “I get everything that satisfies my soul “from bringing together objects that are in the world, manipulating them, working with spatial arrangements, and having things presented in the way I want to see them.”

In *Liberty/Liberte* Wilson makes subtle connections between the French and the Haitian revolution to portray the skewed version of American history, one that which most people do not like to hear. When one first enters the museum one sees a sculpture of George Washington in front of the balustrade from which he spoke at his inauguration. This is representative of the nation’s founding, the beginnings of “liberty”, and pride. To the left of George Washington is a sculpture of Napoleon. Below Napoleon is an African American looking up to George Washington on a pedestal. There is also a more sinister looking George Washington peering through the balustrade. This bust of George Washington is representative of the sinister side: the slave owner component. Behind the three sculptures are slave shackles. There is also a slave token, slave tags, and a portrait of Toussaint L’Overture. The African American is the “every day” man representative of speaking out about liberty. Through these portraits we come to understand the complexity of our
nation’s history, the concept of liberty, and how easily skewed our portrayal of American figures are.

Our societal understandings of liberty go far beyond slavery. African Americans have been at the core of several liberty-oriented movements. The slave owners themselves rebelled against the threat of British abolitionism during the American Revolution, and the British took advantage of it. African Americans were also critical to the women’s suffrage movement, the labor movement, and the temperance movement. Whether it is universal suffrage or worker’s rights, liberty is often something taken for granted until it is taken away.

Ultimately, the struggle for liberty has very much been a part of the American experience. The “promised land” allowed for opportunities for one to settle down, start a new life, and escape oppression. More often than not, this was met with resistance, bigotry, and restricted liberty. African Americans and other ethnic minorities, homosexuals, women, the handicapped, and the poor all fit in to this struggle. Ultimately, the oppressed become the oppressors. The fact of the matter is many social groups fall victim to some sort of prejudice. The concept of liberty, or lack thereof, must be acknowledged in order for legitimate action to be made, and in order for history not to repeat.

- Conor Hogan

Sources Cited:

1 http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/fred-wilson

2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRi0nqYzVIY

3 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/2tgfocus.html
The constitutional basis for the 1954 decision of the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education is the guarantee of
1. freedom of assembly
2. due process of law
3. state control of interstate commerce
4. equal protection of the law

In 1954, the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka advanced the civil rights movement by
(1) guaranteeing equal voting rights to African Americans
(2) banning racial segregation in hotels and restaurants
(3) declaring that racial segregation in public schools violated the 14th amendment
(4) upholding the principle of separate but equal public facilities

Which constitutional principle was tested in the cases of Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka?
(1) separation of powers
(2) popular sovereignty
(3) equal protection of the law
(4) separation of church and state

"Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."  — Brown v. Board of Education

The effect of this Supreme Court ruling was to
1. establish affirmative action programs in higher education
2. require the integration of public schools
3. desegregate the armed forces and the military academies
4. force states to spend an equal amount on each public school student

What was the significance of the use of Federal marshals to protect African-American students in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957?
1. It was the first time martial law had been declared in the United States.
2. It led to Federal takeover of many Southern public schools.
3. It strengthened control of education by state governments.
4. It showed that the Federal Government would enforce court decisions on integration.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent Federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, during the 1957 school integration crisis, he was exercising his constitutional power as
1. Chief Legislator
2. Commander in Chief
2. Chief Diplomat
4. Head of State

...Whenever normal agencies prove inadequate to the task and it becomes necessary for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to use its powers and authority to uphold Federal Courts, the President’s responsibility is inescapable.

In accordance with that responsibility, I have today issued an Executive Order directing the use of troops under Federal authority to aid in the execution of Federal law at Little Rock, Arkansas. This became necessary when my Proclamation of yesterday was not observed, and the obstruction of justice still continues. . . .

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 24, 1957

The situation described in this statement grew out of efforts to
(1) uphold the Voting Rights Act
(2) pass a constitutional amendment ending poll taxes
(3) enforce the decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
(4) extend the Montgomery bus boycott to Little Rock
The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was intended to end
(1) loyalty oaths for federal employees
(2) affirmative action programs in education
(3) unfair treatment of the elderly
(4) discrimination based on race or sex

Which conclusion about the civil rights movement of the 1960's is most valid?
1. Groups in the movement had common goals but different methods for attaining them.
2. Civil disobedience failed to bring about any legislative changes.
3. The movement began with violent protests but ended with peaceful demonstrations.
4. The movement failed to inspire other groups to work for change.

Protests against United States involvement in Vietnam grew in the late 1960's and early 1970's mainly because many Americans
1. believed that the war was unjust
2. objected to the drafting of college students
3. feared nuclear war with the Soviet Union
4. opposed participation in conflicts involving the United Nations

Which strategy did African-American students use when they refused to leave a "whites only" lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960?
(1) economic boycott
(2) hunger strike
(3) petition drive
(4) civil disobedience

The main reason the Voting Rights Act of 1965 removed the literacy test as a voting qualification was that
1. different standards of literacy had been applied to different groups of voters
2. a majority of voters were unable to read election ballots
3. technology had made voter literacy unnecessary
4. the cost of achieving literacy was too high

The major sections [titles] of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 included these provisions:

(1) Title I banned the use of different voter registration standards for blacks and whites.

(2) Title II prohibited discrimination in public accommodations, such as motels, restaurants, gas stations, theaters, and sports arenas.

(3) Title VI allowed the withholding of federal funds from public or private programs that practice discrimination.

(4) Title VII banned discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin by employers and unions.

(5) Title VII also created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to investigate charges of job discrimination.

Based on this document, state two provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that attempted to end discrimination for African Americans and women.

(1) 

(2) 

Score

Score
Title: Political Buttons

Date Created: 1968, 1972

Content Relates to:

- Watergate Scandal
- Nixon’s Presidency
Watergate and Richard Nixon

Richard Nixon was elected president in 1968 during a chaotic time of war and political strife. Over the five years he served as president, he ended the Vietnam War, witnessed the addition of the twenty-seventh Amendment to the Constitution, making the voting age 18, and ceased hostile relations with China. Despite his accomplishments as president, however, Nixon is remembered mostly for his downfall.

Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal: the two are intrinsically linked in the collective memory of Americans. The scandal marked the beginning of the end of Nixon’s presidency, as its fallout caused him to resign. Nixon was almost impeached over his actions throughout the scandal. Watergate was a result of Nixon’s paranoia about the 1972 presidential election. Simply put, it was a poorly executed raid on the Democratic National Committee’s headquarters that was instigated by Nixon and his staff.

On June 17, 1972, the Democratic National Committee’s headquarters, located in an apartment complex named Watergate, were broken into. Five men were captured in the act of breaking and entering and attempting to wiretap the phones in the headquarters. Suspicion immediately fell on the Republican Party, of which Nixon was a member. However, Nixon immediately denied that anyone affiliated with his staff was involved.

Nixon might have gotten away with Watergate if it hadn’t been for the presence of the media. Two reporters from the Washington Post, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, began investigating the break-in, and in doing so discovered ties to the government. Their most famous source of information was an anonymous man nicknamed Deep Throat, who revealed to the two reporters that the White House was heavily involved in the crime, and that the crime was more significant than just a break-in. As Woodward and Bernstein published more and more information based on their investigations, the rest of the media followed suit and began delving deeply into the scandal.

Nixon wanted to avoid tying the Watergate affair to the White House. If his role in the scandal was confirmed, it would ruin his chance of reelection and possibly jeopardize his presidency. There was electronic equipment in Nixon’s office that secretly recorded
conversations; Congress wanted Nixon to release the tapes. Nixon refused, citing executive privilege, which is the right of a president to resist investigations by Congress and the Supreme Court. However, the Court ordered Nixon to turn in the tapes anyway. Eighteen minutes of the tapes had been suspiciously erased.

As more judges and committees requested more tapes, the House of Representatives began collecting evidence on whether Nixon had committed a crime worthy of impeachment. Nixon continued to try to evade guilt by releasing edited transcripts of tapes and delaying his release of the full tapes for as long as possible. There was little he could do to change the outcome of the investigation, though. The committee investigating him for the House decided to recommend impeachment, and the tapes were found to reveal his guilt. Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974. He was never impeached, and his successor, Gerald Ford, pardoned him of all crimes. 48 government officials were eventually found guilty of crimes related to Watergate.

Watergate marred what could have been considered a great run as president. Many still do consider Nixon to have been a successful president. After all, China is now one of the United States’ most important trade partners, and Nixon began this relationship by visiting the country in 1972. Nixon had a strong stance on environmental policy, establishing the Environmental Protection Agency. Towards the end of his presidency, he played an important role in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), agreements with the Soviet Union placing limits on both countries’ weapon stockpiles and missiles. However, Watergate had a serious effect on the public, making voters less inclined to trust the president and politicians in general. The scandal was unlike anything that had happened before in American history. Although President Andrew Johnson had been impeached in the 1860s for violating a minor act, no president had been involved in a disgrace of Watergate’s scale. Watergate’s magnitude ensures that history won’t forget it.

- Allie Burns
Sources Cited:


Credit Mobilier, Teapot Dome, and Watergate are all examples of
1 congressional attempts to limit Presidential power
2 efforts that failed to regulate government spending
3 scandals that damaged the reputations of various Presidents
4 foreign policies designed to contain the spread of communism

Which statement best describes an impact of the Watergate scandal on American society?
(1) The modern environmental movement began.
(2) Public trust in government declined.
(3) Voter turnout in elections increased.
(4) An economic recession ended.

What was a lasting effect of the Watergate scandal under President Richard Nixon?
(1) The system of checks and balances was weakened.
(2) The scope of executive privilege was broadened.
(3) Trust in elected officials was undermined.
(4) Presidential responsiveness to public opinion was lessened.

What was a major result of the Watergate controversy?
(1) Presidential veto power was expanded.
(2) The president resigned from office.
(3) Congressional power was reduced.
(4) The Supreme Court was weakened.

The conflict that was the focus of the cartoon involved President Richard Nixon’s attempt to
(1) increase the number of troops in Vietnam
(2) withhold evidence in the Watergate scandal
(3) impose mandatory wage and price controls
(4) improve relations with the People’s Republic of China.

The cartoon illustrates the constitutional principle of
(1) federalism
(2) checks and balances
(3) representative government
(4) civilian control of the military
Title: Pop Shop Ceiling

Artist: Keith Haring

Date Created: 1986

Content Relates to:

- Jimmy Carter Presidency
- Ronald Reagan Presidency
- Trend Towards Conservatism in the 1980s
Keith Haring began his career as a New York graffiti artist in the early 1980s. He quickly moved up in the art world, exhibiting in galleries, opening retail shops, and making friends with the likes of Andy Warhol and Madonna. Haring’s art was often meant as social commentary; one work was created to condemn apartheid in South Africa, another to advocate for the gay community. Many were critical of American politics as well, especially to the growing trend towards conservatism that began in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1980, the end of Jimmy Carter’s career as president was marred by growing dissatisfaction. The past year had seen several crises that the public felt were mishandled by the administration. These included the Iran hostage crisis, a 444 day long entanglement with militant Islamists who had taken over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and imprisoned the diplomats and employees there. This was a reaction to U.S. influence in the country, spurred on by the 1979 Iranian revolt against the U.S.-backed Shah (king) of Iran, in favor of a theocratic Islamist government. Also, Carter had recently helped to broker the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt, a move that angered many anti-Israel Arab leaders in the region, including the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini.

During the hostage crisis, Carter had attempted to rescue the hostages in an ambitious helicopter airlift called Operation Eagle Claw, but the mission failed, and the botched attempt only escalated the crisis and furthered the public’s anger with the president. In addition, since before Carter’s presidency, the U.S. economy had been plagued by stagflation, which is a combination of high inflation and high unemployment. This was in part caused by rising oil prices due to unrest in the Middle East (initially caused by the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War, later exacerbated by the 1979 revolution and hostage crisis in Iran), but Carter’s economic policies did not address the problem forcefully enough. All of these factors contributed to Carter’s defeat in the 1980 election, marking a swing towards conservatism in American politics.

Carter’s fiasco with Iran was what influenced many voters to support Reagan in 1980, since the hostage crisis was taking place throughout the
campaign. The stagflation caused by oil supply shocks, though, was a more major underlying issue. Reagan overhauled the government’s economic strategies by enacting supply-side economics; decreasing taxes on businesses to increase investment and spending. Additionally, Reagan attempted to take a much harder line in terms of foreign policy. He greatly increased military spending, and increased pressure on the Soviet Union, denouncing it as an “evil empire,” and ending Carter, and earlier, Ford and Nixon’s softer strategy of foreign policy with the USSR, called détente. By the end of his presidency, the Soviet Union had begun to fall apart, an outcome seen by many conservatives as Reagan’s greatest triumph as president.

This conservative backlash to Carter’s presidency was what Haring reacted to in a lot of his art. He was especially vocal about the policy of nuclear proliferation and increased militarization that Reagan supported. One poster that he made for an anti-nuclear rally showed a radioactive baby in a mushroom cloud (shown to the right). Haring also was opposed to socially conservative values promulgated in the Reagan era. The Reagan administration’s more conservative approach to curing social ills included the “just say no” campaign, support for school prayer, anti-abortion, and abstinence policies. Haring spoke out for the gay community, AIDS awareness, safe sex, and started an anti-drug “crack is wack” campaign (shown to the left). Haring was a dedicated activist devoted to critiquing the Reagan administration’s conservatism in social and foreign policy issues!

- Emma Handte
Sources Cited:


<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,954605-3,00.html>.


A major policy of President Ronald Reagan’s administration was to
(1) reduce defense spending
(2) lower federal income tax rates
(3) end desegregation of public facilities
(4) promote regulation of small businesses

The “trickle down” economic theory of President Herbert Hoover and the “supply side” economic policies under President Ronald Reagan were based on the idea that
1 balanced budgets are essential to economic success
2 the Federal Government needs to assume more responsibility for solving economic problems
3 economic growth depends on making increased amounts of capital available to business
4 economic stability is the responsibility of Federal monetary agencies

One similarity between the presidencies of Woodrow Wilson and Jimmy Carter is that both leaders
1 emphasized moral principles in foreign policy
2 supported imperialism throughout the world
3 rejected human rights initiatives in Congress
4 sought to end the nuclear arms race

A major result of the Camp David accords was the
1 establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Israel
2 creation of permanent United States military bases in Latin America
3 commitment of United States combat troops to Bosnia
4 end of the Cold War in Europe

“In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problems. . . . It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government.”
— President Ronald Reagan
First Inaugural Address
January 20, 1981

Which action did the Reagan administration take based on the belief expressed in these statements?
1 It increased government spending on social programs.
2 It reduced defense spending.
3 It increased corporate and personal income taxes.
4 It reduced government regulation of business.

Which foreign policy agreement had the most direct influence on the Middle East?
(1) Kellogg-Briand Pact
(2) Yalta Conference declaration
(3) SALT I Treaty
(4) Camp David Accords