

The USA c. 1920-55: Boom, Bust and Recovery Activities

In preparation for A-Level History you need to complete the following:

1. Read the *Boom and Bust Summary which begins on page 5*. This will give you a basic understanding of the period of American history you will be studying in Year 12.
- 2 Use the prior reading and internet research to define the key words and terms below.

Key word/term	Definition
Gross National Product (GNP)	
Inflation	
Real wages	
Laissez-faire	
National prohibition	
Share	
Wall Street	
Communist	
Bull market	
Federal Reserve Board	
Supremacists	
Bolshevik Revolution	
FBI	
Attorney General	
Pan-Africanism	
Voluntarism	
Old South	
Lynching	

Moratorium	
Sharecropper	
Dust bowl	
Recession	
National infrastructure	
Jim Crow Law	
Ghetto	
War bonds	
Cold War	
GI	
Red Scare	
Witch hunt	
Poverty line	

3 Use the events below to create a chronological timeline of some of the key events of the course. Use prior reading or internet research to record a few facts about each event. Colour-code the events according to social, political & economic.

1933 CREATION OF TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA)	1919 VOLSTEAD ACT (INTRODUCING PROHIBITION)	1929 WALL STREET CRASH	1933 FIRST NEW DEAL BEGINS	1948 US ARMED FORCES DESEGREGATED
1920-22 BRIEF POST-WAR ECONOMIC RECESSION	1945 FDR DIES IN OFFICE HAVING WON 4 ELECTIONS	1950 MCCARTHY LAUNCHES ANTI- COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON US GOVERNMENT	1927 JAZZ SINGER IS THE WORLD'S FIRST TALKING MOVIE	1930 HAWLEY-SMOOT TARIFF

1932 FDR WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FOR DEMOCRATS	1927 SACCO AND VANZETTI EXECUTED	1955 'ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK' NO. 1 IN USA AND UK	1919 VOTES FOR WOMEN	1920 FIRST COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION (KDKA)
1920 REPUBLICANS WIN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION	1935 SECOND NEW DEAL (WAGNER ACT, REVENUE ACT AND SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)	1923-29 REAL WAGES ROSE BY 13%	1941 USA ENTERS WW2	1933 EMERGENCY BANKING ACT
1922 KKK BEGIN WINNING ELECTIVE OFFICES ACROSS THE USA	1935 HUEY LONG ASSASSINATED	1954 BROWN V BOARD OF EDUCATION	1921 FEDERAL HIGHWAYS ACT	1955 MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT
1943 RACE RIOTS IN DETROIT AND LA	1921 EMERGENCY IMMIGRATION ACT	1952 EISENHOWER WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FOR REPUBLICANS	1929 ST VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE	1942 FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION

4. Using the profile card on the next page complete a biography for each of the following individuals. You will need to use the internet in order to complete the research. Complete profile cards of the following people:

- Woodrow Wilson
- Warren G. Harding
- Calvin Coolidge
- Herbert Hoover
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Harry S. Truman
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Henry Ford
- Al Capone
- David Curtis Stephenson
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Elvis Presley
- Father Charles Coughlin
- Huey Long
- Joseph McCarthy
- W.E.B. Dubois
- Rosa Parks

<div><u>Profile Card</u></div> <div><i>Picture</i></div>	Name:
	Political party (if any):
	Background:
Key facts:	
Overall significance to change in the USA in the period 1920-55:	

USA: Boom, Bust and Recovery 1920-1955

The following information will help you to complete the tasks:

Background:

US Imperialism and World War One: Many twentieth-century American foreign policy issues have their origins in America's emergence as a world power at the end of the nineteenth century. America's eventual intervention (involvement) in WWI ensured its role as a world power for the remainder of the twentieth century. The growing role of the United States in international trade displayed the American urge to build, innovate, and explore new markets. In short, American businessmen believed they could make huge profits and bring the nation economic prosperity through international trade.

Isolationism: Washington's Farewell Address (1796) set precedent for the United States to pursue a policy of isolationism. Isolationism was the policy of avoiding involvement in world affairs. Although in the Monroe Doctrine (1823) the United States had declared itself the protector of the entire western hemisphere, isolationism continued to form the basis of American foreign policy throughout most of the nineteenth century.

Imperialism: However, as the United States industrialized during the second half of the 1800s, businessmen and politicians increasingly looked longingly towards foreign markets as a potential source of American corporate profits. The desire to gain this untapped wealth led the United States to expand its influence in the world during the late nineteenth century. Some historians have called this period the age of American imperialism, because during this period the United States gained control over Hawaii, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. **Imperialism** is the act of one nation gaining political or economic control over other countries.

United States Foreign and Domestic Policy:

President Woodrow Wilson won the election of 1916 with the campaign slogan "He kept us out of war".

The decision to enter the war resulted from continuing German submarine warfare against American merchant shipping and American cultural and historical ties to Great Britain.

By 1917, Wilson asked Congress to join the war in Europe. Most Americans did not support U.S. involvement in the war initially. Nevertheless, US troops embarked for France, 1917.

In 1918 President Wilson issued the **Fourteen Points**. The Fourteen Points were Wilson's statement of plans for peace after World War I, including plans to eliminate the causes of war. The key ideas of the Fourteen Points included the principles of:

1. **National self-determination** - each national group should be in charge of its own destiny. For example, Polish people should live under a Polish government, if that was what they wanted. ,
2. **Freedom of the seas** - all nations' ships would be able to sail in international waters without threat of attack by another country's ships.
3. **A League of Nations** - an organization of nations established at the end of World War I to maintain world stability and peace (the USA in the end did not join this).

Kellogg-Briand Pact – 1928

- Idealistic Americans urged nations to forswear war as an instrument of national policy.
- US Sec. of State Kellogg reluctantly supports after nearly 2 Million US signatures
- Signed by 62 nations pledging not to use war as an instrument of national policy.
- Americans believed that this would prevent war.
- Huge loop-hole.

Was Imperialism a good thing for America?

"The history of American imperialism is hardly one of unadorned good doing; there have been plenty of shameful episodes, such as the mistreatment of the Indians. But, on the whole, U.S. imperialism has been the greatest force for good in the world during the past century. It has defeated the monstrous evils of communism and Nazism and lesser evils such as the Taliban and Serbian ethnic cleansing. Along the way, it has helped spread liberal institutions to countries as diverse as South Korea and Panama."

Max Boot, 'American Imperialism? No Need to Run Away from Label', *USA Today*, May 6, 2003.

Essentially America wanted to maintain its IMAGE!

The Modern View

Modern historians deny that America rejected the Treaty because of isolationism. They point out that Americans were NOT isolationist - opinion polls at the time showed that more than 80% of Americans supported the idea of a league of nations. Only a dozen Senators were out-and-out isolationists like Senator Borah. Lodge was NOT an isolationist. He believed in a league of nations and he wanted to build up an overseas US empire. What he and the Republicans wanted were 14 changes in the Treaty (the '14 reservations'). Many Democrats could have accepted the 14 changes.

So why then did the Treaty fail - simply, say modern historians, because of Wilson's stupidity. He WOULD not compromise. He would not accept ANY change. And in the end - rather than accept the 14 Reservations - Wilson's 23 supporters voted AGAINST the Treaty and destroyed it!