

TURNING POINTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

TURNING POINT	DESCRIPTION
The American Revolution (1775-1783)	On July 4, 1776, delegates representing the thirteen colonies issued the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming their independence from Great Britain. The colonies became states in a new country – The United States
Constitutional Convention	The Constitution established a new government based on democracy, federalism, and the separation of powers
Westward Expansion (1804-1848)	The Louisiana Purchase (1803) doubled the size of the nation. Americans later annexed California and the Southwest after the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). The United States now occupied lands from coast to coast. (Manifest Destiny)
The Civil War (1861-1865)	Sectionalism led to different ways of life in different parts of the nation. Lincoln's election in 1860 led the Southern states to secede. The North achieved victory after four years of warfare, ended slavery, and confirmed federal supremacy
Reconstruction (1865-1877)	During Reconstruction, Americans had to rebuild the South and reunite with the Union. Congress refused to recognize Southern state governments and imposed military rule. Reconstruction ended in 1877. Southern state governments deprived African Americans of their recently won rights and introduced segregation.
Industrialization and settlement of the West	After the Civil War, America was transformed by industrialization, urbanization, immigration, the expansion of railroads, and the settlement of the West. Native American Indians were forced onto reservations. The construction of railroads tied the nation together, and greater numbers of Americans moved into cities. America rapidly became an industrial and urban society.
The Progressive Era (1890-1919)	Muckrakers and other middle-class reformers exposed the abuses caused by the rise of big business and rapid industrialization. Progressive state governments and Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson passed laws to curb some of the worst abuses
The Roaring Twenties (1920's)	The passage of the 19 th Amendment and the prosperity of the 1920s saw the rise of new cultural values. Women, African Americans, and youths enjoyed greater freedom and influence than ever before.
Depression, and the New Deal (1930s)	The New York Stock Market Crash of 1929 led to the Great Depression. President Roosevelt's "New Deal" introduced new programs to find people work. He introduced Social Security and other reforms. The federal government took responsibility for the smooth running of the nation's economy.
The Civil Rights Movement (1950s-1960s)	The <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> decision (1954) inaugurated the Civil Rights Movement. Under Dr. King and others, African Americans ended racial segregation while making tremendous strides towards racial equality. The Civil Rights Movement was followed by the Women's Liberation Movement, in which women achieved greater equality in the workplace and at home.
The Computer Revolution (1980-1990s)	The modern computer was first developed during World War II. However, the later introduction of silicon circuit boards made smaller and more powerful computers possible. In recent decades, computerization has transformed almost every aspect of American life.