CHRONOLOGY OF FACTS NORTH AMERICA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1702 – 1713** | King William’s War, Queen Ann’s War (War of Spanish Succession), King George’s War: British gain control of Atlantic seaboard; colonists participated to take Nova Scotia; Arcadians migrate to French Louisiana and become Cajuns |
| **1700s** | Triangular trades between America, Caribbean, Africa and Europe develop; based on principles of mercantilism and slave exchange; finished goods, slaves shipped to colonies in exchange for raw materials such as grains, furs, tobacco, rum, sugar, naval stores; taxes, tariffs benefit of mother country not colonies; Northern colonies free labor, small businesses, small farms, light industry; South hierarchical society, plantation produce export crops |
| **By 1750** | French control St. Lawrence, Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley anchored at New Orleans; Spain controls Florida, Southwest including California, Texas; Great Britain controls Atlantic Seaboard from Newfoundland to Florida, conflict beginning over Ohio River Valley. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1754 – 1763** | French/Indian Wars; British expel French from North America; annex Canada, Mississippi |
| **1764** | Sugar Act followed by Stamp Act in 1765 provokes Stamp Act Congress by colonies |
| **1767** | Townsend Acts rouses colonials to anger |
| **1769** | Spanish settle California, establish Catholic missions, towns; agriculture, ranching, vineyards |
| **1783** | Treaty of Paris ends war, recognizes American independence, US gets lands to Mississippi |
| **1793, 1798** | Eli Whitney invents cotton gin, saves slavery; mass produces guns with exchangeable parts |
| **1795 – 1815** | Naval war with France, Barbary pirates; US establishes tradition of fighting to protect trade |
| **1800 – 1860** | Growth of textiles, processing, iron industries in New England, Mid-Atlantic; Age of King Cotton leads to spread of slavery; exports of cotton from South, textiles, grains from North. |
| **1807** | Fulton invents steamboat, steamboat travel in the United States; African slave trade ended |
| **1812 – 1815** | British impressment, searches of merchant ships, alliances with Indians leads to War of 1812 |
| **1813** | Full-fledged textile mill opened in Massachusetts; industrializing US uses tariffs as protection |
| **1820s** | Beginning industrialization of US, especially New England, Mid-Atlantic states |
| **1823** | Monroe Doctrine warns Europeans to stay out of affairs in Western Hemispher**e** |
| **1834** | Cyrus McCormick invents reaper, allows mass harvesting of grain; US major grain exporter |
| **1840s – 1920** | Beginning of immigration to US; 27 million immigrants; large influx of Catholics, Lutherans |
| **1840s** | American clipper ships to China, US interest there begins; US supports UK in Opium War |
| **1850** | Rise of factory system; new national economy, export market; rise of corporations |
| **1854** | Perry and US Navy squadron open up Japan to foreign influence; US signs treaty with Japan |
| **1870, 1873** | Standard Oil (Exxon) founded, oil production spreads; Bethlehem Steel (USS) founded |
| **1876 – 1914** | Gilded Age; rise of middle class, growth of industry, massive urbanization in East, Midwest |
| **1870s** | American exports boom; industry, banks invest in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean\ |
| **1880s** | Edison invents electric light, later founds General Electric; by 1914 US electronics, steel industries world’s largest; invention of hydraulic elevator, steel lead to rise of skyscrapers |
| **1890** | Mahan publishes *Influence of Sea Power upon History*; US begins building large navy |
| **1890 – 1916** | Progressive Era leads to many federal, state, local political, economic, social reforms; US worlds largest steel producer; reformers wage war against political machines, corruption |
| **1898** | Spanish American War; US acquires Philippines, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Pacific Islands; guerrilla war against Filipino rebels; US annexes Hawaiian islands |
| **1900** | US joins international expedition to lift Boxer Siege in Beijing; proposes Open Door Policy |
| **1904 – 1914** | Roosevelt Corollary says US will intervene to protect American interests, monetary investments (Dollar Diplomacy); US occupies nations in Caribbean, Central America; |
| **1913** | Ford introduces assembly line production in auto industry; ½ of Americans live in cities; urban problems, crime, boss rule, sanitation issues, largely immigrants |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1914** | Panama Canal opens; US second industrial, manufacturing, finance nation in world; American rural population doubles; American urban population rises 700 percent; World War I begins |
| **1918** | US provides foods, manufactures, soldiers; US mobilizes home front, economy, influenza kills 500,000; US intervenes in Russia; Wilson publishes 14 Points, Armistice ends war; US ends war as world’s largest industrial power, exporter, loaning center, food producer |
| **1921** | 1st transnational air, airmail route; quota laws restrict immigration; US largest merchant fleet |
| **1929 – 1939** | Stock Market crash, Great Depression; ⅓ of Americans unemployed; import restrictions rise |
| **1930s** | Dust Bowl disaster in Midwest, West; great economic, social, political uncertainty |
| **1931** | Japan invades Manchuria; US protests, but does little; 3,000 banks close in US; tariffs rise |
| **1932 – 1938** | Election of Franklin Roosevelt; New Deal models Keynesian economics including work relief, deficits, rural electrification, banking-stock reform, subsidies, unemployment, social security; unions legalized; minimum wages, 40 hour work week; child labor outlawed |
| **1939 – 1941** | World War II begins in Europe; Panama Conference - US, Latin America cooperate in face of outbreak of World War II; US repeals Neutrality Acts of 1935; US gives UK warships; Lend Lease Act eventually loans more than 50 billion to enemies of Axis, Atlantic Charter |
| **1941 – 1945** | Pearl Harbor leads to US entry into world war; total war mobilizes entire society, economy; growth of western states, Texas due to war effort; Battles of Midway, Normandy |
| **1945** | Conferences: Yalta, Potsdam decide new borders, occupation polices, peace treaties; Germany surrenders; US uses atomic bombs, Japan surrenders; occupation of former Axis begins; UN, |
| **1945 – 1970** | US dominant economic power; longest period of sustained economic growth in US history |
| **1946** | US grants Philippines independence, champions decolonization; IMF, World Bank created |
| **1947** | Cold War begins; Truman Doctrine of military aid to contain spread of communism; Marshall Plan to give aid to rebuild war torn Europe, Asia; US military aid greater than economic aid |
| **1950s** | Population explosion; Baby Boom; introduction of credit card; mechanization of daily life; 75% all Americans finish high school; Age of Rock n’ Roll becomes world phenomenon |
| **1955 – 1973** | US involvement in Vietnam begins with advisors, supplies and ends up with US combat troops |
| **Late 1950s** | Eisenhower, Congress create US highway system; rise of domestic, international air travel |
| **1960s** | Rise of service sector of American economy, technology in workplace; Civil Rights movement of Martin Luther King; women’s liberation movement begins; Population growth slows; population moving west, south; ½ black population live in north; more Americans live in suburbs than urban areas; Sexual Revolution; Drug culture; rise of crime rate |
| **1961 – 1963** | Kennedy confronts missile gap, builds ICBMs; promises to go to moon; US-USSR test ban;  US opposes Castro regime in Cuba: Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis; Berlin Wall crisis; creates Alliance for Progress, Peace Corps to aid poorer nations |
| **1964 – 1969** | Johnson’s Great Society legislation establishes welfare state, Medicaid, Medicare, VISTA, National Defense Education Act, Housing/Urban Development; ends immigration quota; massive war time inflation; Civil Rights Act leads to 1965 Voting Rights Act; supports Israel |
| **1969 – 1973** | Nixon Presidency; US withdrawal from Vietnam; Watergate Crisis and Investigation |
| **1970s** | Growth of environmental movement begins with 1964 publication of Carson’s *Silent Spring*; passing of Clean Air, Clean Water, Endangered Species Acts; Environmental Protection Agency established; pollution, waste, deforestation, overpopulation remain major problems |
| **1970s** | Only 4% population work farms; service sector largest part of economy; one million cars produced a year; 4/5s of blacks live in urban areas, vote as block; urban renewal begins |
| **1973** | Arab-Israeli War leads to OPEC Oil Embargo, Energy Crisis; opposition to Vietnam War ends with US withdrawal from Vietnam |
| **1970s – 80s** | Economic downturn, stagnation, recession; US trade deficits, deficit spending increase; massive 3rd world debt unlikely to be repaid; Asian, West European economic competition |
| **1975** | US-USSR Helsinki Accords guarantees borders, human rights, cultural exchanges, trade |
| **1980s** | Computers enter workforce, home; Internet; spread of global popular culture; rise of religious fundamentalism in US, Middle East, South Asia; American population increasingly older; in 1986 Japanese average income surpasses American; new immigrants change face of country |
| **1981 – 1989** | Reagan supports supply-side economics, reduces government; confronts communism, funds communist opposition in Latin America, Africa, Asia; deploys missiles in Europe; cooperates with Gorbachev, Pope to defuse crises |
| **1990s** | US actions as part of UN, NATO: 1st Persian Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia; UN uses economic sanctions; Asian financial crisis leads to world recession; rise of international terrorism |
| **1994 – 1995** | Clinton promotes international trade: NAFTA established, helps found WTO |
| **2001 –** | Bush presidency; 2001 Trade Tower attack, Afghanistan, Iraq invasions; wider war on terror; NATO enlarged to include former Warsaw Pact nations; opposes Global Warming accords |