



THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES I & II Courseware

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History of the United States I Courseware

The History of the United States provides a balanced approach to building historical awareness on the trends, concepts and key moments of the political, diplomatic, social, economic, intellectual and cultural development of a nation comprised of diverse experiences and perspectives.

MODULE 1

A World in Motion: Indigenous Peoples and the Rise of the Atlantic World, Pre -1492-1650

The pre-colonial and-early colonial periods were times of great global shifts fueled by new economic systems, religious zeal, and the desire for expanding political influence. This module focuses on life in the Americas, Europe and Africa before 1492 and charts out the early stages of globalization.

- 1.1 The Americas, Europe, and Africa Before 1492
- 1.2 Check Your Understanding
- 1.3 Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492-1650
- 1.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 2

A Collision of Cultures, 1500-1763

As Europeans moved beyond exploration and into colonization of the Americas, they brought changes to virtually every aspect of the land and its people, from trade and hunting to warfare and personal property. European goods, ideas, and diseases shaped the changing continent.

- 2.1 Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500-1700
- 2.2 Check Your Understanding
- 2.3 The English Empire, 1660-1763
- 2.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 3

Reform, Protest and Revolution in the "New World," 1763-1783

The period 1763-1783 was a tumultuous time filled with reform, protest and revolution.

- 3.1 Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests, 1763-1774
- 3.2 Check Your Understanding
- 3.3 America's War for Independence, 1775-1783
- 3.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 4

The Emergence of a New Nation, 1776-1820

After the Revolution, the balance of power between women and men, as well as between whites, blacks, and American Indians remained largely unchanged. This module focuses on the creation of republican governments as each state drafted its own constitution and examines the growing pains of the New Republic.

- 4.1 Creating Republican Governments, 1776-1790
- 4.2 Check Your Understanding
- 4.3 Growing Pains: The New Republic, 1790-1820
- 4.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 5

The Rise of American Democracy and the Impact of Expansion and Exploitation, 1800-1860

Industrialization led to radical changes in American life. New industrial towns dotted the landscape as workers also gained a greater appreciation of the value of their work and, in some instances, began to question the basic fairness of the new industrial order.

- 5.1 Industrial Transformation in the North, 1800-1850
- 5.2 Check Your Understanding
- 5.3 Jacksonian Democracy, 1820-1840
- 5.4 Check Your Understanding
- 5.5 A Nation on the Move: Westward Expansion, 1800-1860
- 5.6 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 6

Cotton, Slavery, and the Old South, 1800-1860

In the years before the Civil War, the South produced the bulk of the world's supply of cotton. The Mississippi River Valley slave states became the epicenter of cotton production, an area of frantic economic activity.

- 6.1 Cotton is King: The Antebellum South, 1800-1860
- 6.2 Check Your Understanding
- 6.3 Antebellum Idealism and Reform Impulses, 1820-1860
- 6.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 7

A House Divided: War and a New Birth of Freedom, 1850-1865

The difficult process of reaching a compromise on slavery in 1850 exposed the sectional fault lines in the United States that were further exacerbated by the passing of a series of laws, the acts of radical abolitionists, and the election of Abraham Lincoln.

- 7.1 Troubled Times: The Tumultuous 1850s
- 7.2 Check Your Understanding
- 7.3 The Civil War, 1860-1865
- 7.4 Check Your Understanding



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MODULE 1

New Frontiers: Reconstruction and the Development of the West

The 19th century saw expansion east to west and conflict north to south. This module explores the period known as Reconstruction that followed the Civil War. Then, it follows the westward migration of white settlers, their lives, and the impact of their movement on the land and other peoples.

- 1.1 The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877
- 1.2 Check Your Understanding
- 1.3 Westward Expansion, 1840-1900
- 1.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 2

Industry and Urbanization in the Gilded Age

The Gilded Age (1870-1900) saw massive technological innovations and social change. The module includes a look at the surge in industrialization, the urban expansion that followed, and the subsequent politics of the era.

- 2.1 Industrialization, 1870-1900
- 2.2 Check Your Understanding
- 2.3 The Growing Pains of Urbanization, 1870-1900
- 2.4 Check Your Understanding
- 2.5 Politics in the Gilded Age, 1870-1900
- 2.6 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 3

Progressive Era and the Quest for Empire

The Progressive era (1890-1920) is characterized by American attempts to address the social ills found within the nation, as well as the beginning of the U.S. exhibiting greater involvement overseas. This module looks at domestic issues during the Progressive era, then it examines the early days of empire-building, and, finally, covers the US entry into WWI.

- 3.1 The Progressive Movement, 1890-1920
- 3.2 Check Your Understanding
- 3.3 Age of Empire: American Foreign Policy, 1890-1914
- 3.4 Check your understanding
- 3.5 The Great War, 1914-1919
- 3.6 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 4

Changing Times: From Triumph to Depression

The 1920s and 1930s could not have been more of a contrast – from boom to bust. First, the module looks at the boom period, the Jazz Age from 1919-1929. Then it covers the crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed. Finally, it addresses the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt and how the role of the federal government was transformed.

- 4.1 The Jazz Age, 1919-1929
- 4.2 Check Your Understanding
- 4.3 The Great Depression, 1929-1932
- 4.4 Check Your Understanding
- 4.5 Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1941
- 4.6 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 5

The Second World War and Post War America

World War II saw the US allied to the Soviet Union; however, their postwar relationship became the so-called Cold War. This module looks at World War II, how the U.S. entered the war, and the impact of the war on the Homefront. Then it looks at the postwar world and the American fight against communism, as well as the social and cultural changes within the American society.

- 5.1 World War II, 1941-1945
- 5.2 Check Your Understanding
- 5.3 Post-War Prosperity, 1945-1960
- 5.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 6

A Turbulent Era: Reform, Conflict and a Polarized Nation

The 1960s and 1970s were decades of cultural and social revolution and reaction. This module covers the 1960s and looks at the important cultural changes that led, among other things, to a more fragmented society. Then it looks at the Republican surge that emerged as a backlash to the 1960s, only to be suddenly halted by the Watergate scandal.

- 6.1 America in the 1960s
- 6.2 Check Your Understanding
- 6.3 Political Storms, 1968-1980
- 6.4 Check Your Understanding

MODULE 7

Anxieties within a Modern Era

From 1980 to the present, the United States has experienced many ups and downs. This module explores the anxieties generated as a result of this turmoil. First, it covers the last two decades of the 20th century as the Cold War came to an end and new threats presented themselves. Then, it explores the US recent history by looking at some key events in the 21st century.

- 7.1 From Cold War to Culture Wars, 1980-2000
- 7.2 Check your Understanding
- 7.3 The Challenges of the 21st Century
- 7.4 Check your Understanding