THE PEOPLING OF AMERICA:
A TIMELINE OF EVENTS THAT HELPED SHAPE OUR NATION

A Historical Perspective

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FOURTH EDITION
Over 1500 New Entries

Americans All®
A National Education Program
Traditionally, timelines focus on dates from only one nation, cultural group or perspective. This timeline, however, documents a confluence of peoples, cultures and ideologies that make up United States history. This approach is strengthened by deemphasizing heroes and heroines and eliminating traditionally recognized birth and/or death dates. The emphasis has been redirected to broader periods, trends and cultural aspects of many groups while recognizing the significant role one individual or small group can play in society.

Although many groups make up this kaleidoscope we call the United States, this publication focuses on the stories of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans and Hispanic Americans. These groups were selected because of their historically important immigration and migration experiences, both forced and voluntary. Each group has a unique history, and each has had a special impact on the development of our nation. This timeline is a tool that shows the vital role each of these groups has played and gives specific examples of how a community, a family or an individual can affect history. We recognize that these groups are not homogenous and that considerable diversity exists within them; however, from a historical or demographic perspective, these groupings can serve as organizing themes for an accurate revisiting of United States history.

To provide a general frame of reference for the five specific groups in this chronology, “The Americas” column includes major events in the history of the United States as well as in the histories of Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and the countries of Central and South America. These areas have also been targets of exploration and major sources of immigration to the United States. “The World” column, though in no way inclusive, is intended to show the parallel development of other major countries, and to present discoveries, political conflicts, natural phenomena and other factors that affected the international movement of people. Innovations in communication and transportation are highlighted, and a sampling of accomplishments of individuals is provided for all groups.

In determining the placement of entries, particularly with regard to European Americans, who were successful in developing communities in the northern and eastern parts of North America, and Hispanic Americans, who were the primary group exploring and colonizing Central and South America and the southern and western parts of North America, the editors have chosen to place events as follows. If an event involves the government of a country, or interaction between two or more governments in the Americas, the event is listed in “The Americas” column. If the event relates to a particular ethnic group’s coming to the area that is now the United States, the event is listed in its appropriate ethnic group category.

This distinction becomes somewhat less clear, however, when events in question involve the establishment of communities in what will become the United States. Because few American cities remain ethnically homogenous, and because many European and Hispanic communities established in this country were at the expense of older Native American communities on the same sites, it is often inappropriate to credit one specific group with the founding of a city. Therefore, we have used the following guidelines.

- The establishment of “first” communities by any ethnic group is listed under the appropriate column heading—for instance, the first French community established in the Ohio River Valley is listed in the European American column.
- Communities that are founded by members of a specific ethnic or religious group are listed in the appropriate ethnic group column.
- Events involving the establishment of some major American cities, such as New York, Los Angeles or New Orleans, are listed in “The Americas.”

In instances where these guidelines overlap, we have chosen to double-list events under both “The Americas” and their appropriate ethnic group heading.

Development and Purpose

The Peopling of America: A Timeline of Events That Helped Shape Our Nation uses a parallel chronological format, facilitating relational and comparative study. Our researchers and scholars have provided information that may seem new to some. Our developmental approach minimizes the usual delay between the discovery of new information, its publication in scholarly research journals
and its appearance in readily available school texts. Producing a black-ink, line-copy format that provides open columns for student and educator participation enables us to take advantage of continuing feedback from the publication’s classroom use as well as our diverse team of authors and writers. The columns labeled “For Classroom Use” can also be used to detail local histories, accomplishments in other disciplines or the history of groups specifically represented in the classroom.

A Parallel Comparative Chronology

As an acknowledgement that they were the first recorded inhabitants of America, Native Americans are listed first; other groups follow in alphabetical order.

Native American

Entries in the “Native American” category deal specifically with events that occurred among indigenous peoples within the boundaries of what became today’s 50 United States. This includes native peoples of Alaska and Hawaii. Events relating to other cultures native to the Americas, North and South, such as the Aztecs and Incas, have been listed under either “Hispanic American” (as they relate to the development and migration of Mexican Americans) or “The Americas.”

African American

Much of the history of African Americans, particularly their earlier history, has involved enslavement by European Americans; but it also includes intermingling with other groups, such as Native Americans and Mexican Americans. Equally as strong, but less publicized, is the African Americans’ story of resistance to conquest, their ongoing fight for freedom against great odds and their battles for the rights of full citizenship. Early entries under the “African American” heading include some events on the African continent that preceded or precipitated enslavement and forced migration. Events in the fight of African Americans for emancipation and for equal rights are also listed under “African American.” The development and accomplishments of African civilizations in general are discussed under “The World.”

Asian American

In Asia, two powerful empires, China and Japan, officially isolated themselves—particularly from the West—in their earlier history, so the effects of immigration to the United States by Chinese and Japanese are not seen until the late 1700s. Therefore, earlier “Asian American” entries include some of the historical events in Asia that ultimately led to immigration to America. Events that show the development and expansion of Asian cultures are documented in “The World.”

European American

The story of European immigration is by far the best documented in readily available sources. Because the early history of European Americans is also the history of certain areas of this country, the story of this group as separate peoples tends to be lost. This publication provides information on many of the subgroups that belong to the “European American” category, and on the contributions of individual European Americans. Events in Europe that had a direct impact on immigration to the United States are included both in this category and in “The World.”

Hispanic American

Under the heading “Hispanic American,” Mexican Americans and Puerto Rican Americans are most heavily represented because of their historical impact on the peopling of the United States. Although these two groups have been represented separately in the Americans All® in-school resource materials, this more inclusive heading has been chosen in recognition of, and respect for, all Hispanic groups, whose histories are also incorporated to the extent that accurate documentation has become available.

Classroom Use

A wealth of historical information exists for today’s students; however, much of it is conflicting and generally not offered in comparative format. Therefore, assembling this chronology became a task of collecting, abstracting, ordering and arranging data in a manner that would most appropriately tell the story of many groups. Analyzed alone, each separate entry could be viewed in many ways—unique, important, commonplace or peripheral. That is by design. To develop the critical-thinking skills needed for proficiency in today’s world and work environment, students must learn how to analyze and apply the data they receive.

It is not possible for any one publication of a suitable size for classroom use to contain all available historical data. Although this timeline contains a significant amount of American and world history, it is designed to be a representative, rather than an exhaustive, collection of data. It tells the story, in a chronological and comparative format, of the peopling of America. World events are included as they motivated people to come to America; they also establish a context from which the history of the peopling of America emerges. Because people often date events in terms such as “during the Ming dynasty,” “Elizabethan England” and “the
conflicts, resistance, victories and achievements — has arrived in and movement throughout this country — their groups and individuals, particularly regarding their own ethnic groups. Additional information about sources and reviewed by individuals sensitive to issues experiences of diverse groups that peopled this nation.

The scope of the timeline from pre-1500s to 1991 enables us to study in a familiar context the historic perspectives. The scope and known historical significance, others are selected specifically as human interest events that demonstrate how one person or a group of people has exercised initiative and made history. They show that a single individual can make a difference, and that history is, after all, the story of people. This chronology works well to springboard students into more specific research; additionally, it illustrates the fact that history is not an isolated field, but the core component of many related subjects.

This Americans All® timeline has been designed to accelerate the creation in schools and classrooms of a developmental learning process that is truly multicultural. By using the information contained in the timeline, teachers and students will increase their awareness of, and appreciation for, the concepts of diversity and democracy that form an integral part of our life in the United States.

The timeline’s unique format — columns representing the histories of five ethnic groups, as well as those of the Americas and the world, placed side by side — encourages us to perceive historical facts from multiple perspectives. The scope of the timeline from pre-1500s to 1991 enables us to study in a familiar context the historic experiences of diverse groups that peopled this nation.

This information has been compiled from many sources and reviewed by individuals sensitive to issues of their own ethnic groups. Additional information about groups and individuals, particularly regarding their arrival in and movement throughout this country — their conflicts, resistance, victories and achievements — has been incorporated as it has been made available to us.

The Challenges of a Social History

In many ways, this nation was conceived in revolution and battles. Wars were fought between the early European immigrants and the indigenous peoples — Native Americans and Mexicans (later Mexican Americans). Different European nations fought over rights to, and control of, lands and resources on this continent. These territorial fights involved and adversely affected the indigenous people. The early history of the formation of the United States has, therefore, been filled with descriptions of these conflicts, often seen only from the viewpoint of the victor. We have gathered much of our information from available primary and secondary historical texts, so a portion of the content remains battle-focused in specific periods. However, we recognize that there is another face to history, a face that tells of families, communities, day-to-day living and survival in times of war and in times of peace. Although history has been taught from the familiar conquest framework, woven throughout these events of national and international scope are the stories of families and individuals whose singular journeys, battles and triumphs are the fiber and color of this nation’s social history. Where possible, we have tried to tell these stories.

A Reference Resource

Like any reference text, the timeline must be used at the discretion of teachers and students to clarify, enhance and augment standard classroom resources. History has taught us that each event is not an isolated occurrence. Specific conditions and circumstances create or cause each event; specific consequences follow. Although we offer these events for information, we do so to stimulate research and discussion about the culture and the context in which they occurred. The Americans All® Resource Materials (see pages 403 and 404) augment data found in standard history textbooks and provide specific information about the peopling of America.

Sources

In researching and compiling the timeline, Americans All® has consulted the most reliable and most available primary sources. This research presented a recurring challenge, because respected historians often disagree on the exact date or the specific details surrounding an event. Such discrepancies, especially in early recorded history, spring from several causes.

First, sophisticated means of recording data were lacking. Second, because of language difficulties, transmission of information between cultures often involved inaccurate translations. Third, conquering nations often rewrote history in their own best interest, and suppressed other versions. In the case of dynastic changes, for example, sources report varying starting dates because a time of unrest usually accompanied the transition. Often it is not clear whether a source has set the accession date at the unseating of the old dynasty or the seating of the new. In fact, scholars of different backgrounds often interpret historical records and events in very different ways, much as today’s newspaper columnists disagree in analyzing the impact of the same current event.

Further discrepancies stem from the fact that, through much of recorded time, no universal calendar
existed. When the Common Era dating system was established, Westerners added to the confusion by placing events occurring prior to *Anno Domini* backward on the time continuum for the years preceding the estimated birth date of Jesus of Nazareth.

If scholarly disagreement regarding the date of an event is significant, “c.” (*circa*) precedes the year in this text, and we have approximated, within the parameters of the available data, the length of time and numbers of people involved. The *circa* notation has also been used when no reliable source gives a specific date. In reality, most of the pre-1900 entries could have this notation. However, in a comparative format such as this, the important factor is the relative position of events in the historical continuum, rather than the scholarly debate on exact dates.

Most numbers—for example, sizes of armies, casualties of a given battle or natural disaster, or land acreages—are presented as conservative estimates or are expressed in general terms, because sources rarely agree on exact numbers. Population figures, including those from the United States Census Bureau, are also approximated, because accurate census-taking continues to be problematic, as demonstrated by modern-day attempts to gather exact data on America’s homeless population.

Another frequent controversy, due primarily to varying translations, lies in the spelling of the names of people and places. We have selected the most common spellings for primary use in this text. If a secondary spelling occurs frequently in reference sources, that variation appears in parentheses. Chinese names appear in the Pinyin transcription, with the Wade-Giles form, where appropriate, in parentheses. Also, for purposes of locating ancient cities and regions, the name at the time of the event appears in the text, followed by either its current name or a modern geographical reference.

In “The Americas” section, we have ordered the information under each date as follows: presidential elections (if appropriate); events and then leaders involved in United States history; events and people involved in state history; accomplishments of individuals as they relate to United States history; events relating to our closest geographic neighbors, Canada and Mexico; and events relating to other countries in the Americas and individual accomplishments, as appropriate. Events such as major wars are set apart from the rest of the text in a double-column format.

Because we recognize the importance of education, we have listed the founding of many of our nation’s colleges and universities, including those that were specifically established for women, Native Americans and African Americans. Out of respect for those institutions, they have not been categorized (except if it remains in their name) by their reason for origin. In identifying their location, if the name of the city or state appears in the name of the school, it has not been repeated in the location; for example, the University of Pittsburgh was founded in Pennsylvania.

In “The World” section, we have ordered the information under each date as follows: events pertaining to countries, accession dates of specific rulers and accomplishments of individuals as they relate to our topics. Span dates are generally used to record dynasties and certain major events. As in “The Americas,” events such as major wars are set apart from the rest of the text in a double-column format. Events pertaining to those special sections have not been duplicated under the individual year in which they occurred.

Finally, in the recording of recent or contemporary history, the general rule is to wait a minimum of 20 years to evaluate the significance of an event. Therefore, we offer events from 1979 through 1991 as reference only. The relative significance of these later events has not yet passed the test of time. An open black-line master page is provided at the end of 1991 to allow for classroom incorporation of additional information.

This resource publication does not contain a bibliography; the vast number of resources—books, magazines, pamphlets, textbooks, research reports and writings from individuals and private collections—used in compiling this timeline make the inclusion of either a comprehensive or representational bibliography impractical. We encourage the use of the bibliographies that are included in each of the Americans All® resource books (see pages 403 and 404) as springboards for further research and as sources for expansion of the data presented on the timeline.
The use of B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, or Year of the Lord) in counting years was established almost 1,500 years ago by Dionysius Exiguus, a Christian monk. He began numbering with the year he believed Jesus was born. However, to avoid favoring any single religious tradition, many people today prefer to use B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) and C.E. (Common Era) to mark dates.

Words in italic are followed by their definitions, which appear in parentheses immediately after the first use of the word in each section.

“c.,” or circa, indicates that the date following is approximate because primary historical references agree that the date is approximate, or because primary references disagree slightly on the exact date of the event. See “Sources” in the section “An Improved Approach: Comparative and Inclusive Chronology” in the front of this book for a further discussion of dating and numbering challenges.

A word or phrase that appears in parentheses after a place name is either the modern name for that geographical region, or a locator phrase that will help readers find the region being discussed.

A date that appears in parentheses after the name of a person or event refers the reader to a previous timeline entry containing significant information about that person or subject.

A name that appears in parentheses after the name of a person is an alternate spelling or alternate name for that person.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NATIVE AMERICAN</strong></th>
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<th><strong>AFRICAN AMERICAN</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1890</strong></td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>When African American women are excluded from most activities at the Chicago World’s Fair in Illinois, they begin to unite and form their own clubs.</td>
<td>Dr. Austin M. Curtis joins the staff of Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, thus becoming the first African American to serve on the surgical staff in that facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The first official attempt to take a census of Native Americans occurs this year. An estimated 248,000 Indians are counted in the United States.</td>
<td>The United States census reports about 7.49 million African Americans, representing 11.9 percent of the population.</td>
<td>The Supreme Court decision <em>In re Green</em> gives states authority over the choosing of presidential electors. This has the effect of legalizing possible disenfranchisement of African Americans.</td>
<td>The National Association of Colored Women (NACW) is founded, primarily through the efforts of Josephine Ruffin, and begins a program of assistance to the African American community. By 1915 the NACW will have 50,000 members. Mary Church Terrell, its first president, works for the rights of African Americans.</td>
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<td>The Ghost Dance, started by Paiute prophet Wovoka, spreads among the Plains tribes. It prophecies the end of European American expansion and the return of Native American lands.</td>
<td>The Supreme Court decision <em>In re Green</em> gives states authority over the choosing of presidential electors. This has the effect of legalizing possible disenfranchisement of African Americans.</td>
<td>Richard Robert Wright establishes Savannah State College in Georgia.</td>
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<td>Sioux Chief Sitting Bull, an advocate of the Ghost Dance, is killed by Indian police on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota, reportedly for resisting arrest.</td>
<td>Although many have small circulations, there are more than 150 African American newspapers in the United States.</td>
<td>Richmond Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, opens the first training school for African American medical professionals. Dr. George Cleveland Hall, a skilled surgeon and administrator, is one of the founders of the hospital.</td>
<td>George W. White, a Republican, is elected to the United States House of Representatives from North Carolina. He serves two terms.</td>
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<td>At the Wounded Knee Massacre on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, some 300 Minneconjou and Hunkpapa Sioux (including women and children) are killed by soldiers of the 7th Cavalry. The massacre is prompted by the alleged refusal of a Sioux Indian to surrender his weapon. Many Indians at Wounded Knee wear “ghost shirts,” which they believe are bulletproof. After their tragic failure the Ghost Dance declines.</td>
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<td>Dr. Daniel Hale Williams opens the country’s first successful heart operation at Chicago’s Provident Hospital.</td>
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1890 through 1899

**1894**

In Texas, the leadership of the African American political bloc shifts from the Republicans, headed by Norris Wright Cuney, to the Populists, led by John B. Rayner.

**Mid-1890s**

Cowboy Bill Pickett develops a technique to hold and throw a steer, popularly called “bull dogging.”

**1895**

W. E. B. Du Bois receives his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

In Georgia, Booker T. Washington delivers his Atlanta Compromise speech, which essentially condones political and social inequality in favor of economic and educational assistance.

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School for Nurses is established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Dr. Nathan F. Mossell.

*The Red Record* by Ida B. Wells (Barnett) is published. The first comprehensive study of lynching in the United States using statistical data, it launches a nationwide antilynching campaign.

**1896**

*Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court rules that segregated “separate but equal” facilities are constitutional.

George Washington Carver becomes director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. During his lifetime, he develops more than 100 products from the sweet potato and more than 300 products from the peanut. A philanthropist in his later years, he leaves his life’s savings to the establishment of a foundation in his name at Tuskegee to benefit young African American scientists.

**1898**

African American troops display valor in the Spanish-American War (see “The World, 1898–1899”), especially units of the 9th and 10th Negro Cavalry that aid Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and his “Rough Riders” in their attack on San Juan Hill. The 25th Negro Cavalry captures a Spanish fort at the Battle of El Caney. Several men receive commendations for bravery. The first African American casualty is Elijah B. Tunnel, who dies on the U.S.S. *Winlow*. 

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### 1890 - 1899

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th><strong>AFRICAN AMERICAN</strong></th>
<th><strong>ASIAN AMERICAN</strong></th>
<th><strong>ASIAN AMERICAN</strong></th>
<th><strong>FOR CLASSROOM USE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Businesses John Merrick and Dr. A. M. Moore form an insurance company that later becomes the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. C. C. Spaulding becomes the first manager of the enterprise.</td>
<td>The United States census reports 107,500 Chinese people in the continental United States and 2,300 in Alaska. The Hawaiian kingdom census reports 17,000 Chinese residents. More than 12,000 Japanese immigrants have made their homes in Hawaii, and 3,000 in California.</td>
<td>The Supreme Court hears the case of <em>Nishimura v. United States</em>, which challenges the right of the United States to bar a Japanese person from entering the country. This case is a determining factor in a treaty two years later between the United States and Japan to ensure the civil liberties of Japanese immigrants.</td>
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<td>1890-1920</td>
<td>Three hundred thousand Japanese, mostly young males, immigrate to the western United States. Some are later joined by “picture brides,” making the ratio of females to males somewhat more even.</td>
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<td>The Supreme Court in <em>Fong Yue Ting v. United States</em> upholds the constitutionality of the registration requirement for Chinese laborers. Congress subsequently amends the Geary Act of 1892 to extend the registration deadline of Chinese laborers for six months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890s</td>
<td>Because exclusion laws prohibit the immigration of Chinese women, family life in the Chinese American community develops slowly. There are few potential wives available because Chinese American men also are forbidden by law to marry European American women. The Chinese American community in the 1890s therefore consists primarily of solitary, aging, exploited men. Jujiro Wada receives honorary citizenship from the governor of the territory of Alaska for his daring rescue of an ice-bound ship. He journeyed alone over the ice to Nome for help.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sun Yat-sen and others found a revolutionary organization in Hawaii to overthrow the Chinese emperor. He will travel to the United States mainland in 1896 and on later journeys to recruit supporters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>The Pacific Fruit Packing Company, one of the earliest Chinese American-owned canneries, is founded in San Francisco, California. Railroads are among the first large industries to employ Japanese laborers.</td>
<td>The Japanese Baptist Church opens an English-language night school in San Francisco.</td>
<td>American-born Chinese form the Native Sons of the Golden State in San Francisco, California, to fight for the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans.</td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td>The first Japanese-language newspaper in Hawaii is started in Honolulu.</td>
<td>The federal Geary Act extends Chinese exclusion for 10 more years. Chinese laborers are required to register. Chinese immigrants challenge the law in court and many do not register. The first Japanese-language newspaper in Hawaii is started in Honolulu.</td>
<td>The Hawaiian kingdom census reports 21,600 Chinese residents. The first Japanese-language school in Hawaii is started by the Reverend Takie Okumura at the Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu.</td>
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<td>1893</td>
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<td>Hawaii is annexed to the United States. Seven crewmen of Japanese ancestry die in the sinking of the U.S.S. <em>Maine</em> in Havana harbor. The United States Asiatic Squadron, under the command of Commodore George Dewey, enters Manila Bay and destroys the Spanish fleet. Approximately 5 percent of Dewey’s crew is Chinese, some of them American-born.</td>
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</table>
### Asian American

- **1890**: More than 12 percent of the residents of Minnesota are of Swedish descent.
  - In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this year, there are six daily German-language newspapers in publication.
- **1891**: Eleven Italian Americans who are suspected of murdering a police official are lynched in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- **1892**: The last major wave of German immigration to the United States takes place this year, with more than 119,000 Germans coming to this country.
- **1893**: The Latvian Workers’ Association is founded in Boston, Massachusetts. It is a welfare-oriented, socialist organization that also sponsors a progressive amateur theater group.
- **1894**: On the hardiness and endurance of Swedish American laborers, Great Northern Railroad President James H. Hill remarks, “Give me Swedes, . . . and I’ll build a railroad through hell.”
- **1895**: The Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church is built in Bridgeport, Connecticut. It is the first Russian Orthodox church in New England and the seventh in the nation.
- **1899**: Great numbers of Magyar-speaking people begin to leave Hungary. These Hungarians migrate from place to place in the United States where labor is needed in the coal mining and steel industries.

### European American

- **1890**: More than 2,800 Japanese people migrate to the United States mainland from Hawaii.
- **1899**: through
  - **1899**: The Supreme Court rules in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* that a person born in the United States of Chinese parents is of American nationality by birth, and cannot be considered Chinese under the Chinese Exclusion Act, due to Fourteenth-Amendment protections.
- **1890**: Congress passes a joint resolution banning Chinese laborers from immigrating to Hawaii.
- **1891**: Crop failures in the Dakotas and Montana result in the migration of many Dutch Americans to Washington. This migration is encouraged by the Northern Pacific Railroad.
- **1892**: The last major wave of German immigration to the United States takes place this year, with more than 119,000 Germans coming to this country.
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### General

- **1890**: Filipinos stage an armed rebellion against United States military rule of the islands. The revolt is suppressed.
- **1899**: through
  - **1899**: Filipinos stage an armed rebellion against United States military rule of the islands. The revolt is suppressed.
- **1899**: Sixty thousand Japanese immigrants come to the United States; most of these new arrivals make their homes in Hawaii.
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<td>1890</td>
<td>This year sees the birth of many strike movements in Puerto Rico. The Mexican population of Los Angeles is down to 5 percent, and the group has lost all of its political strength.</td>
<td>The major Puerto Rican promoters of independence for the Antilles are Eugenio María de Hostos in South America and Dr. Ramón E. Betances, living in France.</td>
<td>The Federacion Libre de Trabajadores, the first modern labor union in Puerto Rico, is established.</td>
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<td>1890s</td>
<td>In Texas, cattle ranching gives way to large-scale cotton farming. As cotton growing becomes big business in Texas, Mexicans come north to find work.</td>
<td>The Catholic Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, is established. The Spanish government grants the Autonomous Charter for Puerto Rican government. The charter permits significant self-rule in many areas. Miguel A. Otero becomes governor of the territory of New Mexico. He serves until 1906.</td>
<td>Puerto Rico’s Autonomous Charter (1897) is ended, and the United States establishes a military governorship. Puerto Rico undergoes a campaign by the United States to “Americanize,” and a period of Protestant evangelism occurs.</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>Arturo Alfonso Schomburg immigrates from Puerto Rico to New York City. Schomburg gradually accumulates a vast and significant collection of materials on African American cultures in the Americas. Antonio Vélez de Alvarado creates the flag that in 1895 becomes the symbol of the Puerto Rican revolution. In 1952, this becomes the flag of the current government. The federal Court of Private Land Claims is established in the United States to hear and settle Spanish and Mexican land claims in the American Southwest.</td>
<td>A small number of Puerto Ricans come to the United States, mostly to New York City. The Internal Autonomous Cabinet is installed in Puerto Rico. Dr. Ramón E. Betances voices his opposition to United States participation in the Puerto Rican and Cuban wars for independence. During the Spanish-American War, President William F. McKinley asks for 340 cavalry volunteers from New Mexico to ride under Colonel Leonard Wood and Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt with the “Rough Riders” in Cuba. The quota is mustered in eight days. The United States naval fleet under the direction of Admiral Sampson shells San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico. Troops under the command of General Nelson Miles land on Guanica, on the south shore of the island.</td>
<td>The Federalist party led by Luis Muñoz Rivera and the Republican party headed by José Celso Barbosa are formed in Puerto Rico. Hurricane San Ciriaco destroys most of Puerto Rico’s crops, sparking the migration of approximately 5,200 people from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. The population of Puerto Rico is estimated at 933,000. General Guy V. Henry organizes a system of rural and graded schools in Puerto Rico.</td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td>Puerto Rican autonomists Sotero Figueroa, Antonio Vélez de Alvarado and Francisco Gonzalo Marin come to New York City. Approximately 200 Puerto Ricans meet to combine their efforts for Puerto Rican independence, and the Borinquen Club is formed.</td>
<td>The separation of church and state ends the payment of church expenses and salaries by the Puerto Rican treasury.</td>
<td>Cases presented by Puerto Ricans in the federal court system begin to define the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.</td>
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<td>1893</td>
<td>A race riot breaks out in Beeville, Texas, between Mexican Americans and African Americans, primarily over economic and employment issues.</td>
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<td>1895</td>
<td>The Puerto Rican section of the Cuban Revolutionary party holds its first meeting in New York City, pledging the independence of both islands. Fifty-nine Puerto Ricans participate.</td>
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The first hydroelectric dam in the United States is constructed in Great Falls, Montana. Central State University at Edmond, Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, and the University of Oklahoma at Norman, all in Oklahoma, are founded, as is Savannah State College in Georgia.

John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company controls almost all of the oil production and sales in the United States.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is founded in Washington, D.C.

Fiery protest speeches against big business influence on government by Kansas populist Mary Elizabeth Lease prompt a New York Evening Post editorial comment, “We don’t want any more states until we can civilize Kansas!”

Brazil passes a law requiring that all purchases of land be made in cash; this has the effect of keeping immigrants from owning property and therefore forcing them to labor on other people’s lands.

Chile experiences civil war, with opposition forces led by Jorge Montt. The rebel forces are successful, and Montt becomes the country’s new president. He serves until 1896.

Large commercial salmon canneries open in Alaska.

The Forest Reserve Act becomes law in the United States, providing for the conversion of public lands to a National Forest Reserve. Bank failures occur in the United States.

A 900,000-acre tract of Indian land in Oklahoma is made available for homesteading by European Americans. The acreage was ceded to the United States by Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi Indians. Miners at Bricville, Tennessee, call that state’s first major labor strike.

Lydia (Lil) Liliuokalani becomes queen of Hawaii after the death of her brother, David Kalakaua (1875). She rules until 1893.

Basketball is invented in Springfield, Massachusetts, by Canadian-born Dr. James Naismith.

Reindeer are brought to Alaska from Siberia and Norway to provide an industry for the dwindling Inuit (Eskimo) tribe.


Brazil adopts a federal republican constitution.

General Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca (1889) becomes the first president of Brazil. He serves for less than one year and is succeeded by Floriano Peixoto. Peixoto serves until 1894.

The Populist party is formed in the United States with heavy support from farmers who oppose high tariffs and “hard” money. The party platform consists of support for free and unlimited coinage of silver, government control of railroads, no national banks, a graduated income tax, direct election of senators, an eight-hour workday, nonownership of land by foreigners and reform of immigration laws.

Immigration to the United States totals 3,684,564; 3,555,352 come from Europe, 74,862 from Asia, 350 from Africa, 3,963 from Oceania, 38,972 from the Americas and 11,063 are not specifically identified.

The United States Congress passes the Geary Act, which extends Chinese exclusion for another 10 years and requires strict residency proof and identification for Chinese people in the country. The Ellis Island Immigration Station opens in New York harbor.

A major confrontation between striking steelworkers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and Carnegie Steel Company occurs in Homestead, Pennsylvania. The striking miners hold off Pinkerton guards called in by the steel company, though both sides suffer casualties. However, the company imports strikebreaking workers, and the union workers are eventually forced by circumstances to return to work at severely reduced wages. Silver mine strikers in Idaho fight against nonunion workers. Federal troops are required to intervene.

A commercial telephone line between New York City and Chicago opens.

Scottish American John Muir establishes the Sierra Club in California. Its purpose is wildlife preservation and the expansion of the nation’s park system.

Sir John Sparrow David Thompson, a Conservative, becomes prime minister of Canada after the resignation of Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott (1891). He serves until his death in 1894.

Grover Cleveland becomes the twenty-fourth president of the United States; Adlai E. Stevenson is vice president. Both are Democrats. This is President Cleveland’s second term; he is the only United States president to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms.

Congress repeals the Sherman Silver Purchase Act (1890) and returns to the gold standard.

When United States gold reserves drop below the $100-million mark, a financial panic develops. British investors cash in many of their American stocks and bonds for gold. United States banks become very conservative and call in loans, now payable only in gold. This puts a burden on farmers and small businesses. Lack of confidence and a stock market drop follow. The depression continues for four years.
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<td>Hawaii’s Queen Liliuokalani (1891) is deposed in a coup assisted by the United States military, Hawaii becomes a republic. An annexation agreement with the United States is withdrawn from the United States Senate by President Grover Cleveland. The Ohio Anti-Saloon League is formed in Oberlin, Ohio, opposing the sale of alcoholic beverages. This organization will become a major force in congressional passage of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution (Prohibition). The Cherokee Strip, 6 million acres of land (now in southern Kansas) purchased from the Cherokee in 1891, is opened for European American homesteading. More than 100,000 people rush to the area. A gasoline-powered automobile developed by Charles and J. Frank Duryea is the first truly successful model in the United States. The Henry Street Settlement House is founded in New York City by Lillian Wald and Mary Breuer. It becomes one of the best known and most influential settlement houses in the country. Montana State University at Bozeman and the University of Montana at Missoula are founded. Working in his spare time in Detroit, Michigan, Henry Ford builds his first automobile. Chicago, Illinois, surgeon Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs the nation’s first open-heart surgery. Dr. Williams, an African American, performs the operation at Provident Hospital. 1893–1897 The United States economy stagnates, resulting in high unemployment and depression. 1894 Congress repeals the Second Enforcement Act, returning election oversight to the states, and thereby opening the door for the disenfranchisement of African Americans in many southern states.</td>
<td>At its fourteenth convention, the American Federation of Labor again unanimously adopts a resolution affirming the unity of labor regardless of race. Ohio businessman Jacob S. Coxey leads his “army” of approximately 500 unemployed people from Ohio to Washington, D.C., in a demonstration against government apathy regarding unemployment. Socialist Eugene V. Debs calls a general strike of rail workers to support Pullman Company strikers in Chicago, Illinois. When federal troops are called in to make sure the mail keeps moving, the strike is broken and Debs is jailed. The Immigration Restriction League is organized in the United States. Thomas A. Edison’s kinetoscope has its first public showing in New York City. MacKenzie Bowell, a Conservative, becomes prime minister of Canada after Sir John Sparrow David Thompson’s (1892) death. Bowell serves until 1896. Andrés Avelino Cáceres (1886) manages to force Peru’s Congress to elect him president of the country. His victory is brief, however, and he is overthrown this same year by forces of Nicolás de Piérola. De Piérola becomes president of Peru in 1895; he rules until 1899. 1895 Claiming jurisdiction under the Monroe Doctrine, United States President Grover Cleveland intervenes to settle a territorial dispute over the border between Venezuela and British Guiana. William Randolph Hearst, after a successful start as head of the San Francisco, California, Examiner, establishes the New York Morning Journal and competes with Joseph Pulitzer for the New York market, developing the technique of sensationalism, or “yellow journalism,” to sell newspapers. In Pollock v. Farmers Loan and Trust Company, the Supreme Court rules that a federal income tax is unconstitutional.</td>
<td>A land grant claimed by J. Addison Reavis for 12.8 million acres in New Mexico and Arizona is declared fraudulent. Reavis goes to prison. Coal mining begins in Tennessee at Brushy Mountain Prison. Westinghouse Electric Company acquires a contract to build and operate the Niagara Falls hydroelectric power plant, which goes on line this year. The Anti-Saloon League is organized as a national group. Founded locally in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1893, by the Reverend H. H. Russell and others, the organization goes national in scope after a convention this year in Washington, D.C. The United States’ first automobile race is held on Thanksgiving Day of this year. A redesigned Duryea automobile (1893) takes first place in the snowy, 50-mile race from Chicago to Waukegan, Illinois. King Camp Gillette develops a safety razor with disposable blades. Joshua Slocum of Annapolis, Nova Scotia, Canada, circumnavigates the globe alone. He is the first person to do so, in a voyage that lasts three years. Cuban patriot José Martí, exiled since age 16, returns to Cuba. He joins forces with General Antonio Maceo in an insurrection against Spanish rule. Martí is killed, but the fighting continues for three years. Nicolás de Piérola (1879) again becomes president of Peru after the brief term of Andrés Avelino Cáceres (1886, 1894). De Piérola serves until 1899.</td>
<td>In Plessy v. Ferguson, the Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the doctrine of “separate but equal.” The case concerns the rights of Homer Plessy, an African American man who purchased a railroad ticket and tried to ride in the “all white” section of the train. For this, he was arrested and convicted; he eventually appealed his case to the high court. Although the case specifically concerns only railroad accommodations, it is later used as a precedent for many other public areas, including education. The United States Post Office offers its first Rural Free Delivery (R.F.D.) mail service. Prior to this time, many farm families had to go to town to pick up their mail, a trip that might cost them a day or two. R.F.D. begins to change that. Among other benefits, Rural Free Delivery makes possible the development of the mail-order business. Utah becomes the forty-fifth state to join the Union. Miami, Florida, first colonized in the mid-1870s, incorporates as a city and becomes a main stop on the Florida railroad line. Miami’s growth is stimulated by the interest and funding of financier Henry Morrison Flagler. Idaho leads the country in lead production. The Duryea Motor Wagon Company produces 13 automobiles this year. Oakwood College is founded in Huntsville, Alabama. Gold is discovered in Bonanza Creek in the Klondike. During the next three years, the ensuing gold rush brings more than 30,000 people to Canada’s Yukon Territory and to Alaska. Politicians in South Carolina adopt the “white primary,” limiting the vote in the Democratic party primary to European Americans. William Jennings Bryan delivers his “Cross of Gold” speech at the Democratic Convention in Chicago, Illinois. He says that cities depend on the farms and that the nation’s real wealth is generated by a base of successful farmers and laborers, not industrialists.</td>
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<td><strong>1898</strong></td>
<td>The United States battleship <strong>Maine</strong> explodes in Havana harbor. As a result, the United States declares war on Spain. More than 17,000 soldiers invade Oriente province and, with the help of Cuban General Calixto García, defeat Spanish forces. When this, the Spanish-American War, is over, the United States acquires Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam (see “The World, 1898–1899”). The United States annexes Hawaii; Chinese migration to Hawaii is barred. Mary Harris (Mother) Jones, Irish American labor agitator, helps found the Social Democratic party. She also is on hand in 1905 when the International Workers of the World is organized. Almost all of Bismarck, North Dakota’s business district is destroyed by fire. The Christian Commercial Men’s Association of America is founded in Boscobel, Wisconsin. Now an international Bible Society, it is commonly referred to as Gideons and its mission is to place copies of the Bible in hotel rooms around the nation. The Kensington Rune Stone, inscribed with an ancient Germanic language from Scandinavia with a date of 1362, is found on a farm in Minnesota. If genuine, it shows that early Norse explorers penetrated the interior of North America. However, at the time the authenticity of the stone is subject to much question. Sir Augustus Hemming is appointed as Britain’s governor of Jamaica. <strong>1899</strong> The United States begins its “open door” policy with China. Because the United States seeks direct trade with Asia after its acquisition of the Philippines, and the partitioning of China and Japan seem a reality, the United States wants to maintain equal commercial rights within China. The Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act has a “Refuse Act” paragraph that forbids the pollution of the nation’s waterways. Chlorine is first used to purify public water supplies. The United States and Britain reach a provisional boundary agreement establishing the Alaskan-Canadian border. The National Consumers League is founded by Florence Kelley. A major goal of the organization is to improve the lot of working women by buying only those goods made in factories that provide decent working conditions. The league establishes a labeling system to let consumers know what products qualify as “good” products. Hurricane San Ciriaco destroys most of Puerto Rico’s crops, sparking the migration of approximately 5,200 people from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. The College of Saint Elizabeth is founded in Convent Station, New Jersey. Cipriano Castro and troops under him march on Caracas, Venezuela. They overthrow the dictatorship of Antonio Gúzman Blanco and, in 1901, Castro is proclaimed president. He serves until 1908. <strong>1899–1902</strong> A bloody civil war in Colombia leads to bitter class struggles.</td>
<td><strong>1890</strong> through <strong>1899</strong> Sir Charles Tupper, a Conservative, becomes prime minister of Canada after the term of MacKenzie Bowell (1894). Tupper’s party, however, loses the election this year, and Sir Wilfred Laurier, a Liberal, becomes prime minister. Laurier serves until 1911. Sir Augustus Hemming is appointed as Britain’s governor of Jamaica. <strong>1899</strong> The United States battleship <strong>Maine</strong> explodes in Havana harbor. As a result, the United States declares war on Spain. More than 17,000 soldiers invade Oriente province and, with the help of Cuban General Calixto García, defeat Spanish forces. When this, the Spanish-American War, is over, the United States acquires Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam (see “The World, 1898–1899”). The United States annexes Hawaii; Chinese migration to Hawaii is barred. Mary Harris (Mother) Jones, Irish American labor agitator, helps found the Social Democratic party. She also is on hand in 1905 when the International Workers of the World is organized. Almost all of Bismarck, North Dakota’s business district is destroyed by fire. The Christian Commercial Men’s Association of America is founded in Boscobel, Wisconsin. Now an international Bible Society, it is commonly referred to as Gideons and its mission is to place copies of the Bible in hotel rooms around the nation. The Kensington Rune Stone, inscribed with an ancient Germanic language from Scandinavia with a date of 1362, is found on a farm in Minnesota. If genuine, it shows that early Norse explorers penetrated the interior of North America. However, at the time the authenticity of the stone is subject to much question. Sir Augustus Hemming is appointed as Britain’s governor of Jamaica. <strong>1899</strong> The United States begins its “open door” policy with China. Because the United States seeks direct trade with Asia after its acquisition of the Philippines, and the partitioning of China and Japan seem a reality, the United States wants to maintain equal commercial rights within China. The Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act has a “Refuse Act” paragraph that forbids the pollution of the nation’s waterways. Chlorine is first used to purify public water supplies. The United States and Britain reach a provisional boundary agreement establishing the Alaskan-Canadian border. The National Consumers League is founded by Florence Kelley. A major goal of the organization is to improve the lot of working women by buying only those goods made in factories that provide decent working conditions. The league establishes a labeling system to let consumers know what products qualify as “good” products. Hurricane San Ciriaco destroys most of Puerto Rico’s crops, sparking the migration of approximately 5,200 people from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. The College of Saint Elizabeth is founded in Convent Station, New Jersey. Cipriano Castro and troops under him march on Caracas, Venezuela. They overthrow the dictatorship of Antonio Gúzman Blanco and, in 1901, Castro is proclaimed president. He serves until 1908. <strong>1899–1902</strong> A bloody civil war in Colombia leads to bitter class struggles.</td>
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1890
Chancellor Otto von Bismarck (1862, 1871) is removed from power, and Germany becomes an aggressive nation under Kaiser (Emperor) William (Wilhelm II (1888)).

By the terms of the Zanzibar settlement, Tanganika and Heligoland become German colonies, Germany agrees to leave the Upper Nile and Uganda and Zanzibar become British protectorates.

Britain recognizes French control over Madagascar.

The first European colonists arrive in the area of modern-day Zimbabwe. They are sent by British agent Cecil Rhodes.

Severe influenza outbreaks occur in several parts of the world.

As a child, Wilhelmina becomes queen of the Netherlands after the death of her father, William III (1849).

She rules until 1948. Although the crowns of the Netherlands and Luxembourg were united under William III, an agreement made in 1873 states that only males may rule Luxembourg. As a result, Adolph of Nassau becomes grand duke of Luxembourg, and the union with the Netherlands is dissolved.

Japan’s new emperor allows the enactment of a constitution, based in part on that of Prussia. The Civil Code is passed, the enactment of a constitution, Japan’s new emperor allows the grand duke of Luxemburg, Adolph of Nassau becomes grand duke of Luxemburg, and the union with the Netherlands is dissolved.

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<td>In the Philippines, the identity of many of the Katipunan leaders, a secret society formed by Filipino nationalists to fight against Spanish control of the island, is discovered. This leads to a more open rebellion led by Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo. The Spanish government responds with a reign of terror and many Philippine leaders are executed, including Dr. José Rizal, who is shot by a firing squad in Manila.</td>
<td>French scientist Henri Becquerel observes, with the use of uranium salts and a photographic plate, that some atoms emit energy in the form of rays.</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<td>1890 through 1899</td>
<td>The Boer War begins in South Africa as a conflict between British colonists and Dutch Boers. Causes of the fighting are rooted in long-standing territorial disputes and in friction over political rights for English and other “suitlanders” following the 1886 discovery of vast gold deposits in the South African (Transvaal) Republic. Russia calls for the International Peace Conference (the First Hague Peace Conference) to meet. By this time, aspirin, developed by German Doctors Felix Hoffman and Hermann Dreser, is widely used as a medicine.</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>The First Philippine Republic, inaugurated at Malolos, becomes the first democracy to emerge in Asia. The Philippine War of Independence begins. After bitter guerrilla warfare resulting in the capture of most local leaders, United States troops capture Aguinaldo in 1901, marking the fall of the republic. To retain firm control of Finland, Russia’s Czar Nicholas II initiates a process of “Russification.” This tactic is resisted by the Finnish people. The Boer War begins in South Africa as a conflict between British colonists and Dutch Boers. Causes of the fighting are rooted in long-standing territorial disputes and in friction over political rights for English and other “suitlanders” following the 1886 discovery of vast gold deposits in the South African (Transvaal) Republic. Russia calls for the International Peace Conference (the First Hague Peace Conference) to meet. By this time, aspirin, developed by German Doctors Felix Hoffman and Hermann Dreser, is widely used as a medicine.</td>
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### 1898-1899: The Spanish-American War

The Spanish-American War begins as many American people support Cuban rebels in their revolt against Spain. United States businesses see economic opportunity in unhindered trade with Cuba, and the United States government seeks to establish American power zones in Latin America. A submarine mine explodes the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor; 260 are killed but responsibility is never fixed. Although it has no authority to do so, the United States Congress declares the independence of Cuba on April 19, 1898, and Spain declares war on the United States on April 25. Congress formally announces that the United States is at war with Spain since April 21. Commodore George Dewey and his fleet win a seven-hour battle in Manila Bay against the Spanish fleet. In June General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of Filipino revolutionary forces, declares the Philippines independent from Spain. At first, Filipinos and Americans collaborate in fighting the Spanish, but the collaboration ends in August with the capture of Manila, and the establishment of a United States military government. The Spanish fleet is destroyed off Santiago, Cuba, and the city surrenders. In September a Revolutionary Congress meets in the Philippines at the inland town of Malolos, Bulacan, out of the reach of American guns. The assembly drafts the Malolos Constitution. The Treaty of Paris, ratified by the United States Senate in 1899, results in Spain’s ceding the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States in consideration for more than $20 million in losses incurred by Spain during the war; Cuba gains its independence, though it remains under United States military control until 1902. |
It is discovered that much of the evidence of treason against French army captain Alfred Dreyfus (1894) was fabricated by Colonel Henry of French army intelligence. Henry commits suicide. Dreyfus is tried and again found guilty, but his sentence is reduced to 10 years. A pardon is later issued by President Emile Loubet in 1906. Kuwait becomes a British protectorate.

**1899-1914**

Western Samoa is a German protectorate during this time.