

Beyond the Books: U.S. History

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General U.S. History

[Digital History](#)

Collaboration between several institutions to bring American History to life

[The Price of Freedom: Americans at War](#)

From the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Select a conflict and start learning

Presidential History

[American Presidency Project](#)

Public papers, presidential elections, inaugural addresses and more. Their archives contain over 100,000 documents related to the study of the Presidency.

[Historical Presidential Election Results](#)

[About American Presidents: Life Portraits](#)

Created as a companion to C-SPAN's 20th Anniversary television series, this website provides an in-depth look at each of the presidents, their lives, families and administrations.

[American President \(University of Virginia\)](#)

This web site features a comprehensive collection of material about the Presidents of the United States, the history of the presidency, the President's life before, during, and after each presidential term and information about the First Lady and cabinet officials of each administration.

[Public Papers of the President of the United States](#)

From the (University of Michigan), the Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States contains material that was compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration

Modern Presidential Scandals

WaterGate

[The Woodward & Bernstein Watergate Papers](#)

an online exhibit from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, Austin.

[Watergate - The History Channel](#)

audio-visual materials related to to Watergate.

[The Watergate Story](#)

Provides an overview of Watergate and the key individuals involved. In addition it provides links to a variety of primary source materials, including videos, newspaper articles, documents, etc.

[The Watergate Files](#)

From the Gerald Ford Library & Museum. includes documents and other materials related to Watergate. Fall of the Soviet Union

[The Nixon Tapes](#)

This site makes freely available the best-quality digital audio and selected transcripts

Iran-Contra

[Understanding Iran-Contra Affair](#)

From Brown University. Provides information about the rise of the contra rebels in Nicaragua, the Iranian Revolution, and the U.S. responses to both. The website also describes the investigations and prosecutions of government officials conducted by special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh

[The Iran-Contra Affair 20 Years On](#)

Documents From the National Security Archive

Clinton Impeachment

[The Impeachment Trial of President William Clinton](#)

From the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Law

Colonial History & Revolutionary War

[Colonial Williamsburg](#)

The world's largest living history museum in Williamsburg, Virginia— Britain's largest, wealthiest, and most populous outpost of empire in the New World.

[Founding Fathers: The Delegates to the Constitutional Convention](#)

brief biographies of each of the Founding Fathers who were delegates to the Constitutional Convention

[Liberty: The American Revolution](#)

Page for the PBS program "Liberty!" Learn more about colonial life, what was going on in other parts of the world during the war, and the military experience.

[Timeline of the Revolutionary War](#)

[Revolutionary War](#)

a large variety of links relating to the overall concepts of the Revolutionary War including causes, battles and main events, documents, first-hand accounts, student guides, and teacher guides. Many links have multimedia presentations

[The American Revolution](#)

Focuses mostly on the causes of the American Revolution with a wide variety of links for more specific information on battles, people, events, documents, etc.

[Independence National Historical Park](#)

Learn more about Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed.

[Creating the United States Constitution](#)

See the exhibit and site at the Library of Congress, about creating the United States Constitution

[U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates \(1774-1875\)](#)

From the Library of Congress

[Documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention](#)

From the Library of Congress

[The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787](#)

From the Library of Congress

Louisiana Purchase & Westward Expansion

[Map of the Louisiana Purchase](#)

[Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#)

With a focus on full-text searchability and ease of navigation, this site features the full text — almost five thousand pages— of the journals, as well as a gallery of images, important supplemental texts, and audio files of selected passages plus Native American perspectives.

[Lewis and Clark Interactive Journey](#)

From National Geographic

[Discovering Lewis and Clark](#)

Many images and resources on the expedition

[The Louisiana Purchase: A Heritage Explored](#)

From Louisiana State University

[Louisiana Purchase; 1803 and Associated Documents](#)

From The Avalon Project at Yale Law School

[Rivers, Edens, Empire - Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America](#)

This exhibition contains maps, images and documents on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The *Before Lewis & Clark* section of this exhibition includes documents and maps related to the Louisiana Purchase.

[Lewis & Clark - The National Exhibition](#)

Created by the Missouri Historical Society to celebrate the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition

War of 1812

[The War of 1812 & the Star-Spangled Banner](#)

Despite its complicated causes and inconclusive outcome, the War of 1812 is a relatively little-known war in American history. The conflict helped establish the credibility of the young United States among other nations and its events inspired one of the nation's most famous patriotic songs.

[War of 1812](#)

Chapter 6 from American Military History, part of the Army Historical Series of the Office of the Chief of Military History, U.S. Army.

[Fort McHenry \(National Park Service\)](#)

The NPS website for Fort McHenry gives an account of the defense of Baltimore in 1814 and the origin of the Star Spangled Banner.

[National Archives: Military Records: War of 1812](#)

[The War of 1812 & Aftermath: Nationalism and Sectionalism](#)

Outlines the causes of the War, as well as various aspects of it, and the ensuing era for America on the world stage

Native American Relations

[Indian Removal](#)

From the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

[U.S. Army Campaigns: The Indian Wars](#)

This site from the US Army Center for Military History lists major conflicts from 1790-1891 with a summary of each

[National Museum of the American Indian](#)

A part of the Smithsonian Institute

[Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties](#)

From the Oklahoma State University Library

[The Battle of Little Big Horn](#)

From the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

[Native Peoples of the Great Lakes Region](#)

Interesting collection of information by the Great Lakes Information Network Teach Project

[Traders : Voices from the Trading Post.](#)

This site covers a history of trading post, oral history interviews, and the goods and services offered at trading posts in the American West. Oral interviews focus on trading posts in Navajo and Hopi reservations. From the Northern Arizona University Special Collections Department

[Nokomis Learning Center](#)

Dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Anishinaabeg (Ojibwa, Odawa, and Potawatomi) arts, culture, and history. From the non-profit Native American cultural learning center near Lansing, Michigan,

Civil War

[Animated maps of Civil War Battles](#)

[The Civil War by the National Parks Service](#)

Includes timelines, maps, Soldiers and Sailors Database, and more.

[Civil War Battle Summaries by State](#)

[Civil War Treasures \(from the New York Historical Society\)](#)

Images from the New York Historical Society's archive of the Civil War. It includes recruiting posters, photography showing the war's impact on both sides, and drawings and writings by everyday soldiers.

[Disunion](#)

New York Times blog with accounts, diaries, images and historical assessments from the civil war 150 years ago.

[EDSITEment's Civil War Page](#)

From The National Endowment for the Humanities. Contains multimedia lessons on the causes, events, and consequences of the Civil War. Each lesson is written by a history or government teacher.

[Mr. Lincoln's White House](#)

This site profiles six family members, 16 Cabinet officers and Vice Presidents, 21 Generals, 17 members of Congress, 18 staff members, and over two dozen other visitors.

[The National Archives Civil War Collection](#)

This is a digital collection of several documents from the Civil War/Reconstruction Era. Each document is preceded by a brief introduction to establish a historical context.

[The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Presents "Civil War 150"](#)

Extensive image collection of Civil War artifacts complete with background information, portraiture, sculptures, and photographs. From Abraham Lincoln's beaver top hat to uniforms and weapons, or even Confederate postage stamps, this site provides material for both students and teachers alike.

[The Civil War in Washington](#)

Examines the U.S. national capital from multiple perspectives to create a digital resource that chronicles the war's impact on the city with case studies of social, political, cultural, and medical/scientific transitions provoked or accelerated by the Civil War.

Reconstruction & Industrial Revolution

[African-American Perspectives](#)

A searchable collection of 300 pamphlets by African Americans mainly focusing on the period 1875 to 1900.

[Fordham University History: Industrial Revolution](#)

Various accounts, letters, etc. on the Industrial Revolution collected by historians at Fordham University.

[Freedman's Bureau Online](#)

Records of the Freedman's Bureau, including extensive information about violence directed against African Americans.

[Images of the Industrial Revolution](#)

A site created by Laura Nicholls, a participant in a 2002 NEH seminar, that explores images created by artists of the period of the Industrial Revolution. Economic, social and cultural foundations, of the industrial revolution are the subjects of these images. Each selection is accompanied by an objective description, background and interpretation, and primary source material.

[Reconstruction: The Second Civil War](#)

Companion site to the PBS program "Reconstruction: The Second Civil War" including Q&As with historians, documents, and the complete program video.

[Rise of Industrial America, 1876-1900](#)

Topics covered include the Westward expansion, immigration, city & rural life, railroads and work in other industries. From the Library of Congress

Captains of Industry / The Rise of Big Business

[The Richest Man in the World: Andrew Carnegie](#)

This website from The American Experience on PBS contains many photos and resources of this fascinating period. The site also includes a teachers guide.

[J.P. Morgan](#)

One of the most powerful bankers of his era, J.P. Morgan financed railroads and helped organize U.S. Steel, General Electric and other major corporations.

[John D. Rockefeller](#)

Founder of the Standard Oil Company, he was America's first Billionaire, one of the world's wealthiest men and a major philanthropist

Civil Rights Amendments

[End of Slavery: The Creation of the 13th Amendment](#)

Text, Illustrations, and Cartoons from the pages of Harper Weekly

[Citizenship, Due Process, and Equal Protection: The Creation of the 14th Amendment](#)

Text, Illustrations, and Cartoons from the pages of Harper Weekly

[Black Voting Rights: The Creation of the 15th Amendment](#)

Text, Illustrations, and Cartoons from the pages of Harper Weekly

World War I

[A Guide to World War I Materials](#)

From the Library of Congress

[Wars and Conflicts: World War One](#)

This BBC site contains a wide variety of material on World War I, including a timeline, essays, films, audio, and photographs.

[The Aerodrome: Aces and Aircraft of World War I](#)

Biographical information about the pilots who flew in the Great War, as well as information about the planes they flew and the medals they received. View aircraft by name, nation, year, serial number, and more.

[Chronicling America](#)

Search for newspaper articles about World War I from this collection containing millions of historic American newspaper pages from 1836-1922. From the Library of Congress

[Maps & Battles of World War I](#)

Animated maps showing Europe before the war, during the war, and how the war shaped the rest of the century

[National World War I Memorial & Museum](#)

Web site for the National World War I Memorial & Museum in Kansas City, Missouri

[On the Homefront](#)

Features posters and images illustrating some of the ways American's at home contributed to war efforts overseas during World Wars I and II. The images are presented in 5 categories: volunteer work, civil defense, conservation, economic initiatives, and patriotic support.

[Sow the Seeds of Victory! Posters from the Food Administration During World War I](#)

This website presents posters that helped carry one of the messages of Hoover and the Wilson administration: that "Food will win the war." To convince Americans to conserve food during the Great War. Homeowners were urged to sign pledge cards to conserve food. Many observed wheat less Mondays, meatless Tuesdays, and pork less Saturdays.

[World War I Document Archive](#)

An archive of primary source documents, including documents by year, Memorials, a WWI Biographical Dictionary, a WWI Image Archive, Special Topics, Treaties, and more. Compiled by volunteers of the World War I Military History discussion group.

[Wars and Conflicts: World War One](#)

This BBC site contains a wide variety of material on World War I, including a timeline, essays, films, audio, and photographs

[Videos from the Khan Academy](#)

[Beginning of World War I](#)

Called the Great War (before World War II came about), World War I was the bloody wake-up call that humanity was entering into a new stage of civilization. Really the defining conflict that took Europe from 19th Century Imperial states that saw heroism in war into a modern shape.

[Blockades and American Entry](#)

Naval blockades in World War I to starve enemy nation of trade. Contrary to what many think, American entry into WWI was not due purely to the sinking of the Lusitania. Learn more about what caused the United States to play its first major direct role in a European conflict.

[Western and Eastern fronts of World War I](#)

This tutorial goes into some detail to describe the tactics and battles of the two major fronts of World War I--the Western Front and the Eastern Front.

[Aftermath of World War I](#)

World war I (or the Great War) was a defining event for the 20th Century. It marked the end (or beginning of the end) of centuries-old empires and the dawn-of newly independent states based on ethnic and linguistic commonality. It didn't just change the face of Europe, it changed the face of the world. From

the Paris Peace Conference and Treaty of Versailles, we'll see how the end of World War I may have been just the set up for even more conflict in Europe and the world.

Roaring 20's

[Clash of Cultures in the 1910s and 1920s](#)

Produced by the Ohio State University History Department, this is an informative introduction to cultural tensions in the 1910s and 1920s, exploring topics such as prohibition, immigration, the KKK, the "New Woman," and the Scopes Trial.

[Prosperity and Thrift: The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy 1921-1929](#)

This Library of Congress site features a treasure trove of materials from the 1920's that illustrate the prosperity of the Coolidge era, the nation's transition to a mass consumer economy, and the role of government in this transition. There are six major categories, each including an introduction to the topic at hand with links to related individuals, organizations, publications, documents, and more.

[Famous Cases & Criminals – Al Capone](#)

From the FBI case files

[Ellis Island](#)

An online, searchable database of the 22.5 million people who arrived in New York between 1892 - 1924.

[Immigrants at Ellis Island](#)

An estimated 40% of Americans can trace their roots to Ellis Island. This history.com collection contains 10 video clips related to Ellis Island. Among them are a Guided Tour of the Ferry Building, Passing the Medical Inspection, Detained at Ellis Island, Registering as an American Citizen.

[Ken Burns' Prohibition](#)

Documentary film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that tells the story of the rise, rule, and fall of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the entire era it encompassed.

[Nova timeline](#)

An outline of technological innovation in the 1920s.

[A Monkey on Tennessee's Back: The Scopes Trial in Dayton](#)

From the Tennessee State Library and Archives

[Virtual Tour - The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti: Justice on Trial](#)

Among the most controversial cases of the 20th century, anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti were accused of robbery and murder but so many supposedly damning pieces of evidence were questionable. Their guilty verdict elicited massive protests around the world.

From the Massachusetts Judicial Branch
[Sacco-Vanzetti case](#)
Article from Encyclopedia Britannica Online

[Prohibition](#)
from the History Channel

[Temperance & Prohibition](#)
From Ohio State University.

Great Depression

[The 1929 Stock Market Crash](#)
From the Economic History Association

[About the Dust Bowl](#)

[Famous Cases & Criminals – John Dillinger](#)
From the FBI case files

[What was the Dust Bowl?](#)
From the Economic History Association

FDR's New Deal

[Labor Unions during the Great Depression and New Deal](#)
From the Library of Congress

[The New Deal Programs](#)

[Exhibitions: America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal](#)
From the Digital Public Library of America

[New Deal Network](#)
Sponsored by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Institute for Learning Technologies at Teachers College of Columbia University, this website contains 5000 photographs, 900 primary source documents, and many special features.

World War II

[People at War](#)
From the National Archives and Records Administration, this site highlights the contributions of the thousands of Americans, both military and civilian, who served their country during World War II.

[Confinement and Ethnicity](#)

An overview of World War II Japanese American relocation sites, map, photos and more.

[Japanese Internment Camps](#)

Maps, populations, and information about Japanese-Americans and internment camps. From lecture notes online for and introduction to a geography course taught by Ingolf Vogeler at the University of Wisconsin, Eau-Claire.

[Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.](#)

This archive includes articles on the Tuskegee Airmen and the African American troops during the war.

Pearl Harbor

[The U.S. Coast Guard & Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941](#)

from the U.S. Coast Guards Historian's Office provides some oral histories and Combat Action Reports.

The Atomic Age

[Atomic Archive](#)

This site explores the complex history surrounding the invention of the atomic bomb - a crucial turning point for all mankind. Features Science, History, Resource Library, and an Almanac.

[Los Alamos National Laboratory](#)

The Los Alamos National Laboratory's website presents information about the laboratory's role in the development of the first atomic bombs.

[National Atomic Museum - Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)

America's resource for nuclear history and science. The Museum presents exhibits and quality educational programs that convey the diversity of individuals and events that shape the historical and technical context of the nuclear age." Its "Historical Perspective" section is the most useful.

[Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#)

This website is the official site of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which began with the goal of producing uranium-235 for the Manhattan Project. It provides a brief history of ORNL including an interactive timeline, and includes a detailed description of the X-10 graphite reactor built in 1943.

[Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum](#)

The official Hiroshima peace site, park and museum.

[Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum](#)

The official Nagasaki museum and information about the bombing, stories of survivors and more.

The Holocaust

[United States Holocaust Museum](#)

[Holocaust Encyclopedia](#)

Organized by theme, this site uses text, historical photographs, maps, images of artifacts, and audio clips to provide an overview of the Holocaust. From the U.S. Holocaust Museum

[Holocaust Center](#)

From the nation's first Holocaust Museum, in Farmington Hills

[Holocaust Chronicle](#)

Contains every word and image that appears in *The Holocaust Chronicle*, published by Publications International, Ltd in April 2000. Search by keyword, jump to a chapter, page, date or year

[Database of Holocaust Victims & Survivors](#)

Yad Vashem, together with its partners, has collected and recorded here the names and biographical details of two thirds of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. Search by last name, first name, or hometown

[Yad Vashem](#)

Site for the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, Israel

[Listing of Concentration Camps](#)

from Yad Vashem

[More about concentration camps](#)

From the University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies

Cold War

[CIA's Analysis of the Soviet Union, 1947-1991](#)

This e-book is a digital version of the very valuable Cold War research resource. It is provided in PDF format by the Center for the Study of Intelligence at the CIA.

[The Cold War Files](#)

The Cold War International History Project was established by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. It supports the full and prompt release of historical materials by governments on all sides of the Cold War, and seeks to accelerate the process of integrating new sources, materials and perspectives from the former "Communist bloc"

[The Cold War from the Khan Academy](#)

The cold war between the United States and the Soviet and their respective allies never involved direct conflict (which might have ended the world). Instead, it

involved posturing, brinkmanship and proxy wars in far-flung regions of the world.

The Korean War

[CIA Analysis of the Korean War](#)

[The Korean War and Its Origins, 1945-1953](#)

From the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

The Marshall Plan

[For European Recovery: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan](#)

From the Library of Congress.

This display on the origins and effects of the Marshall Plan features photographs and cartoons from the Prints and Photographs Division and items from the papers of Averell Harriman, the ERP special representative in Europe from 1948 to 1950.

[The Marshall Plan](#)

NARA's online exhibit hall features The Economic Cooperation Act of 1948 online and offers links to more information on the Marshall Plan

Berlin Airlift

[What was the Berlin Airlift?](#)

From the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation

[The Berlin Airlift Collection](#)

Background information, photographs, documents and more. From the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

[British Berlin Airlift Association:](#)

McCarthyism & The Red Scare

[McCarthyism / The "Red Scare"](#)

From the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum

[The Hollywood Ten](#)

From University of California at Berkeley

[The Hollywood Ten](#)

From Spartacus Educational

[About McCarthyism](#)

Full text of select chapters from the book, The Age OF McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents, by Ellen Schrecker.

[Red Scare Filmography](#)

a selective filmography of motion pictures that played a role in fueling the Red Scare. From the University of Washington Libraries

The Cold War & Red Scare in Washington: Historical Context

Cuban Missile Crisis

[CIA Documents from the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962](#)

A .pdf version of a 1992 print book containing a large selection of declassified documents on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

[Cuban Missile Crisis: Thirteen Days and History](#)

Produced by Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in cooperation with the producers of "Thirteen Days." Its objective is to help movie viewers and others to explore historical facts of the Cuban Missile Crisis and analyze nuclear danger today.

[World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis](#)

Online exhibit produced by the JFK Presidential Library and Museum. Includes primary sources.

[To The Brink: JFK & the Cuban Missile Crisis](#)

Based on the Exhibition created by the National Archives and the JFK Presidential Museum & Library

Space Race

[Space Race](#)

From the National Museum of Space Exploration, this website presents the history behind the space race and the goals of both the Soviet Union and America.

[The Space Program](#)

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the satellite Sputnik, and the space race was on. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy began a dramatic expansion of the U.S. space program and committed the nation to the ambitious goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade

Civil Rights

[Civil Rights Digital Library](#)

a partnership among librarians, technologists, archivists, educators, scholars, academic publishers, and public broadcasters that contains primary sources and other educational materials from libraries, archives, museums, public broadcasters, and others on a national scale

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Historic Speeches and Interviews. Hosted by the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET)

[An Interactive Civil Rights Chronology](#)

This Yale University website presents a civil rights timeline from 1502 through 2000.

[Voices of the Civil Rights](#)

The Library of Congress, AARP and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights have created this site to collect personal narratives about the civil rights era.

[Montgomery Bus Boycott](#)

This site explains the significance of this boycott to the civil rights movement.

[The Voting Rights Act of 1965](#)

The US Department of Justice explains the significance and events surrounding the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

[Civil Rights Digital Library](#)

A collection of resources available through the University Systems of Georgia. Fully searchable and browsable by event, place, people, and topics.

[Timeline of Events Leading to the Brown v. Board of Education Decision, 1954](#)

This site helps one understand the events that led to this landmark case.

Vietnam

[About the Vietnam War \[1960 - 1975\]](#)

This web site was created in the English department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With sections on the web site are a Vietnam War timeline, "The Causes of the Vietnam War", "The Domestic Course of the War", "A Vietnam Photo Essay", "Changing Interpretations of the War", and "Poetry and Vietnam"

[The TIME Vietnam War Archive Collection](#)

Editor's picks of the best covers and articles.

[The Vietnam War Declassification Project](#)

In April 2000, the Gerald R. Ford Library released approximately 30,000 pages of classified documents concerning the Vietnam War. Many are from National Security Advisors Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft and their staffs and deal with the decision to evacuate U.S. forces from Vietnam in April 1975.

[Vietnam War Era Ephemera Collection](#)

University of Washington database contains leaflets and newspapers that were distributed on the campus during the decades of the 1960s and 1970s

[The Wars for Vietnam: 1945-1975](#)

An introduction to the history of the Vietnam War, this site was developed for a course taught by Robert Brigham in the history department at Vassar College, "the first American scholar given access to the Vietnamese archives on the war in Hanoi." The site offers an overview of the war featuring 20 primary documents and 47 links to related resources both historical and contemporary.

The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union

[ABC News: The Berlin Wall 20 Years Later](#)

A collection of articles and videos

[New York Times: The Berlin Wall 20 Years Later: A Compendium](#)

From the New York Times Topic Page, a collection of news reports, and multimedia about the fall of the Berlin Wall