TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES—MTSU

PRIMARY SOURCE SET: The Industrial Revolution to the Contemporary World

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Starting with the age of revolution, the high school world history course draws us forward to the contemporary world. This course will explore revolution both political and technological, the rise and fall of imperialism in many areas of the world, wars, and the impact of globalization.

From the age of revolution, students will compare and contrast the differences between revolutions in European countries such as France, Spain, and Great Britain to the American revolution. Then, they will tackle the Industrial Revolution and explore its origin and impact. The Industrial Revolution will lead into the age of imperialism as western nations sought out cheap natural resources and expanded spheres of influence. Colonized nations struggled against imperial rule and sought independence which in many areas of the world was not achieved until the later half of the twentieth century.

The World Wars brought destruction and death but also heralded technological advances. Both wars changed the political landscape in large areas of the world and had long-term consequences that are still felt today. Coming out of WWII, the Cold War impacted almost every corner of the globe as newly independent nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America decided what form their new governments would take and what superpowers, if any, they would choose as allies. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the contemporary world faces challenges such as globalization, nationalism, and terrorism.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- World Digital Library
- World History Links Guide
- American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789
- Industrial Revolution Primary Source Set
- September 11, 2001, Documentary Project
- Cold War Newsletter

"Et tu, Brute!" [1902]

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

With the shift in standards from geography to World History and Geography, high school teachers are in great need of resources to cover the additional material. Therefore, this primary source set is geared towards the high school World History and Geography curriculum standards. The curricular units, such as “Unification and Imperialism 1850-1914” and “World Wars 1914-1945” are retained here in the subheadings, one per page, and follow the order in the standards. High school teachers can use this set throughout the year as they cover different civilizations and events.

Due to the nature of Library of Congress collections and copyright considerations, more current materials may be found through blog posts and exhibitions.
Age of Revolution 1750-1850

Haiti - Revolution, 1791-1804
Revenge taken by the Black Army for the cruelties practised...by the French [1805]

The French revolution: burning the royal carriages at the Chateau d'Eu, Feby. 24, 1848 [ca. 1848]

Sublime and beautiful reflections on the French revolution, or the man in the moon at large [1790]

Thomas Jefferson, June 1776,
Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence [1776]

Jean Jacques Rousseau, 1712-1778
[1793]

Title page and dedication page of A Vindication of the Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft (Boston, 1792); Dedication page is handwritten: "Presented to the Library of Congress by a great admirer of this earliest work for woman's right to equality...ever penned by a woman... (signed) Susan B. Anthony, Rochester, N.Y., Jan 1, 1904" [1792]

Title page of John Locke, Two Treatises of Government (London, 1690) [1690]
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION 1750-1914

Title page of On the origin of species [1859]

Portrait of Charles Darwin [ca. 1870]

William Wilberforce, Esq. M.P. - The abolitionist [ca. 1884]

Cotton Gin, the machine invented by Eli Whitney, for ginning cotton, politely sent to us from the U.S. Patent Office [1823]

Thomas Edison and his original dynamo, Edison Works, Orange, N.J., U.S.A. [ca. 1906]

Mrs. Langdon Stewardson requests funds for National Child Labor Committee [1905]

New map of the Union Pacific Railway, the short, quick and safe line to all points west [1883]
UNIFICATION AND IMPERIALISM 1850-1914

“After you” [1867; Bismarck and Napoleon]

Rudyard Kipling, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right [ca. 1899]

The Japanese imperial family [1900]

The Philippines, Porto [sic] Rico, and Cuba - Uncle Sam’s Burden (with apologies to Mr. Kipling) [ca. 1903]

Gen. Pancho Villa [ca. 1910]
**WORLD WARS 1914-1945**

HQ Twelfth Army Group situation map : [Battle of the Bulge--France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany] / prepared by the Engineer Section 12th Army Group. [1944-1945]

Letter, Franklin D. Roosevelt to J. Robert Oppenheimer thanking the physicist and his colleagues for their ongoing secret atomic research, 29 June 1943. [1943]

Stage women's war relief [1918]

Aerial view of Hiroshima after the bomb. [1946]

Moscow, [Bullet-pocked building], Results of the fighting. [1917-1918]
Official pictures of meeting of Stalin, Churchill, Harriman. These are the first official pictures released in the United States of the recent meetings of Premier I.V. Stalin, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Britain; and W. Averell Harriman, representing President Roosevelt. The three men met in the middle of August, 1942, at the request of the Soviet leader, and held a series of conversations concerned with the future conduct of the war. Also present was V.M. Molotov, Peoples' Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The meetings lasted four days. Churchill making address over radio while Russian officials look on at Moscow civil airport. Left to right, foreground: Molotov, Churchill, Harriman [1942]

Joseph Stalin, Secretary-general of the Communist party of Soviet Russia [1942]

“This Hurts Me More Than It Hurts You!” [1962]

Crimean Conference--Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Marshal Joseph Stalin at the palace in Yalta, where the Big Three met [1945]

For more Cold War Resources:

- Cold War Newsletter
- Cold War Links Guide
- Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) Cold War Collection
Skyline of Manhattan with smoke billowing from the Twin Towers following September 11th terrorist attack on World Trade Center, New York City [2001]

Notices and pictures of missing persons posted on a city mailbox following the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, New York City [2001]

Brick by brick-- together you can build a new Afghanistan [2001-2002]

My Country Tis of Thee [2001]

America has provided over $170 million in aid to Afghanistan ... [2001-2002]

No No [2001]