**APUSH TIMELINE**

**1492:** Columbus reaches the Caribbean.

**1494:** Columbus returns on his second expedition and conquers Hispaniola.

**1521:** Hernan Cortes conquers the Aztec Empire (Mexico) for Spain.

**1532:** Francisco Pizarro conquers the Inca for Spain.

**1534:** Jacques Cartier explores modern day Canada for France, setting up future French settlement there.

**1585/7:** Sir Walter Raleigh fails to establish an English colony in America at Roanoke Island.

**1607:** Jamestown is established under Captain John Smith.

**1619:** Virginia House of Burgesses begins functioning. The first African slave is brought to English America.

**1620:** Puritans land at Plymouth and establish Massachusetts after signing the Mayflower Compact.

**1632:** Lord Baltimore obtains a royal charter for Maryland.

**1635:** Trial of John Zenger establishes precedent for freedom of the press in the colonies.

**1636:** Beginning of the Pequot War. Roger Williams founds Rhode Island.

**1638:** Anne Hutchinson is exiled from Massachusetts over the Antinomian Controversy.

**1649:** Edict of Toleration in Maryland grants freedom of religion to Christians.

**1664:** New Amsterdam is taken from the Dutch by the English and renamed New York.

**1675:** Beginning of King Phillip’s War between settlers and the Wampanoag Indians.

**1676:** Bacon’s Rebellion breaks out partially due to class tension. Jamestown is burned and the English government sends troops to restore order.

**1681:** William Penn receives a royal charter for modern day Pennsylvania.

**1688-9:** James II’s Dominion of New England is overthrown. Leisler’s Rebellion briefly puts Leisler in control of New York.

**1732:** James Oglethorpe founds Georgia.

**1730s-40s:** First Great Awakening spreads through America.

**1754:** Beginning of the French and Indian/Seven Years’ War.

**1763:** End of the Seven Years’ War. Treaty of Paris awards Britain all of France’s possessions in North America. An unpopular royal proclamation establishes a boundary on western settlement.

**1765:** The British Parliament passes the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act Congress is formed in protest; the act is repealed the next year.

**1767:** The Townsend Acts establish, among other things, a tax on colonial tea.

**1770:** Boston Massacre occurs.

**1773:** Passage of the Tea Act inspires the Boston Tea Party.

**1774:** Parliament passes the “Intolerable” Acts to punish Massachusetts for the Tea Party. First Continental Congress meets to direct a colonial response.

**1775:** Beginning of the American Revolutionary War. Second Continental Congress meets to oversee the war.

**1777:** A British army is captured at the Battle of Saratoga.

**1778:** France diplomatically recognizes the new United States and declares war on Great Britain. Articles of Confederation establish the first outline for the American government.

**1781:** British forces surrender after being trapped and besieged at Yorktown, Virginia. British public opinion is swayed to demand an end to the war.

**1783:** Treaty of Paris: Britain concedes American independence from the Atlantic to the Mississippi.

**1786:** Shays’ Rebellion highlights the weakness of the Articles of Confederation.

**1787-9:** United States Constitution is drafted and ratified by every state. George Washington is unanimously elected President.

**~1789-92:** Alexander Hamilton’s financial plan handling taking states’ war debts, a national bank and debt, a tax on whiskey, and tariffs to promote industry is adopted.

**1794:** Invention of the cotton gin allows Southern plantations to become more efficient. Whiskey Rebellion is dispersed.

**1795:** Jay Treaty considerably repairs Anglo-American relations.

**1796:** John Adams is elected president.

**1798:** Adams passes the Alien and Sedition Acts. XYZ affair leads to the brief and undeclared Quasi-War with France.

**1800:** Thomas Jefferson is elected President over incumbent Adams. Roughly start of the Second Great Awakening.

**1803:** Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson buys a massive swathe of territory from Napoleon, making up much of the modern U.S. Marshall’s decision in *Marbury v. Madison* establishes judicial review of congressional decisions.

**1807:** Embargo Act: Jefferson bans all exports out of the United States, which does not go well and is repealed in 1809-10.

**1812:** America declares war on the United Kingdom over its violation of American shipping neutrality in the ongoing Napoleonic Wars.

**1814:** British forces burn Washington, D.C. but are then defeated. Treaty of Ghent is signed restoring all territory to its pre-war boundaries. Hartford Convention makes the Federalist Party unpopular. Start of the Era of Good Feelings.

**1815:** Battle of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson becomes famous for a lopsided victory over the British.

**1816:** Monroe elected President. Federalist Party basically ceases to exist.

**1819:** Adams-Onis Treaty: Spain gives Florida to the United States.

**1820:** Missouri Compromise divides slavery geographically by the Mason-Dixon Line.

**1824:** John Quincy Adams is elected President, supposedly via a “corrupt bargain.”

**1825:** Construction of the Erie Canal is completed.

**1828:** Andrew Jackson is elected, with Vice President John C. Calhoun. Congress passes the “Tariff of Abominations”.

**1830s:** Trains begin general use and begin to rapidly overtake canals in the transport industry.

**1830:** Indian Removal Act is passed.

**1831:** Formation of the Nativist or Know-Nothing Party.

**~1832:** Samuel Morse invents the telegraph.

**1833:** Nullification crisis in South Carolina over the Tariff of Abominations ends in compromise. The Whig Party is formed, the main rival of the Democrats for the next twenty years.

**1836:** Texas Revolution ends in effective, though not official, independence from Mexico. Second Bank of the United States expires due to Jackson’s veto, and his Specie Circular causes an economic crisis. Martin van Buren is elected president.

**1840:** William Henry Harrison defeats Van Buren for election, immediately dies, and is succeeded by the unpopular John Tyler.

**1844:** James K. Polk is elected on promises of annexing Texas.

**1845:** President Tyler obtains congressional approval to annex Texas. Mexico protests this, claiming it is still legally Mexican territory. America declares war on Mexico the next year.

**1848:** Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo: Lopsidedly defeated, Mexico recognizes Texan independence and cedes nearly half of its territory to the United States. Taylor elected President.

**1850:** Compromise of 1850: Texas and California are admitted to the Union as slave and free states, respectively, while the slave trade is outlawed in Washington D.C. and unpopular fugitive slave laws are enacted. Zachary Taylor dies from eating “raw fruit”.

**1852:** Franklin Pierce, who was about as obscure then as now, is elected. The Whig party, defeated and unable to unite on slavery, rapidly disintegrates.

**1854:** Kansas-Nebraska Act: Senator Stephen Douglas lobbies for popular sovereignty, allowing the citizens of Kansas and Nebraska to vote to be slave or free states as they enter the Union. Bleeding Kansas ensues and admission is greatly delayed. The Republican Party is founded.

**1856:** The indecisive James Buchanan is elected President on virtue of nobody knowing his position on slavery. Sumner-Brooks affair in which a pro-slavery senator beats Republican Charles Sumner to a pulp on the Senate floor.

**1857:** *Dred Scott v. Sandford*: A slave whose master moved with him to a free state sues unsuccessfully for freedom. Chief Justice Taney essentially declares all blacks property and the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional.

**1860:** Republican Abraham Lincoln is elected President. South Carolina secedes from the Union in December, followed by several others which form the Confederate States of America in February.

**1861:** Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Lincoln issues a call for volunteers, and the upper south secedes. The Confederate capital is moved to Richmond, Virginia, just across from D.C. Beginning of the Civil War.

**1862:** After several victories, the first Confederate invasion of the north is halted at the Battle of Antietam. Lincoln shortly issues the Emancipation Proclamation, and ending slavery is made an official war goal. Lincoln also suspends habeas corpus, the right to a fair and speedy trial. Union forces capture New Orleans.

**1863:** The Confederates invade the north again and suffer disastrous casualties at the Battle of Gettysburg. Ulysses S. Grant captures Vicksburg, the South’s last stronghold on the Mississippi River.

**1864:** Grant is brought east, made General-in-Chief, and invades Virginia. After victories in Georgia, Lincoln is reelected in a landslide.

**1865:** The Confederacy is defeated on all fronts and collapses, with the war effectively over with Lee’s surrender on April 9th. Lincoln is assassinated and succeeded by his new VP Andrew Johnson. 13th Amendment passes banning slavery. End of the Civil War and beginning of Reconstruction.

**1868:** Johnson is nearly impeached for illegally firing his Secretary of War and because Congress *really* doesn’t like him. U.S. Grant is elected President. Passage of the 14th Amendment.

**1870:** The last of the former Confederate states are readmitted to the Union.

**1872:** Despite several scandals during his administration, Grant is reelected in a landslide. His opponent (among other causes) is so shocked by the results that he literally dies.

**~1874:** The northern populace in general grows disillusioned and tired of Reconstruction.

**1877:** Election of 1876 between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel Tilden ends inconclusively. Compromise of 1877 the next year awards Hayes the disputed electoral votes and the presidency in exchange for promising to withdraw federal troops from the still-occupied south, allowing Democrats to retake control there. End of Reconstruction.

**1880:** James Garfield is elected and promptly assassinated the next year.

**1882:** Passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

**1884:** Grover Cleveland is elected, the first Democratic president since before the civil war.

**1886:** Haymarket Square bombing in Chicago turns many against anarchism and labor unions.

**~1887:** Approximate end of wild-west cowboy cattle drives.

**1888:** Despite winning the popular vote, Cleveland loses his reelection bid to Benjamin Harrison.

**1890:** Passage of the McKinley Tariff, Sherman Silver Purchase Act, and Sherman Antitrust Act, which is not really enforced until later additions are made. Farmers make the Ocala demands.

**1892:** Cleveland defeats Harrison for a second non-consecutive term. The Populist party is formed and wins over 10% of the vote nationally.

**1893:** Yet another namesake economic panic breaks out, the worst yet. Banks fail and the next year Coxey’s Army marches on Washington to demand relief. Frederick Jackson Turner gives his Frontier Thesis.

**1896:** William Jennings Bryan wins the Democratic nomination with his “Cross of Gold” speech. He is nevertheless defeated by William McKinley.

**1898:** Hoping to liberate Cuba, take colonies, and win prestige, the U.S. declares war on Spain and spends four months beating the crap out of it. Platt Amendment promises not to make Cuba a colony. Treaty of Paris awards the U.S. the Philippines and Cuba.

**1900:** McKinley defeats Bryan again for reelection but is assassinated the next year by an anarchist, whereupon Theodore Roosevelt becomes President.

**1903:** Roosevelt funds Panama’s secession from Colombia and builds a canal there.

**1904:** Roosevelt makes his corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, saying the U.S. has a right to intervene in nearby countries when necessary. He also wins election to his own term.

**1906:** Roosevelt pushes through the Meat Inspection and Pure Food and Drug Acts.

**1908:** Roosevelt’s chosen favorite, William Howard Taft, is elected. His opponent was, once again, William Jennings Bryan.

**1910:** Approximate beginning of the Great Migration of African-Americans to the north.

**1912:** Unhappy with Taft, Roosevelt runs for reelection, fails to win the Republican nomination, forms the Bull Moose Party, splits the Republican vote, and lets Democrat Woodrow Wilson win in a landslide.

**1914:** Federal Trade Commission Act is passed to increase oversight of trusts, as well as the Clayton Antitrust Act. Beginning of World War I in Europe.

**1915:** A German submarine torpedoes the RMS Lusitania, killing 128 Americans. Germany apologizes but shortly goes back to doing it again. The second iteration of the Ku Klux Klan is founded.

**1916:** Wilson’s meddling in the Mexican Revolution leads to a brief foray into New Mexico by Pancho Villa, which is responded to in kind. Wilson barely wins reelection.

**1917:** The British intercept the Zimmerman Telegram from Germany encouraging Mexico to invade the United States. Wilson asks for and receives a declaration of war. America, with its massive industrial capacity, begins sending the Allies massive amounts of money and munitions. Wilson gets passed the Espionage Act, along with the Sedition Act the next year.

**1918:** Wilson formulates his Fourteen Points. The Allies, including American troops, win the war and the Central Powers collapse. Treaty of Versailles the next year saddles Germany with massive war reparations and responsibility for the war. It also creates the League of Nations that Wilson championed, which Congress rather awkwardly declines to join.

**1920:** Nineteenth Amendment is ratified giving women suffrage, and Prohibition goes into effect after ratification of the Eighteenth the previous year. Warren G. Harding is elected in a landslide.

**1922:** Washington Naval Conference places official limits on naval armaments for the U.S., Britain, and Japan, though not very strongly enforced.

**1923:** Harding dies of a heart attack and is succeeded by Calvin Coolidge. Teapot Dome scandal, in which members of Harding’s administration sold off government owned oil-rich land, begins to come out.

**1924:** Coolidge is elected to his own term. Kellogg-Briand pact declares war illegal, which works out swimmingly. Dawes Plan essentially goes into effect, the brilliant system of the British and French paying American war debts with money gotten from German reparations which Germany got from loans from American banks, meaning America was loaning out money to pay itself back for the war. Height of membership in the KKK.

**1927:** Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian immigrants and anarchists, are executed for murder on extremely flimsy evidence.

**1928:** Coolidge declines to run for reelection and Herbert Hoover wins in a landslide.

**1929:** The stock market crashes, banks begin failing, and European countries dependent on American trade and loans begin failing. Beginning of the Great Depression.

**1930:** Hoover tries to improve things with the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, which just makes it worse.

**1932:** Hoover makes the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, meant to support banks and local governments. Franklin Roosevelt defeats Hoover in a landslide.

**1933-34:** “First” New Deal programs: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (to insure bank deposits and restore confidence), Agricultural Adjustment Act (paying farmers to grow less to increase crop prices), Securities and Exchange Commission (to oversee the Stock Exchange), Tennessee Valley Authority (to provide electric power), Civilian Conservation Corps (to provide jobs), and National Recovery Administration (to create guiding codes for industry and labor).

**1935:** Second New Deal: Wagner Act (legalizing unions, shortening work hours, and setting wage limits), Works Progress Administration (providing jobs working on public projects), and Social Security Act (providing pensions). NRA ruled unconstitutional in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v United States* for regulating intrastate commerce.

**1936:** FDR wins reelection with all but two states due to the New Deal coalition, consisting of basically everyone. AAA ruled unconstitutional in *United States v. Butler*.

**1940:** FDR wins reelection again to a third term. Enactment of the nation’s first-ever peacetime draft. Cash-and-carry policy and destroyers-for-bases agreement with Britain. Roosevelt puts an embargo on oil exports to Japan and freezes its assets in America.

**1941:** Roosevelt and Churchill formulate the Atlantic Charter. Japanese forces bomb Pearl Harbor, and the U.S. joins World War II. End of the Great Depression.

**1942:** The Japanese are defeated at the Battle of Midway, and the Allies invade North Africa.

**1943:** Allied forces evict the Axis from North Africa and invade Sicily and Italy. Japan loses Guadalcanal. Soviets win at Stalingrad.

**1944:** Allied forces invade Normandy and liberate France. Final German offensive at the Battle of the Bulge fails, and the Japanese navy is effectively destroyed by the end of the year. Despite having aged like twenty years in four Roosevelt is reelected yet again. Internment of Japanese-Americans is upheld in *Korematsu v United States*.

**1945:** Roosevelt dies and is succeeded by his new VP Harry Truman. Nazi Germany collapses and surrenders. U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The United Nations is formed. End of World War II and beginning of the Cold War.

**1947:** The “X Article” advocating containment is published.

**1948:** Truman wins election to his own term. Berlin airlift forces Stalin to lift a blockade of West Berlin.

**1950:** North Korea invades and nearly conquers the South. U.N., mostly American, and then Chinese troops intervene, and the war becomes a stalemate. Joseph McCarthy claims, with little real evidence, that the government is filled with communists.

**1953:** An armistice is signed in Korea. Dwight Eisenhower is inaugurated and supports an anti-communist coup in Iran, and another in Guatemala the next year.

**1954:** *Brown v Board of Education* declares “separate but equal” unconstitutional. Army McCarthy hearings result in a fall in McCarthy’s popularity. France fails to retake Vietnam.

**1956:** Federal Highway Act is passed. Eisenhower forces Britain, France, and Israel to leave Egypt in the Suez Crisis. Eisenhower is handily reelected.

**1957:** Eisenhower intervenes to enforce compliance with *Brown v. Board* in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**1960:** John F. Kennedy narrowly defeats Nixon in the election. Beginning of civil rights sit-ins.

**1962:** Kennedy defuses a crisis over the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba.

**1963:** Kennedy is assassinated and succeeded by Lyndon B. Johnson. MLK Jr. leads the March on Washington.

**1964:** LBJ pushes through a major civil rights bill, along with one for voting rights the next year. Gulf of Tonkin resolution effectively authorizes the president to go all in in Vietnam. Johnson crushes conservative Republican Barry Goldwater in the election.

**1968:** Tet Offensive in Vietnam ruins popular opinion of the war. MLK and Robert Kennedy, JFK’s brother and a Democratic presidential candidate, are assassinated. Nixon is elected.

**1969:** Apollo 11 mission lands on the moon.

**1970:** U.S. forces invade Cambodia. Four anti-war protesters are killed by National Guards at Kent State. The Environmental Protection Agency is formed.

**1972:** Nixon visits China and normalizes relations with it. Watergate burglary occurs, which Nixon does not order but does try to cover up. He wins reelection with 49 states.

**1973:** *Roe v Wade* legalizes abortion in the first trimester. The U.S. signs a peace treaty with North Vietnam and withdraws. The U.S. sanctions the overthrow of the democratically elected Marxist government of Chile.

**1974:** Nixon resigns in disgrace to avoid impeachment and is succeeded by Gerald Ford.

**1976:** Ford narrowly loses reelection to Jimmy Carter.

**1978:** Carter succeeds in getting Israel and Egypt to agree to the Camp David Accords.

**1979:** Iranian Revolution results in hostages being taken from the American embassy. Carter gives his Malaise speech about how terrible the economy is and also fails to rescue the hostages.

**1980:** Ronald Reagan defeats Carter in a landslide.

**1981:** Hostages in Iran are released and Reagan survives an assassination attempt.

**1984:** Reagan is overwhelmingly reelected.

**1986:** Iran-Contra affair comes to light in which Reagan’s administration illegally sold weapons to Iran to get money to illegally fund the anti-communist Contras in Nicaragua’s civil war.

**1989:** George H.W. Bush is inaugurated and invades Panama.

**1991:** H.W. Bush defeats Saddam Hussein’s Iraq in the First Gulf War. The Soviet Union collapses. End of the Cold War.

**1992:** Bush loses reelection to Bill Clinton.

**1993:** Clinton gets NAFTA passed.

**1998:** Lewinsky sex scandal occurs. Clinton survives impeachment 50-50 in the Senate.

**2000:** George W. Bush defeats Al Gore by five electoral votes.

**2001:** 9/11 terrorist attacks begin the War on Terror.

**2003:** Bush invades Iraq for its alleged possession of WMDs.

**2005:** Hurricane Katrina hits Louisiana. Bush administration is blamed for an inept response.

**2008:** Beginning of the Great Recession. Barack Obama is elected.

**2010:** Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is passed.

**2015:** The Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage nationwide in *Obergefell v Hodges*.

**Major legislation and court cases:**

Jay Treaty (1795): Settled some disputes between America and Britain leftover from the Revolution, but not enough to prevent the War of 1812.

Northwest Ordinance (1787/9): Created Northwest Territory.

Alien and Sedition Acts (1798): Illegalized criticizing the government or the president, passed because John Adams didn’t take criticism well.

*Marbury v Madison (1803):* Established the Supreme Court’s power to oversee the constitutionality of congressional acts and decisions.

Embargo Act (1807): Thomas Jefferson banned exports from the United States. Failed spectacularly and repealed within three years.

*Fletcher v Peck (1810):* First application of the Supreme Court’s ability to rule state legislation unconstitutional and overturn it.

*McCulloch v Maryland (1819):* Ruled that states cannot tax a federal bank, and that Congress had the power to create the Bank of the United States.

*Gibbons v Ogden (1824):* First application of the Supreme Court’s ability to regulate state commerce.

Indian Removal Act (1830): Set up Indian relocation to the far west.

*Worcester v Georgia (1832):* Ruled that states don’t have the authority to negotiate with Indians.

*Dred Scott v Sandford (1857):* Ruled that blacks could not become citizens. Did not go over well with northerners/abolitionists.

Emancipation Proclamation (1862): Declared free all slaves living in rebelling (Confederate) states as of January 1st, 1863. Didn’t actually free the slaves Lincoln could have, but set up the freeing of fugitives and slaves in areas conquered by the Union after it went into effect.

13th Amendment (1865): Banned slavery within the United States and its territories.

14th Amendment (1868): Mandated equal legal protection for all.

15th Amendment (1870): Banned disenfranchisement based on race.

Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890): Prohibited anti-competitive trust-like business practices.

*Plessey v Ferguson (1896):*Ruled that the concept of separate but equal was constitutional.

Pure Food and Drug Act (1906): Part of Theodore Roosevelt’s progressivism, set new standards of food quality and inspection.

Clayton Anti-Trust and Federal Trade Commission Acts (1914): Illegalized unfair business practices and made government prosecution of trusts easier.

Espionage and Sedition Acts (1917/18): Illegalized criticizing the government. Meant as a unification measure during World War I.

18th Amendment (1920): Enacted Prohibition.

19th Amendment (1920): Gave women the right to vote.

21st Amendment (1933): Repealed Prohibition.

Agricultural Adjustment Act (1933): Paid farmers subsidies to limit crop and livestock production.

National Industrial Recovery Act (1934): Created the National Recovery Administration.

Social Security Act (1935): Created Social Security.

Wagner Act (1935): Gave unions the right to strike.

*Schechter Poultry v United States (1935)*: Declared the NRA unconstitutional.

*Butler v United States (1936)*: Declared the AAA unconstitutional.

*Korematsu v United States (1944)*: Upheld legality of Japanese internment.

*Brown v Board of Education (1954)*: Declared separate but equal unconstitutional.

*Roe v Wade (1973)*: Legalized abortion in the first trimester.

*Obergefell v Hodges (2015)*: Legalized same-sex marriage.