

# UNITED STATES HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION

United State History and the Constitution is a required course.

Students should be able to:

- Summarize the distinct characteristics of each colonial region in the settlement and development of British North America, including religious, social, political, and economic differences
- Analyze the early development of representative government and political rights in the American colonies, including the influence of the British political system and the rule of law as written in the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights, and the conflict between the colonial legislatures and the British Parliament over the right to tax that resulted in the American Revolutionary War
- Analyze the impact of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution on establishing the ideals of a democratic republic
- Analyze how dissatisfactions with the government under the Articles of Confederation were addressed with the writing of the Constitution of 1787, including the debates and compromises reached at the Philadelphia Convention and the ratification of the Constitution
- Explain how the fundamental principle of limited government is protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, including democracy, republicanism, federalism, the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, and individual rights
- Analyze the development of the two-party system during the presidency of George Washington, including controversies over domestic and foreign policies and the regional interests of the Democratic-Republicans and the Federalists
- Summarize the expansion of the power of the national government as a result of Supreme Court decisions under Chief Justice John Marshall, such as the establishment of judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison* and the impact of political party affiliation on the Court
- Summarize the impact of the westward movement on nationalism and democracy, including the expansion of the franchise, the displacement of Native Americans from the southeast and conflicts over states' rights and federal power during the era of Jacksonian democracy as the result of major land acquisitions such as the Louisiana Purchase, the Oregon Treaty, and the Mexican Cession
- Explain how the Monroe Doctrine and the concept of Manifest Destiny affected the United States' relationships with foreign powers, including the role of the United States in the Texan Revolution and the Mexican War
- Compare the economic development in different regions (the South, the North, and the West) of the United States during the early nineteenth century, including ways that economic policy contributed to political controversies
- Compare the social and cultural characteristics of the North, the South, and the West during the antebellum period, including the lives of African Americans and social reform movements such as abolition and women's rights
- Evaluate the relative importance of political events and issues that divided the nation and led to civil war, including the compromises reached to maintain the balance of free and slave states, the abolitionist movement, the Dred Scott case, conflicting views on states' rights and federal authority, the emergence of the Republican Party, and the formation of the Confederate States of America
- Summarize the course of the Civil War and its impact on democracy, including the major turning points; the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation; the unequal treatment afforded to African American military units; the geographic, economic, and political factors in the defeat of the Confederacy; and the ultimate defeat of the idea of secession
- Analyze the effects of Reconstruction on the southern states and on the role of the federal government, including the impact of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments on opportunities for African Americans
- Summarize the end of Reconstruction, including the role of anti-African American factions and competing national interests in undermining support for Reconstruction; the impact of the removal of federal protection for freedmen; and the impact of Jim Crow laws and voter restrictions on African American rights in the post-Reconstruction era
- Evaluate the varied responses of African Americans to the restrictions imposed on them in the post-Reconstruction period, including the leadership and strategies of Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett
- Summarize the impact that government policy and the construction of the transcontinental railroads had on the development of the national market and on the culture of Native American peoples
- Analyze the factors that influenced the economic growth of the United States and its emergence as an industrial power, including the abundance of natural resources; government support and protection in the form of railroad subsidies, tariffs, and labor policies; and the expansion of international markets
- Evaluate the role of capitalism and its impact on democracy, including the ascent of new industries, the increasing availability of consumer goods and the rising standard of living, the role of entrepreneurs, the rise of business through monopoly and the influence of business ideologies
- Explain the impact of industrial growth and business cycles on farmers, workers, immigrants, labor unions, and the Populist movement and the ways that these groups and the government responded to the economic problems caused by industry and business
- Explain the causes and effects of urbanization in late nineteenth-century America, including the movement from farm to city, the changing immigration patterns, the rise of ethnic neighborhoods, the role of political machines, and the migration of African Americans to the North, Midwest, and West
- Compare the accomplishments and limitations of the women's suffrage movement and the Progressive Movement in affecting social and political reforms in America, including the roles of the media and of reformers such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Jane Addams, and presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
- Analyze the development of American expansionism, including the change from isolationism to intervention and the rationales for imperialism based on Social Darwinism, expanding capitalism, and domestic tensions
- Explain the influence of the Spanish-American War on the emergence of the United States as a world power, including the role of yellow journalism in the American declaration of war against Spain, United States interests and expansion in the South Pacific, and the debate between pro- and anti-imperialists over annexation of the Philippines

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- Summarize United States foreign policies in different regions of the world during the early twentieth century, including the purposes and effects of the Open Door policy with China, the United States role in the Panama Revolution, Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick diplomacy," William Taft's "dollar diplomacy," and Woodrow Wilson's "moral diplomacy" and changing worldwide perceptions of the United States
- Analyze the causes and consequences of United States involvement in World War I, including the failure of neutrality and the reasons for the declaration of war, the role of propaganda in creating a unified war effort, the limitation of individual liberties, and Woodrow Wilson's leadership in the Treaty of Versailles and the creation of the League of Nations
- Analyze the United States rejection of internationalism, including postwar disillusionment, the Senate's refusal to ratify the Versailles Treaty, the election of 1920, and the role of the United States in international affairs in the 1920s
- Explain the impact of the changes in the 1920s on the economy, society, and culture, including the expansion of mass production techniques, the invention of new home appliances, the introduction of the installment plan, the role of transportation in changing urban life, the effect of radio and movies in creating a national mass culture, and the cultural changes exemplified by the Harlem Renaissance
- Explain the causes and effects of the social change and conflict between traditional and modern culture that took place during the 1920s, including the role of women, the "Red Scare", the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, immigration quotas, Prohibition, and the Scopes trial
- Explain the causes and consequences of the Great Depression, including the disparities in income and wealth distribution; the collapse of the farm economy and the effects of the Dust Bowl; limited governmental regulation; taxes, investment; and stock market speculation; policies of the federal government and the Federal Reserve System; and the effects of the Depression on the people
- Analyze President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal as a response to the economic crisis of the Great Depression, including the effectiveness of New Deal programs in relieving suffering and achieving economic recovery, in protecting the rights of women and minorities, and in making significant reforms to protect the economy such as Social Security and labor laws
- Analyze the decision of the United States to enter World War II, including the nation's movement from a policy of isolationism to international involvement and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- Evaluate the impact of war mobilization on the home front, including consumer sacrifices, the role of women and minorities in the workforce, and limits on individual rights that resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans
- Explain how controversies among the Big Three Allied leaders over war strategies led to post-war conflict between the United States and the USSR, including delays in the opening of the second front in Europe, the participation of the Soviet Union in the war in the Pacific, and the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Summarize the economic, humanitarian, and diplomatic effects of World War II, including the end of the Great Depression, the Holocaust, the war crimes trials, and the creation of Israel
- Analyze the impact of the Cold War on national security and individual freedom, including the containment policy and the role of military alliances, the effects of the "Red Scare" and McCarthyism, the conflicts in Korea and the Middle East, the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis, and the nuclear arms race
- Analyze the causes and consequences of social and cultural changes in postwar America, including educational programs, the consumer culture and expanding suburbanization, the advances in medical and agricultural technology that led to changes in the standard of living and demographic patterns, and the roles of women in American society
- Analyze the African American Civil Rights Movement, including initial strategies, landmark court cases and legislation, the roles of key civil rights advocates and the media, and the influence of the Civil Rights Movement on other groups seeking equality
- Compare the social and economic policies of presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, including support for civil rights legislation, programs for the elderly and the poor, environmental protection, and the impact of these policies on politics
- Explain the development of the war in Vietnam and its impact on American government and politics, including the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the policies of the Johnson administration, protests and opposition to the war, the role of the media, the policies of the Nixon administration, and the growing credibility gap that culminated in the Watergate scandal
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the resurgence of the conservative movement, including social and cultural changes of the 1960s and 1970s, Supreme Court decisions on integration and abortion, the economic and social policies of the Reagan administration, and the role of the media
- Summarize key political and economic issues of the last twenty-five years, including continuing dependence on foreign oil; trade agreements and globalization; health and education reforms; increases in economic disparity and recession; tax policy; the national surplus, debt, and deficits; immigration; presidential resignation/impeachment; and the elections of 2000 and 2008
- Summarize America's role in the changing world, including the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the expansion of the European Union, the continuing crisis in the Middle East, and the rise of global terrorism

## Activities

### Have your child:

- Watch a national newscast each night and discuss current events related to U.S. foreign policy
- Read a daily newspaper to develop an understanding of world events and form an opinion about U.S. involvement in the world
- Watch history related programming on the History Channel, PBS, or other documentary channels. Talk about how events shown in programs are related to historical topics being studied in school.
- Interview and record oral histories of family or community members who were involved in the civil rights movement
- Visit the state archives and state and county museums. Compare cultural characteristics of South Carolina during different time periods (for example: antebellum period, Reconstruction, the Great Depression,

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- Read speeches, diary entries, and memoirs written by people who participated in significant events in U.S. history
- Read and talk about Supreme Court decisions in landmark cases
- Create an illustrated children's ABC or Story Book about key figures and events in American history for a younger family member or neighbor

## Books

- Brokaw, Tom. *The Greatest Generation*
- Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- Davidson, James and Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*
- Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much About History*
- Galbraith, John. *The Affluent Generation*
- Wallechinsky, David. *David Wallechinsky's The People's Almanac Presents the Twentieth Century History with the Boring Parts Left Out*
- Wiesel, Elie. *Night*

## Web Sites

- African-American Mosaic – [www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam015.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam015.html)
- American Local History Network – [www.alhn.org](http://www.alhn.org)
- Declaration of Independence – [www.usconstitution.net/declar.html](http://www.usconstitution.net/declar.html)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 – [www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/)
- Federalists v. Anti-Federalist – <http://faculty.polytechnic.org/gfeldmeth/chart.fed.pdf>

- History of the World – [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
- Museum of Chinese and the Americas – [www.mocanyc.org/](http://www.mocanyc.org/)
- Plessy v. Ferguson – [www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=52&page=transcript](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=52&page=transcript)
- Public Broadcast System (PBS) – [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
- Smithsonian National Museum of American History – [www.americanhistory.si.edu](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu)
- Social Security Act – [www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=68&page=transcript](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=68&page=transcript)
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History – [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org)
- The Great War Timeline – [www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline/](http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline/)
- The Monroe Doctrine – [www.law.ou.edu/ushistory/monrodoc.shtml](http://www.law.ou.edu/ushistory/monrodoc.shtml)
- The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow – <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering/bitter.html>
- The Thirteen Colonies – [www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/](http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/)
- The Trail of Tears – [www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html)
- Time Online – [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)