

STAAR Review



Gilded Age

Term	Significance
Transcontinental Railroad	The growth of railroads led to westward expansion. This, in turn, led to a booming cattle industry and conflict with Native Americans.
Homestead Act	The Homestead Act provided 160 acres of land for white Americans to settle on in the West. This led to Westward expansion and conflict with Native Americans such as the Sand Creek Massacre and Wounded Knee Massacre . Westward expansion also led to the formation of political organizations centered around the issues of farmers, such as the Grange and the Populist Party .
Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882	This law was a result of nativism , and disallowed Chinese immigrants from migrating to the United States (with few exceptions).
Dawes Act	The Dawes Act was an attempt at assimilating Native Americans into white culture, much like Native American boarding schools such as Carlisle Indian School . It required Native Americans to live on homesteads of 160 acres in exchange for citizenship after 25 years and sold off remaining tribal lands to white settlers.
Andrew Carnegie	Carnegie was a Captain of Industry or Robber Baron , depending on how one perceives of his accomplishments. He created his company, Carnegie Steel, with the use of the Bessemer Process – which made steel easier and cheaper to produce. He amassed huge profits by using a process of vertical integration to streamline his company.

Age of Imperialism

Term	Significance
1898	This date was the start and end year of the Spanish American War .
1914-1918	These were the start and end years of World War I .
Spanish American War	This war led to increased American presence on the world stage, and the acquisition of colonial territories overseas.
Open Door Policy	This policy in China in the late 19 th and early 20 th century called for equal trade privileges between all interested economic powers.
Dollar Diplomacy	This foreign policy in South and Central America emphasized the use of American monetary investment, rather than force, in gaining the "cooperation" of nations.
Alfred T. Mahan	Mahan was a U.S. naval officer who wrote <i>The Influence of Sea Power Upon History</i> – which called for the building up of a strong navy. His influenced helped push the United States toward a position as a world power on the high seas.
Theodore Roosevelt	T. Roosevelt influenced the Spanish American War as the leader of the Rough Riders in Cuba. He also enforced the Monroe Doctrine in South and Central America through the Roosevelt Corollary , also known as " Big Stick Policy ."
Sanford Dole	Dole was a sugar planter who led the uprising against Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii.
Guam, Hawaii, Philippines, Puerto Rico	These territories (among others) were colonized by the United States as a result of the Spanish American War.
M.A.I.N.	M.A.I.N. stands for the "main" causes of World War I: Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism .
14 Points	Wilson's Fourteen Points were his plan for lasting peace in the aftermath of World War I. Of these, the most hotly debated by the United States was the creation of the League of Nations . Since the U.S. preferred to remain isolationist and not get dragged into European affairs, the U.S. did not join the League, and therefore did not sign the Treaty of Versailles .
Alvin York	Alvin York was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War I.
John J. Pershing	John J. Pershing led the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I.
Battle of Argonne Forest	The Battle of Argonne Forest was a turning point battle of World War I that led to a German retreat. (You can think of it as the Germans "are gone.")

Progressive Era

Term	Significance
Initiative	This is a local/state reform. Voters can directly introduce bills in the state legislature and vote on them.

Referendum	This is a local/state reform. Legislators place bills directly up for voter approval.
Recall	This is a local/state reform. Voters can choose to remove elected officials from office before their term has expired.
14 th -19 th Amendments (helpful hints to remember)	13 th Amendment: Enslaved individuals freed (Free) 14 th Amendment: Citizenship for all born in the U.S. (Citizens) 15 th Amendment: Race removed as a barrier to suffrage (Vote) 16 th Amendment: Graduated Income Tax (16 you can get a job) 17 th Amendment: Direct election of senators 18 th Amendment: Prohibition begins (18 you can't legally drink) 19 th Amendment: Gender removed as barrier to suffrage 21 st Amendment: Prohibition ends (21 you can legally drink)
Populist Party	The Populist Party was led by William Jennings Bryan , and tended to represent the interests of farmers and other rural people. This was often different from the Progressives , who were usually more concerned with urban issues. The Populist Party had quite a bit of support in local and state elections but tended to split the vote in federal elections.
Upton Sinclair	This author was a muckraker journalist who wrote <i>The Jungle</i> . His writings led to laws like the Meat Inspection Act .
Pure Food and Drug Act	This law was a result of the work of muckraker journalists and the ills of patent medicines. It required food and drug producers to keep to certain cleanliness laws and sell only medicines that actually did as they advertised.
Susan B. Anthony	Susan B. Anthony was a proponent of woman suffrage as a co-founder of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and key to the passage of the 19th Amendment .
Jane Addams	Jane Addams founded Hull House , a settlement house in Chicago. The one of the goals of settlement houses was to help assimilate immigrants into mainstream American life and help them find opportunities in the city.
W.E.B. DuBois	DuBois was an African American scholar and advocate for Black Civil Rights, who co-founded the NAACP . DuBois criticized the work of Booker T. Washington, who thought African Americans should accommodate segregation in order to uplift their community. He argued that the Black community should take more immediate action to end racism and promote equality.
Ida B. Wells	Ida B. Wells-Barnett was an African American journalist and scholar who wrote about the atrocity of lynching in the United States. She, along with DuBois co-founded the NAACP .
National Park Service	The National Park Service was founded as a way of preserving the environment during President Woodrow Wilson's administration.
Sherman Antitrust Act	The Sherman Antitrust Act was written (but not enforced) to regulate monopolies . In reality, it was used against labor unions.
Interstate Commerce Act	The Interstate Commerce Act, which created the Interstate Commerce Commission , was written to regulate businesses like railroads.

1920s

Term

Significance

Social Darwinism

This term is used to describe the ideas of “survival of the fittest” as applied to social (and economic) conditions. Wealthy people during the early 20th century used it to explain why they were rich and poor people were poor.

“Return to Normalcy”

This was the campaign **slogan of Warren G. Harding** after World War I. It was intended to reassure Americans of a return to normal prosperity.

Teapot Dome Scandal

This scandal refers to the illegal lease of naval **oil reserves** at Teapot Dome in Wyoming by the Secretary of the Interior under the **Harding Presidency**.

Immigration Quotas

Quotas were used to keep immigrants out of the United States (primarily from Southern and Eastern Europe) in the **Immigration Act of 1924** by establishing certain thresholds of people that could come to the U.S. as a **percentage** of their total number in the 1890 census. This is an example of **nativism**, especially during the **Red Scare**.

Scopes Monkey Trial

This trial challenged the teaching of evolution in schools. The main conflict was between **fundamentalists**, who believed in a strict interpretation of the Bible, and **modernists**, who believed that there was room for both science and the Bible to be correct.

(First) Red Scare

The Red Scare was a reaction to the **Bolshevik/Russian Revolution** in 1917. It's called the *Red Scare* because the Communist party uses the color red in their flag. The American government (and the rest of society) feared Communist infiltration in the United States. This led to things like the **Palmer Raids** and the trial of **Sacco and Vanzetti**.

Eugenics

Eugenics is the use of reproduction to create desirable characteristics in a population. In the United States, eugenics has been used as a reason to prevent disabled people, incarcerated people, and minorities from having children. It was also closely tied to ideas of Social Darwinism (and normal Darwinism) during this era.

Nativism

Nativism is an extreme dislike or hatred for immigrants. This can be seen in social trends and official government policy.

Prohibition

In the 1920s, Prohibition refers to the outlaw of alcohol sales and manufacturing. This began with the **18th Amendment** and ended with the 21st Amendment.

Henry Ford

Henry Ford is known for inventing the Model T (but not the car in general), and for his use of the automated **assembly line**.

Marcus Garvey

Marcus Garvey was a conservative African American Civil Rights leader who founded **the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)** and the **“Back to Africa” Movement**.

	Unlike W.E.B. DuBois, he advocated for complete separation from white society.
Charles Lindbergh	Charles Lindbergh is known for being the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in the (then) modern technological wonder of the airplane .
American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924	This law granted citizenship to all Native Americans born within the United States.
Tin Pan Alley	Tin Pan Alley was a cultural center in New York City that was home to popular music from Vaudeville and other forms of entertainment. People went there to hear music played before they purchased the sheet music to take home and play on their own pianos.
Harlem Renaissance	The Harlem Renaissance was an artistic, intellectual, and cultural movement in the African American community that occurred as a result of the Great Migration . It included artists like Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith , and poets like Langston Hughes .

Great Depression/New Deal

Term	Significance
1929	This year indicates the beginning of the Great Depression, also known as Black Tuesday .
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	The FDIC was created as a result of the Great Depression, and still exists today. It insures bank deposits up to \$250,000 so that if banks fail, customers won't lose all of their money.
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	The SEC was created as a result of the Great Depression, and still exists today. The SEC watches over the stock market to keep an eye out for stock speculation and other illegal activity that might cause a crash.
Social Security	Social Security was created as a result of the Great Depression, and still exists today. It was created as unemployment insurance and old-age pension. Today, Americans who pay into Social Security can receive payments when they retire.
Mexican Repatriation	To "repatriate" means to send someone back to their home country. During the Great Depression, the U.S. Government forcefully repatriated Mexican immigrants (and their American born/American citizen) children after asking for their help during WWI labor shortages. This action was a result of nativism .
Eleanor Roosevelt	Eleanor Roosevelt was wife to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was key to his success in office. Due to his physical disability, Eleanor Roosevelt often traveled places he could not go and gave speeches on his behalf. She also created her own ladies "brain trust" during the New Deal that solved many problems during that time period.

World War II

Term	Significance
1939-1945	These years indicate the years of World War II.
Adolf Hitler	Adolf Hitler was the Nazi dictator in Germany during World War II.
Benito Mussolini	Benito Mussolini was the fascist dictator in Italy during World War II.
Hideki Tojo	Hideki Tojo was the military leader of Japan (under the emperor) during World War II.
Holocaust	The Holocaust was the unprecedented genocide of roughly 12 million Jewish people by Nazi Germany during World War II. The Holocaust was the " Final Solution " in Adolf Hitler's plan for Germany's dominance of Europe. Nazi war criminals were put on trial at the Nuremberg Trials .
Executive Order 9066	This executive order by President Franklin D. Roosevelt allowed for Japanese Americans and their families to be placed into concentration camps in the United States in what is referred to as Japanese American Internment . The Supreme Court upheld this decision in

	the court case <i>Korematsu v. US</i> . The U.S. government did not formally apologize until the 1980s, after a Senate investigation into the nativist origins of the order.
Bataan Death March	This was a forced march of American and Filipino forces to rail lines (and then to POW camps) through the jungle in the wake of the Japanese attack on the Philippines in 1942. Almost half died along the way.
Island Hopping	This was the U.S. strategy in the Pacific front during World War II.
Battle of Midway	This was a turning point battle in the Pacific front during World War II, as Midway Island lay as a half-way marker for the U.S. strategy.
D-Day (Normandy Invasion)	The D-Day invasion of the Normandy (France) beaches was the first step toward liberating Paris in the European front of World War II.
Dwight D. Eisenhower	Eisenhower was the commander of Allied troops for the D-Day invasion of France.
Douglas MacArthur	MacArthur was the General of the U.S. Army in the Pacific front.
Chester Nimitz	Nimitz was the Admiral of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific front.
Victory Gardens	Victory Gardens were a way for Americans to allow commercial farmers to focus on growing essential goods for the war effort, rather than for grocery stores.
Tuskegee Airmen	These men were a segregated African American pilot group with the Air Corps, whose job was to protect bombers.
Flying Tigers	These men were volunteer pilots out of Texas who flew supply missions to China.
Navajo Code Talkers	This was a group of Native American men from various tribes who used the Navajo language to encrypt messages that couldn't be broken by the Japanese.
Great Migration	This was the movement of African Americans from the south to the north to fill vacancies in industrial jobs.
Vernon Baker	Vernon Baker earned the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II.

Early Cold War

Term	Significance
1957	This year was when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik into space, beginning the Space Race.
1969	This year, the United States landed on the moon.
1991	This year marked the end of the Cold War with the fall of the Berlin Wall.
Containment	This was the United States foreign policy for the entire Cold War. The idea was that it would be too expensive and time-consuming to try to overturn Communist governments, so we should instead just try to stop Communism from spreading further.

Truman Doctrine	This policy attempted to contain Communism from spreading to Greece and Turkey by providing aid to them. The idea underlying this concept is that stable countries don't fall to Communism.
Marshall Plan	This policy provided aid to Europe's war-torn nations. It is essentially a large-scale version of Truman Doctrine, under the same idea that stable countries (economically, politically, militarily) don't fall to Communism).
Berlin Airlift	In 1948, France, Britain, and the United States used airplanes to deliver supplies to the Western areas of Berlin after the Soviet Union blocked their access to the city.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	NATO is a military alliance between ten Western European nations and the United States and Canada. It is based on the idea of collective security , which means that each member will defend each other if attacked. This is the very same concept that we tried to avoid with the League of Nations after World War I.
McCarthyism	Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed to have a list of hundreds of Communists in the U.S. federal government, and launched a Senate investigation, lasting three years, into weeding them out. After finding none, this "witch hunt" akin to the 1920s Red Scare has become attached to McCarthy's name for making wild and unsubstantiated accusations.
House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)	During the 1950s Red Scare , the House of Representatives created HUAC to perform " loyalty checks " and question any person they found to be suspicious of anti-American activities. Famously, the Hollywood 10 – a group of actors and writers who refused to disavow their actions and their colleagues – were " blacklisted " (lost their jobs and nobody would hire them).
Cuban Missile Crisis	This event in the Kennedy Presidency is the closest the world has ever been to nuclear war. The Soviet Union agreed to withdraw their missiles from Cuba, and the U.S. withdrew their own missiles from Turkey.
Rust Belt	This term is used to refer to former industrial cities in the Northeast and Midwest that experienced "white flight" during the post-war period as white Americans moved to the American South and West (or the Sunbelt).
Sun Belt	This term is used to refer to suburban areas in the American South and West that experienced migration during the post-WWII period as a result of increased jobs from the military industrial complex and " white flight ."
Baby Boom	A baby boom occurred after World War II as a result of returning servicemen and better living conditions from the GI Bill and healthcare/technological improvements.
GI Bill	The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (or GI Bill) provided healthcare, low-interest loans, college education, and job placement for returning servicemen after World War II. This legislation, however, did not apply to the many thousand African American and LGBTQ+ veterans who were given Section 8 "Blue Discharges" and stripped of their GI benefits after the war.

Beat Generation	The Beat Generation was a literary movement led by writers like Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac who challenged dominant culture and were the early forerunners of the counter-culture movement of the 60s and 70s.
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1960s & Vietnam

Term	Significance
Domino Theory	This foreign policy theory stipulates that if one country falls to Communism, surrounding countries will also fall to Communism. It was used as rationale for entering the conflict in Vietnam.
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	After a supposed attack on a U.S. vessel in the Gulf of Tonkin, Congress issued the president a " blank check " to address conflict in Vietnam as necessary. This led to escalation under President Johnson.
Tet Offensive	This battle of the War in Vietnam was a turning point because the American loss proved that the war would not be over soon.
Vietnamization	This was Nixon's strategy in Vietnam. The concept was to slowly hand the war in Vietnam back over to the people of Vietnam and withdraw American troops.
Fall of Saigon	Today, Saigon is called Ho Chi Minh city. The fall of this city in April 1975 marked the end of the War in Vietnam for Americans.
War Powers Act	This law sets limits on how much power a president has in conflict without a formal declaration of war from Congress. This was a direct result of the years of conflict in Vietnam after Congress issued a "blank check" following the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution .
26 th Amendment	This Amendment lowered the voting age to 18.
Credibility Gap	A credibility gap exists (especially in terms of the media) when audiences see one thing and hear another. This was the case in the Vietnam War when Americans saw death and destruction on television, and then heard President Johnson tell them that everything was fine. Johnson, in this case, experienced a gap in his credibility.
Silent Majority	Nixon referred to his supporters as the "silent majority" because he was receiving so much criticism from loud protestors.
Great Society	Sometimes referred to as the War on Poverty , these were the domestic programs Johnson attempted to do at home to help Americans. They failed because the War in Vietnam was too expensive.
Raul "Roy" Benavidez	"Roy" Benavidez earned the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

Civil Rights

Term

Significance

1968

This year marks the **assassination of** key individuals, including **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King was a strong advocate for the use of non-violent civil disobedience. He led the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** and coordinated with the **Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** to create **sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and boycotts.**

"Letter from Birmingham Jail"

This letter, smuggled out of jail in 1963, criticized fellow white religious leaders who were passive in the fight for Black civil rights. Dr. King argued in this letter that Americans could no longer sit and wait for change to come – that *all* Americans had to take part in the fight for freedom through non-violent, civil disobedience.

"I Have a Dream" Speech

In this speech, Dr. King calls to Americans to continue toward action so that the United States can live up to the potential it has in the "Dream" he describes.

Cesar Chavez

Chavez was a co-founder of the United Farm Workers and proponent of non-violence in his organization. He used pilgrimages and hunger strikes to support his cause.

Dolores Huerta

Huerta was a former schoolteacher who co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez and was a master negotiator. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2012.

Rosa Parks

The actions of Rosa Parks sparked the **Montgomery Bus Boycott.**

Betty Friedan

Friedan's ***Feminine Mystique*** led many women to question the roles and happiness of housewives. In addition to her life as an accomplished author, Friedan also led the **National Organization for Women (NOW)**, which advocated for changes that led to things like the **Equal Pay Act, Title IX, and *Roe v. Wade.***

Black Panthers

The Black Panther Party differed from Dr. King by openly challenging white supremacists for their **right to the Second Amendment.** However, they also spent much of their time running community uplift programs like a free breakfast program and focused on economic opportunities for the Black community.

Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

Rev. Billy Graham

Anti-Communist preacher who paid to bail out Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from jail once. However, his anti-Communist stance often put him at odds with civil rights communities.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

This law desegregated all spaces open to the public.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

This law outlawed things that prevented people of color from voting like poll taxes and literacy tests.

George Wallace

Alabama Governor George Wallace attempted to prevent two African American students from enrolling at the University of Alabama.

Orval Faubus	Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus attempted to prevent the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock. He was forced to comply by President Eisenhower.
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)	This Supreme court case led to the establishment of the "separate but equal" doctrine and the creation of Jim Crow laws.
Sweatt v. Painter (1950)	This Supreme Court case ruled that "separate but equal" from <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896) is inherently unequal in higher education/college.
Brown v. Board (1954)	This Supreme Court case ruled that "separate but equal" from <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896) is inherently unequal and led to the desegregation of all public schools.
Hernandez v. Texas (1954)	This Supreme Court case ruled that Mexican Americans, while not a separate race, are still entitled to protection as a separate class under the Fourteenth Amendment's "equal protection" clause . In this specific case, it meant that a Mexican American man couldn't be tried in a court by an all-white jury.
Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)	This Supreme Court case upheld the First Amendment right to expression when it ruled that students could wear black armbands to protest the War in Vietnam at school.
Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)	This Supreme Court case upheld the First Amendment right to religion when it ruled that Amish children did not have to attend school beyond the 8 th grade.
Affirmative Action	Affirmative Action is an Executive Order by President Lyndon B. Johnson that requires all employers that receive federal money or federal contracts to take steps to promote equality in hiring, as to correct for centuries of racism in the workplace and education.
Title IX	This law banned sexual discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding. More practically, it ensured that there were equal opportunities for men and women in schools – especially in terms of things like sports, which lead to scholarships.
Chicano Mural Movement	In the 1960s, Mexican American artists used murals to express admiration for leaders like Cesar Chavez and support for justice initiatives in the Mexican American community. Murals are evident in <i>barrios</i> across the American Southwest.

1970s & 1980s

Term

Significance

Detente

This term refers to a relaxing of tensions. This was President Nixon's foreign policy stance with the Soviet Union, which led to things like the **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)**.

Watergate Scandal

In 1972, former CIA agents were caught breaking into the Democratic party's headquarters. Nixon was implicated in the cover-up and attempted to use **executive privilege** to hold on to tapes proving his guilt. In the Supreme Court case ***U.S. v.***

	<i>Nixon</i> , the Supreme Court ruled that Nixon must turn over the tapes. Nixon resigned in August 1974.
Environmental Protection Agency	This Nixon Administration agency sets and enforces air and water pollution standards for cities.
Endangered Species Act	This Nixon Administration law requires the creation of a list by a federal agency of endangered animals and plants, as well as tangible steps that can be taken to protect them and their environments.
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	In 1973, OPEC imposed an oil embargo on the United States for supporting Israel in a conflict during that same year. This led to fuel shortages and added to the ongoing economic issue of stagflation at the time. Jimmy Carter created the Department of Energy to help solve the crisis.
Community Reinvestment Act of 1977	This law requires banks to make loans available to individuals in low-income neighborhoods.
Camp David Accords	This peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was a massive step forward for the two nations after the Six-Day War and decades of fighting.
Iran Hostage Crisis	The Shah of Iran (Pahlavi) was friendly to the United States, but brutal to the people of Iran. They overthrew him and replaced him with the Ayatollah Khomeini . When the Shah got cancer and came to the U.S. for treatment, revolutionaries in Iran took hostages in the U.S. Embassy. Despite failed attempts by President Carter, the Iran Hostage Crisis continued for over a year, and the Iranian hostage takers refused to release them until Carter left office.
Marines in Lebanon	In 1982, 241 Marines were killed in an attack on a base in Lebanon. Reagan withdrew the rest of the troops and bombed two cities in Libya that he thought held the terrorists responsible.
Reaganomics	Also known as " supply-side economics ", this economic policy tried to stimulate growth through more government spending and tax cuts to corporations.
Peace Through Strength	This idea is also known as preventionism or militarism (and was not new in the 80s). The concept is that if you have enough firepower and a strong enough military and defense network, nobody will mess with you. Reagan espoused this as Reagan Doctrine with the Soviet Union and promoted a (quickly dismissed) concept of " Star Wars " as a missile defense system in space.
Iran-Contra Affair	This "weapons for cash" scandal tarnished both the credibility of the federal government to the American people, but also the reputation of the United States on the global stage.
Heritage Foundation	This organization is a conservative think-tank in Washington D.C.
Moral Majority	This term is used to refer to conservative Christians who supported Ronald Reagan in the election of 1980. They opposed Communism and the Equal Rights Amendment and supported

	the National Rifle Association and a strict interpretation of the Bible.
War on Drugs	The War on Drugs was launched by President Nixon as a way of cracking down on anti-war protestors and African Americans. It escalated under the presidency of Ronald Reagan and the “tough on crime” and “law and order” policies of following administration.
AIDS Epidemic	At the start of the AIDS epidemic, the federal government offered little to no information or support for those suffering from the disease. As a result, the CDC estimates that nearly 675,000 people in the United States have died as a result of the AIDS epidemic.

The Modern Era

Term	Significance
2001	This was the year of the September 11 terrorist attack.
2008	This year marks the election of the first African American president – Barack Obama.
Persian Gulf War	In the Persian Gulf War, the United States drove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait after he invaded the country to take over their oil supply. However, the United States did not remove Saddam Hussein from power.
War on Terror	This “war” was launched by President George W. Bush against the nations responsible for harboring terrorists associated with the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States. As a result, the United States created the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and Department of Homeland Security . The U.S. also went to war in Iraq in 2003.
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	This is an international organization from the Clinton Presidency that was part of a larger trend of globalization. NAFTA was an agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that gradually eliminated tariffs between our countries (hence, free trade). Other aspects of globalization included the World Trade Organization and the United Nations .
USA Patriot Act 2001	This law expanded the federal government’s law enforcement powers in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, such as: monitoring communications and bank accounts, wiretapping without warrants, and waterboarding.
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	This aid package was a response to the 2008 financial crisis . President Obama and Congress approved over \$700 billion to create and save American jobs and stimulate economic activity. Other money was provided by state governments.
Sandra Day O’Connor	Sandra Day O’Connor was the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court.

Hillary Clinton	As first lady, Hillary Clinton was a champion of health care reform, and led the task force for universal health care during Clinton's presidency.
Sonia Sotomayor	Sonia Sotomayor is the first Hispanic person appointed to the Supreme Court.

General Terminology

Term	Significance
E Pluribus Unum Alexis de Tocqueville	This is our nation's motto. It means "Out of Many, One." Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States in the 19 th century from France and wrote a book about the uniqueness of American institutions. He focused especially on key factors like laissez-faire government policies and egalitarianism .
Egalitarianism	This is the concept that all people are equal and deserve equal opportunities to be successful.
Stalemate	This is a strategic term (usually military) that means neither side can move.
Isolationism	This was the foreign policy stance of the United States for much of its history. The United States did not want to get involved in foreign conflict unless absolutely necessary (going back all the way to Washington's Farewell Address).