Progressive Era

Theodore Roosevelt
- Became President as a result of the assassination of William McKinley
- Came from a wealthy family from New York
- Went west to raise cattle and heal after his wife and mother both died on the same day
- Associated with the Republican party at the beginning of his career and while President
- Known for his conservation efforts—added 100 million acres of land to national forests
- Tried to break up and regulate trusts—large combinations of businesses
- Lost the Republican nomination in 1912 but ran against Taft on the Bull Moose Party ticket

William Howard Taft
- Taft’s career before going into politics: lawyer and judge
- Associated with the Republican party
- Taft did not enjoy being president, and wanted to be a judge again
- Established the Children’s Bureau to investigate problems with child labor

Woodrow Wilson
- Won the 1912 presidential election as a Democrat
- Was a college professor before becoming president

World War I

Causes of WWI
- Alliance System
  - Triple Alliance members
  - Triple Entente members
- Naval Race between Britain and Germany
- Balkan Crisis
  - Nationalism
  - Self-determination
  - Serbs
- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
  - Which country counted on Germany in the event of a war—Austria
  - Which country counted on Russia to back it up—Serbia

War in the Trenches
- Conditions in the Trenches
- New Technology (Tanks, Airplanes, Poison Gas)

Americans Take Sides
- German u-boats
  - Lusitania Sinking
  - Zimmerman telegram
  - Resumption of unrestricted u-boat warfare causes USA to enter war
- Russia leaves the War—Bolsheviks (Communists led by Vladimir Lenin) take power and leave the war

Treaty of Versailles—Germany paid reparations of $33 billion and was not allowed to have an army

1920s

1920s Politics
- Harding Administration—President Warren G. Harding
  - From Ohio
  - “Return to Normalcy”—campaign slogan
  - “Ohio Gang”—group of poker playing friends
  - Teapot dome scandal—right to mineral rights given in exchange for bribes
- Coolidge Administration—President Calvin Coolidge
From Vermont
Nickname: “Silent Cal”
The chief business of America is business

Farm Crisis—called the “Quiet Depression”

Trade and Arms Control
- Dawes Plan—meant to help Allies Britain and France receive war debt payments from Germany
- Kellogg-Briand Pact—meant to end war forever—ratified by 62 nations

Woman Suffrage
- 19th Amendment guaranteed the right of women to vote
- West led the way on the issue of woman suffrage

Prohibition
- People believed that banning alcohol would help end social problems
- Banned by the 18th Amendment
- Americans did not follow the law—people purchased alcohol in secret bars called “speakeasies”
- Secret bars were run by organized crime

Harlem Renaissance
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—goal was to obtain equal rights for African Americans
- Louis Armstrong—helped introduce Jazz

Great Depression
Economic Boom in 1920s caused by:
- Laissez-Faire
- Assembly Line
- Credit
- Knowledge
- Position of America in WWII (Stayed out until 1917 and supplied Europe with goods)
- Advertisement
- New Consumer Goods
- Tariffs
- Share Confidence—confidence in the stock market

Causes of the Great Depression
- Stocks purchased “on margin”
- Speculation—stocks rose without regard for their true value
- Bank run—investors withdraw money all at the same time for the fear that the banks would collapse
- Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act—raised tariff rate on imported goods—in response foreign countries raised tariff rates

Hoover’s Response
- Organized conferences to bring together banks, railroads and other businesses
- Hoover was not willing to massively increase government spending to create jobs
- Hoover was strongly opposed to government relief

Roosevelt’s First 100 Days
- Franklin D. Roosevelt elected in 1932
- Lost the use of his legs because of polio
- Inaugural: “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”
- 4000 banks and 9 million savings accounts wiped out by the time of FDR’s inauguration
- Group of advisors was called the “brain trust”
- 15 major acts passed in the first 100 days of the administration—called the First New Deal
- Farm program paid farmers not to plant crops
- Glass-Steagall Act created the FDIC which insured bank accounts
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) did largely conservation work—planting trees, fire fighting, etc. Composed only of males

Challenges to the New Deal
Criticism from the “right” of the political spectrum—too many restrictions on businesses
Criticism from the “left” of the political spectrum—did not go far enough to help the poor

Second New Deal
Series of programs to speed up recovery, provide economic security, and ensure re-election
Works Progress Administration was given money to increase employment
Federal Number One—offered work to artists and musicians
Social Security Act—1935—major goal was to create a safety net for elderly, disabled, and poor

Legacy of the New Deal
Court-packing plan and increase in unemployment hurt Roosevelt politically in 1937
Economic theory that a government should spend heavily in a recession: Keynesianism

Rise of Dictators
Fascism
Aggressive form of nationalism
Belief that the nation is more important than the individual
A strong dictator is necessary to impose order
Great nations expand territory and have a strong military
Leaders:
  - Adolf Hitler—Germany
  - Benito Mussolini—Italy

Communism
Belief that all private property should be owned by the government
Individual rights are not important
Leader:
  - Joseph Stalin—Soviet Union
    - Instituted one-party rule
    - Responsible for the deaths of millions of peasants

German Aggression
Anschluss—German annexation of Austria in 1938
Sudetenland—German-speaking section of Czechoslovakia
Munich crisis—Neville Chamberlain promised to support France and Czechoslovakia but gave in to German demands
Nazi-Soviet Nonaggression Pact—Germany and USSR pledged not to attack each other—divided up Poland
Poland invaded—1939
  - Blitzkrieg (“lightning war”) attack resulted in a quick German victory
    - Large numbers of tanks move quickly through enemy lines and break up enemy organization
  - Britain remains defiant—Winston Churchill—Prime Minister—says Britain will fight to the last man
  - Battle of Britain—air battle in 1940 over the English Channel
  - Radar helps Britain intercept incoming German planes

Holocaust
German aggression against Jewish people in Europe and the disabled
Concentration camps—designed to work Jewish slave laborers to death
Extermination camps—designed solely to kill Jews in Europe

Isolationism
Roosevelt wants to help Britain, but it is not politically possible to join war
Lend-Lease Act—the US could lend or lease arms to Britain
Atlantic Charter—meeting between Churchill and Roosevelt on a ship in the Atlantic to plan strategy
Japan Attacks the United States

US embargoed Japan
Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941
Approx. 2400 Americans killed
US declared war on Japan on Dec. 8
Germany and Italy declare war on US on Dec. 11

WWII

Early defeats—Philippines lost to Japan—Bataan Death March made by POWs in the Philippines
Midway—turning point in the Pacific War—carrier battle won by the United States
North Africa Campaign—Operation Torch
  Germans and Italians defeated in North Africa
  Operation planned by General Dwight Eisenhower
  American troops led by General Patton
Italy and Sicily invaded
  Italy referred to as the “soft underbelly” of Europe
  Italians rise up and the King of Italy kicks Mussolini out of power
  Germany fights back in Italy, halting American and British advances
Invasion of Normandy—Operation Overlord
  Inflatable tanks set up in England to trick the Germans into believing attack is coming in Calais—the shortest distance across the Channel from England to France
  D-Day—invasion takes place on June 6, 1944
  23,000 paratroopers sent behind enemy lines
  100,000 troops involved in amphibious assault
  Invasion is successful in establishing a beach head, but fighting on Omaha Beach is fierce
Battle of the Bulge
  Germans counterattack in Dec. of 1944 through January of 1945
  Approx. 70,000 American casualties during the month of fighting
  101st Airborne is trapped in the town of Bastogne, France and surrounded by Germans
    American response to German demands to surrender: “Nuts”
    Rescued by forces commanded by General Patton
V-E Day: May 8, 1945
  Hitler killed in Berlin bunker with wife Eva Braun by suicide
  Hitler’s body burned and taken by Russians
  Other leading Nazis—Adolf Eichmann and Josef Mengele relocate in South America and hide out

Pacific Campaign

Island Hopping Campaign—US forces go from island to island on the way to Japan
  Examples: Iwo Jima, and Okinawa
  Flag-raising on Mount Suribachi, iwo Jima (be able to identify photograph)
Manhattan Project—effort to build atomic bomb
  Bomb project led by Oppenheimer
  Bomb tested at Trinity site in Los Alamos, New Mexico
  Little Boy dropped on Hiroshima, Japan by Enola Gay B-29 Superfortress
  Fat Man dropped on Nagasaki, Japan
  Japan Surrenders (called V-J Day)
  Should Bomb have been dropped?
    Know arguments for and against and be ready to make those arguments