

Vocabulary

- abolish: to end/ to stop
- civic: pertaining to citizenship
- political system
- economy

U.S. History

()= definition

_____ = key point

Bold= Key Concept

- The 13 colonies were originally owned and governed by the British. The British had a **monarchy (rule by king) or dictatorship (rule by one person)** as their government.
- The people who lived in the colonies paid taxes to the British, but received no benefits from their payments.
- This **taxation caused the colonies to go to war with Britain** for Independence. The war for Independence for was a part of the **American Revolution**.
- On July 4, 1776 the colonies declared independence and became the United States of America.
- After declaring independence, the colonies needed to establish a form of government and laws. The first set of laws written were the **Articles of Confederation**. These laws were too general and the correction of these laws led to the **framers** writing the U.S. Constitution.
- In the mid 1800's the U.S. was growing as a country. **The Northern part of the country was developing industries and the Southern part of the country's economy was based on agriculture (farming)**.
- Because the South depended on agriculture, they needed slaves to work the land. The North did not disapprove of slavery in the South, but as the country grew out to the West, the North did not want slavery to grow with the land.
- This conflict over slavery expanding to the West was the cause of the **Civil War**. The Civil War was fought between the North (Union) and South (Confederacy) from **1861-1865**.
- The Civil War was one by the North and country again became the United States of America, under one government, and the U.S. Constitution. **Slavery was abolished (stopped)**.
- Although slavery was now illegal, racism and segregation (separation of people based on race) continued for Blacks, especially in the South. Several **amendments (laws)** had to added to the Constitution to promote equal rights and voting rights for Blacks.
- In the early 1900s the U.S. population and industry was growing very fast. This period of (fast growth in industry) is called **Industrialization**. The main industry was

manufacturing. Because the U.S. was growing and had job opportunities, a lot of people came here from other countries (immigration).

- In (1914- 1918), **World War I** began. The US was not originally fighting in the war, but later joined the **Allies** (Great Britain, France, Russia) to fight against the **Central Powers** (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Ottoman empire). The U.S. entry into WWI helped the Allies to win the war.
- After WWI, the U.S. economy (financial, housing, and job market of a country) started to decline. Eventually in 1929, the stock market (where people invest their money in businesses) crashed, this is known as the **Great Depression**.
- **During a depression or recession (when economy is weak), unemployment is high, people don't buy houses and people don't buy a lot of products including food and things they need.**
- The government can try to help a depression by allowing people to borrow more money and by lowering the interest rate (the amount of money you are charged to borrow money). They can also have programs to help create jobs. The program that did this in the 1930's was called the **New Deal**, the programs that do this since 2008 recession are called the Stimulus Plan.
- The New Deal programs helped the U.S. get out of a depression, but what really helped was when the U.S. joined WWII. ** Back then, war could create a stronger economy because there are more manufacturing jobs, and someone has to fill the jobs of the soldiers who go over seas.
- World War II (WWII) (1939- 1945). The US was not originally fighting in the war, but later joined the Allies (Great Britain, Greece, Russia) after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to fight against the Axis (Germany, Japan, Italy).
- During WWII the Germans killed millions of Jewish people because of their race, this tragedy is called the **Holocaust**.
- Also, the U.S, forced all Japanese citizens living in the U.S. during WWII to live in internment camps, so they couldn't communicate with Japanese who were fighting on the side of the Axis Powers.
- WWII ended with the U.S. dropping an atomic bomb in the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.
- After WWII, the U.S. had to deal with its own problems, including racism. **The Civil Rights Movement** began in the 1950s. The movement was to promote racial equality and human rights for all and to end segregation in schools and other places. Well known civil rights leaders are Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcom X. To promote equality black citizens would march, protest, and boycott (not go to a place).
- During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the U.S. became involved with the **Vietnam War** (1955- 1979). The U.S. involvement in the war was debated and many people thought we should leave Vietnam. It was a long war, and at the end, the U.S. pulled out, but a victory was never claimed.