

## PUUSH Learning Standards | United States History

**Theme:** This course examines the history of the United States of America focused primarily from 1870 to the present. The concepts of historical thinking introduced in earlier grades continue to build with students locating and analyzing primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to draw conclusions. The episodes of the American past have shaped the nature of the country today and prepared it to attend to the challenges of tomorrow. Understanding how these events came to pass and their meaning for today's citizens will promote both political competence and civic engagement for future generations and is the purpose of this course.

### TOPIC: HISTORICAL THINKING AND SKILLS

*Students apply skills by utilizing a variety of resources to construct theses and support or refute contentions made by others. Alternative explanations of historical events are analyzed and questions of historical inevitability are explored.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

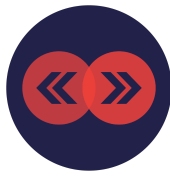
1. The use of primary and secondary sources of information includes an examination of the credibility of each source
2. Historians develop theses and use evidence to support or refute positions.
3. Historians analyze cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including multiple causations and long- and short-term causal relations.

### TOPIC: FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

*Some documents in American history have considerable importance for the development of the nation. Students use historical thinking to examine key documents which form the basis for the United States of America.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

4. The Declaration of Independence reflects an application of Enlightenment ideas, including social contract and natural rights, to the grievances of British subjects in the United States colonies.
5. The Northwest Ordinance elaborates on the rights and role of the people in building the foundations of the United States through its establishment of natural rights, including setting up educational institutions and outlawing slavery in the Northwest Territory.
6. The United States' Constitution established the foundations of the United States and the relationship between the people and their government while avoiding the failures of the Articles of Confederation.
7. The debate presented by the Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers over protections for individuals and limits on government power resulted in the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights provides constitutional protections for individual liberties and limits on governmental power.



### **TOPIC: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AMERICA AND THE ERA OF COLONIZATION**

*As Europeans began to colonize North America, the Indigenous Peoples who had called the land their home for centuries were faced with genocide, land removal, and forced assimilation. Despite this, the Indigenous Peoples of America have persevered and continue to fight for their land rights and equality to this day.*

#### **CONTENT STATEMENTS:**

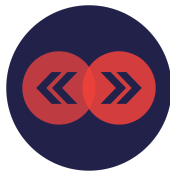
8. During the 19th century, the newly founded U.S. government enacted policies that led to the land removal and genocide of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures.
9. The ideology of Manifest Destiny was a contributing factor to the U.S. government's attempts to assimilate Indigenous Peoples to white European culture.
10. The Indigenous Peoples of Ohio had rich cultures, religions, and languages that can still be seen today through sacred land and landmarks that remain.

### **TOPIC: SLAVERY, THE CIVIL WAR, AND RECONSTRUCTION (1619 - 1877)**

*With the increasing organization of support from abolitionists and the constant horror of slavery, the United States began a battle against slavery. Violence between states grew into a complete opposition of the North part of the US versus the South. As the South pushed for slavery to continue, racism flourished on personal and systemic levels allowing for forms of slavery to be adapted into institutions within the country.*

#### **CONTENT STATEMENTS:**

11. From the 17th to the 19th century, Africans were forcibly removed from their homes and transported across the Atlantic to be sold to white landowners and exploited for economic and societal gain. The economics of slave labor established wealth for European generations to come.
12. Throughout the 19th century, abolitionists in the United States fought to end slavery. Ultimately, this conflict led to many southern states seceding and began the Civil War.
13. Post Civil War, the military occupied the South during a time referred to as Reconstruction. This period resulted in amendments to the United States Constitution as well as social and political changes throughout the South.
14. Although the war and slavery had ended, the ideology of white supremacy still raged within the United States while racial discrimination was institutionalized on federal, state, and local levels.



### TOPIC: INDUSTRIAL AMERICA (1870 - 1914)

*Fueled by technological advancements and demand, large-scale industrialization began in the United States during the late 1800s. Growing industries enticed foreign immigration, internal migration, fostered urbanization, gave rise to the American labor movement and developed the infrastructure that facilitated westward expansion on Tribal lands. A period of progressive reform emerged in response to political corruption and practices of big business.*

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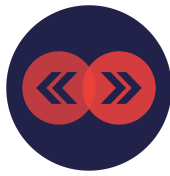
15. The rise of corporations, heavy industry, mechanized farming, and technological innovations transformed the U.S. economy from an agrarian to an increasingly urban industrial society.
16. The rise of industrialization led to a rapidly expanding workforce. Labor organizations grew amidst unregulated working conditions, laissez-faire policies toward big business, and violence toward supporters of organized labor.
17. Immigration, internal migration and urbanization transformed life in the U.S., led to increased racial tension, and intensified conflict between the U.S. government and The Indigenous Peoples of America.
18. The Progressive Era was an effort to address the ills of the United States society stemming from industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption.

### TOPIC: IMPERIALISM AND WORLD WAR I (1898 - 1920)

*The industrial and territorial expansion of the United States led to annexation overseas. As the United States gained global power the stage was set for American participation in World War I and attempts to preserve post-war peace.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

19. With the ideology of Manifest Destiny, the United States began to expand overseas by annexing multiple island countries as a part of their goal to compete with European countries for world power.
20. Post World War I, the United States worked with their allies to create policies that would maintain peace throughout the world. However, national debates over these policies pushed the United States away from the role of world peacekeeper and began a period of isolationism.



### **TOPIC: THE ROARING TWENTIES (1920 - 1929)**

*Following WW1 the US began to raise the standards of living largely because of the influx of wealth from the booming industry that created a middle class with disposable income manufactured by readily available jobs. It was also a time when Black citizens began to express themselves and create their own culture in the US. That continuous growth came to a screeching halt when the stock markets crashed in 1929.*

#### **CONTENT STATEMENTS:**

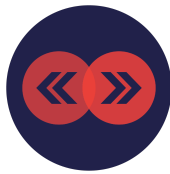
21. Anti immigrant attitudes, the Great Migration, and the Red Scare contributed to social unrest after World War I.
22. An improved standard of living combined with technological advancements resulted in social and cultural changes including economic growth.
23. Movements such as the Harlem Renaissance, women's suffrage, and Prohibition all contributed to social change.

### **TOPIC: THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL (1929 - 1939)**

*The Great Depression was the worst economic crisis seen in the history of the industrialized world. The crash of the stock market sent Wall Street investors into panic. Consumer spending decreased causing declines in output and increase in unemployment. At the height of the depression, nearly 15 million Americans were unemployed. The New Deal, passed through congressional laws and executive orders by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were a series of programs and projects aimed to restore the social and economic damage caused by The Great Depression. Programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, Securities and Exchange Comissions and the Social Security Act.*

#### **CONTENT STATEMENTS:**

24. The Great Depression, caused, in part, by the government's financial policies, stock market speculation, and increasing consumer debt, was the largest economic downturn in the industrialized United States. It had long lasting effects on society and disproportionately affected marginalized communities.
25. Direct and public communication and new federal assistance provided by the New Deal, led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, redefined the role of the federal government for United States citizens and recovery from the Great Depression.



### TOPIC: WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945)

*After World War I, the United States took an isolationist approach that diminished U.S. leadership in Foreign Affairs. However, the attack on Pearl Harbor ultimately pushed the United States back into international involvement. World War II brought not only global violence, but major social and economic changes to the United States. Marginalized groups continued to face mistreatment, while playing important roles in the war effort. This was seen in the Japanese Internment Camps, continued segregation and oppression of Black Americans within the military, and the struggle for equality women faced as they entered the workforce. This apparent treatment opened up opportunities and conversations in regard to inequality in the United States.*

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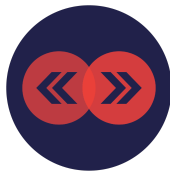
26. During the 1930s, the U.S. government attempted to distance the country from earlier interventionist policies in the Western Hemisphere as well as retain an isolationist approach to events in Europe and Asia until the beginning of World War II.
27. An attack by Japan at naval base Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II and caused a ripple effect of racism towards Japanese-Americans.
28. United States policy and mobilization of its economic and military resources during World War II affected American society. Despite mistreatment, marginalized groups played important roles in the war effort while continuing to protest unfair treatment.

### TOPIC: THE COLD WAR (1945 - 1991)

*The United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R) were left as international powers after World War II. The two countries were antithetic to each other, with the United States representing Capitalism and the U.S.S.R., Socialism. What emerged was an ideological battle between the countries: a “metaphorical” war named The Cold War because formal battles were not fought. However, the consequences of the ideological struggle were felt around the world, with each country having to choose a side. Very real and bloody wars did take place, though outside of the U.S. or the Soviet Union. The fear of Communism swept through the U.S. and had lasting effects.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

29. Use of atomic weapons by the United States brought the world to a new level of warfare and threat of destruction, changed the nature of war, altered the balance of power, and began the nuclear age.
30. The United States government fought to stop the spread of communism, both foreign and domestic, through various policies, treaties, and social efforts.
31. The United States chose to get involved in both the Vietnam and Korean wars to prevent the spread of communism. This influenced domestic and international policies and created controversy.
32. For decades, the United States and the Soviet Union competed in various ways to become the world superpower and prove either capitalism or communism to be dominant. Ultimately, the Soviet Union and other communist governments collapsed, bringing an end to the Cold War.



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### TOPIC: FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM (1945 - 1989)

*The ongoing push for progress to stop racial and social inequality continued in the United States' long and complicated history of racism and discrimination. Various groups and individuals mobilized and organized to build power and demand accountability from state and federal governments. Increased immigration and migration patterns called for a response from the federal government and dictated a change in the livelihoods of all citizens.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

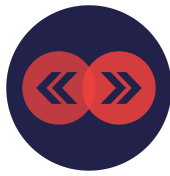
33. Segregation and racial intolerance created underlying systemic issues for the black and brown American communities.
34. After lifetimes of oppression, leaders called on the Black community to ban together, beginning the Civil Rights Movement and fighting for the extension of civil rights to all citizens.
35. Throughout the 20th century, The United States experienced various social and political movements for the extension of civil rights, serving a wide range of identities including racial, sexual, and gender equality.
36. The role of the federal government shifted in the handling of the economy, environmental affairs, social welfare and national security.
37. The continuing population flow from cities to suburbs, the internal migrations from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt, and the increase in immigration resulting from passage of the 1965 Immigration Act have had lasting social and political effects.

### TOPIC: THE NINETIES (1990 - 1999)

*The 1990's saw a rise in technology, globalization, and multiculturalism. United States involvement abroad altered future domestic and foreign policy. The racial divide between race and the criminal justice system raised across the nation. Increased urbanization led to many societal advances however also led to increased inequality.*

#### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

38. United States' involvements abroad in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia had monumental effects on domestic and foreign United States Policy for years to come.
39. The negative relationship between race and the criminal justice system in the 1990's led to an exponential increase in the targeting of minorities and furthered the racial divide in the United States.
40. The expansion of global trade, production, and interconnectedness has led to many technological and societal advances but have also led to increased poverty and inequality amongst Americans.



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### TOPIC: A NEW MILLENIUM (2000 - 2020)

*In the most recent era of United States history, the country faced a series of political, economic and social changes affecting both foreign and domestic policies. The state and federal government are seeing change as the citizens continue to fight for social equality and representation. As the citizens and the state/federal government continue to put forth the efforts to remain affluent on a global scale, the political and social challenges faced lead to more advancement each day.*

### CONTENT STATEMENTS:

41. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the United States government responded by enacting both foreign and domestic policies that had major global consequences.
42. The United States faces an ongoing series of economic, political, and social challenges following the post-Cold War Era and post-September 11, 2001
43. The fight for social equality continues with the continuing debate between the role of the state and federal government in political and social affairs.