**US History Presentation Project Topic List**

**Causes of the Great Depression:** Identify causes contributing to an unstable economy including the overproduction of agriculture products, greater speculation and buying on margin in the Stock Market, and the government’s laissez-faire policy Examine the role of the Stock Market Crash and bank failures in weakening both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors of the economy leading to the Great Depression

**Hoover’s Policies:** Analyze how President Herbert Hoover’s financial policies and massive unemployment as exemplified by the Bonus Army March and Hoovervilles impacted the presidential election of 1932

**Great Depression Impact**: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to compare points of view regarding the economic and social impact of the Great Depression on individuals, families, and the nation

Analyze the impact of the New Deal in transforming the federal government’s role in domestic economic policies.

**Changing Role of Government:** Assess changing viewpoints regarding the expanding role of government as expressed in President Franklin Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address and the Four Freedoms speech

**New Deal:** Examine how national policies addressed the economic crisis including deficit spending, Roosevelt’s court packing plan, and the new federal agencies of the Social Security Administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Works Progress Administration, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

Cite specific textual and visual evidence to summarize the causes and impact of the Dust Bowl including the government’s responses

**WWII Mobilization:** Cite specific textual and visual evidence to examine the transformations in American society and government policy as the nation mobilized for entry into World War II.

**Appeasement and Isolation:** Examine the roles of appeasement and isolationism in the United States’ reluctance to respond to Fascist military aggression in Europe and Asia including the Neutrality Acts and the Lend-Lease program.

**WWII Home Front**: Evaluate the mobilization for war as stated in President Roosevelt’s Day Which Will Live in Infamy speech including the role of women and minorities in the war effort, rationing, the internment of Japanese-Americans and the Korematsu v. United States decision, and the internment of Americans of German and Italian descent.

**WWII Strategy:** Cite specific textual and visual evidence to analyze the series of events affecting the outcome of World War II including major battles, military turning points, and key strategic decisions in both the European and Pacific Theaters of operation including Pearl Harbor, the D-Day Invasion, development and use of the atomic bomb, the island-hopping strategy, the Allied conference at Yalta, and the contributions of Generals MacArthur and Eisenhower.

**Holocaust and Nuremburg:** Summarize American reactions to the events of the Holocaust resulting in United States participation in the Nuremburg Trials, which held Nazi leaders accountable for war crimes.

**COLD WAR ORIGINS**: Identify the origins of Cold War confrontations between the Soviet Union and the United States including the leadership of President Harry Truman, the postwar division of Berlin,the Berlin Blockade and Airlift, the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the Marshall Plan

**SPHERES OF INFLUENCE**: Describe the role of the United States in the formation of the United Nations, NATO and the resulting Warsaw Pact, and the dividing of the political world into the Western and Soviet spheres of influence

**TRUMAN DOCTRINE**: Assess the impact and successes of the Truman Doctrine including the American military response to the invasion of South Korea

**JFK:** Compare and contrast the domestic and international goals of President Kennedy’s administration as expressed in his Inaugural Address to the subsequent building of the Berlin Wall, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the establishment of the

Peace Corps

**SECOND RED SCARE**: Summarize the reasons for the public fear of communist influence within the United States and how politicians capitalized on these threats including the leadership of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Army-McCarthy hearings, the Second Red Scare, and the Rosenbergs’ spy trials

**ARMS RACE & SPACE RACE**: Examine the impact of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the resulting nuclear arms race, the concept of brinkmanship, the doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD), and the launching of Sputnik and the space race.

**ENDING SEGREGATION**: Assess the effects of President Truman’s decision to desegregate the United States armed forces, and the legal attacks on segregation by the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall, the United States Supreme Court decisions in the cases of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and George McLaurin, and the differences between de jureand de facto segregation

**Compare and contrast** segregation policies of “separate but equal,” disenfranchisement of African Americans through poll taxes, literacy tests, and violence; and the sustained attempts to dismantle segregation including the Brown v. Board of Education decision, Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, the Oklahoma City lunch counter sit-ins led by Clara Luper, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the Birmingham church bombing, the adoption of the 24th Amendment, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Selma to Montgomery marches, and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS: C**ompare and contrast the view points and the contributions of civil rights leaders and organizations linking them to events of the movement including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his I Have a Dream speech, Malcolm X, NAACP, SCLC, CORE, SNCC, and the tactics used at different times including civil disobedience, non-violent resistance, sit-ins, boycotts, marches, and voter registration drives.

**SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**: Evaluate the effects the Civil Rights Movement had on other contemporaneous social movements including the Women’s Liberation Movement, the United Farm Workers and César Chávez, and the American Indian Movement

**INCORPORATION DOCTRINE**: Summarize and examine the United States Supreme Court’s use of the incorporation doctrine in applying the Bill of Rights to the states, thereby securing and further defining individual rights and civil liberties.

**LBJ:** Assess the lasting impact of President Lyndon Johnson’s civil rights initiatives, the war on poverty, and the Great Society.

**NATIVE AMERICAN MOVEMENT**: Describe the goals and effectiveness of the Native American movement on tribal identity and sovereignty including the American Indian Movement (AIM), and the Siege at Wounded Knee.

**CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN**: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to compare and contrast the changing roles of women from the Post-war Era through the 1970s including the goals of the Women’s Liberation Movement, the National Organization of Women (NOW), the attempts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Roe v. Wade.

**VIETNAM**: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to analyze the series of events and long term foreign and domestic consequences of the United States’ military involvement in Vietnam including the Domino Theory, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the Tet Offensive, the presidential election of 1968, university student protests, expanded television coverage of the war, the War Powers Act, and the 26th Amendment

**NIXON FOREIGN POLICY**: Analyze the political and economic impact of President Nixon’s foreign policies including détente and the opening of China.

**WATERGATE & AFTERMATH**: Evaluate the impact of the Watergate Scandal on executive powers including the role of the media, the Pentagon Papers, the first use of the 25th Amendment, and President Ford’s decision to pardon former President Nixon.

**CARTER FOREIGN POLICY**: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to evaluate President Carter’s foreign policy in the Middle East including the Camp David Accords, the OPEC oil embargo, and the response to the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.

**REAGAN POLICIES**: Analyze the economic and political impact of President Reagan’s domestic and foreign policies including Reaganomics, the Iran-Contra Scandal, and Reagan’s Tear Down This Wall speech in West Berlin.

**SOVIET COLLAPSE**: Summarize the series of events leading to the emergence of the United States as the sole superpower following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of Germany, and the collapse of the Soviet Empire

**GULF WAR**: Describe the goal of President H.W. Bush’s foreign policy in forming an international coalition to counter Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf.

**CLINTON FOREIGN POLICY**: Describe and evaluate the continuing global influence of the United States under the leadership of President Bill Clinton including NAFTA and the NATO interventions to restore stability to the former Yugoslav republics.

**TERRORISM:** Evaluate the rise of terrorism and its impact on the United States including the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, the first attack on the World Trade Center Towers in 1993, the attacks on September 11, 2001, the PATRIOT ACT, and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.