TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES—MTSU
PRIMARY SOURCE SET: United States History from 1850 to Present

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Attempts at reform the United States after the devastation of the Civil War came during the turn of the century as populist farmers rebelled against magnates’ control over railroad rates, unionized workers rioted against unfair labor practices, urban progressives campaigned for public health and political reform, and women marched for suffrage. The reform spirit peaked in America’s effort to “make the world safe for democracy” in World War I.

The postwar years brought prosperity and popular culture only to be followed a decade later by crippling depression. New Deal programs attempted to buoy Americans, but prosperity would not return until after World War II. Economic renewal brought political conservatism as Americans forced down dissenting voices in a “cold war” arms and space race with their once socialist ally, the Soviet Union.

Young people responded to this suppression with a counterculture movement against the establishment that culminated in anti-war protests against the Vietnam War; black Americans responded to decades of suppression during the Civil Rights Movement; and Eastern Europeans revolted against Soviet control in a series of nationalist movements that climaxed with the destruction of the Berlin Wall.

The idea of equality continued to grow in the twenty-first century as Americans elected Barack Obama, the nation’s first president from a minority group.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS:

The number of resources available on this period of history exhausted the space allotted to contain them. To use these sources effectively, try combining sources for student analysis, as individuals or groups, as part of class discussion or document-based writing assignments. Examine several industrial age cartoons for a commentary on the entire age; compare sources on W.E.B. Du Bois to Booker T. Washington; listen or read oral histories; and review the preassembled topical source sets on the additional links.

As you move into the study of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, photographs become more common. Analyze the photographs and think about: what were these people doing, why were they where they were at, are these photograph staged and taken to emphasize someone or something and, if so, why?
THE RISE OF INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1877-1900:

"How the other half lives" in a crowded Hebrew district, Lower East Side, N.Y. City [c. 1907]

Additional Links:
- The Industrial Revolution in the United States (Primary Source Set)
- How The Other Half Lives
- Life in America for New Immigrants (Lesson Plan)
- The Land of Opportunity vs. Nativism (Lesson Plan)
- Immigration in America (Primary Source Set)
- The Devil Baby: A Story of Immigration in America (Lesson Plan)
- Andrew Carnegie – Man of Steel

Before the Trojan horse is admitted the puzzled citizen will have to be shown a little more fully [1909]

The "BRAINS" that achieved the Tammany victory at the Rochester Democratic Convention [1871]

"Busted!" [1899]
The Progressive Era, 1890-1920:


Additional Links:
- The Souls of Black Folk
- Booker T. Washington and the Atlanta Compromise
- Two Sides of the Same Coin—Booker T. Washington vs. W.E.B. DuBois on Education (Lesson Plan)
- The colored American., July 04, 1903, Page 14, Image 14
- Progressive Era Links Guide

Booker T. Washington, by R. V. Randolph, Seattle, 1913. [1913]

I feed you all! [c.1875]

A bear was on the engine of the President's Special, it was in a bad humor and snarled viciously at the President when he went near it. [1903]

Illinois - The anarchist-labor troubles in Chicago. The police charging the murderous rioters in old Haymarket Square on the night of May 4th. [1886]

Deserting the old idol [1899]

Gompers, Samuel. President, A.F. of L. 'Wets' Demn. at Capitol. [c.1919]
The Progressive Era, 1890-1920:

- The yellow pest - putting its nose into everything [1898]
- The sky is now her limit [1920]
- Theodore Roosevelt in Rough Riders uniform [c.1890-1900, printed c.1927]
- Woodrow Wilson [c.1913]
- U.S. Marines in France Digging in [c.1917-1919]
- Sgt. Alvin C. York
- Where’s my Square Deal? [1905]

Additional Links:
- The commoner., October 14, 1910, Image 1
- The "march of the flag," beginning of greater America (1898]
- Mark Twain
- The Progressive Era (Primary Source Set)
- Progressive Era to New Era (1900-1929)
- The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire (Lesson Plan)
- Childhood Lost: Child Labor in the United States, 1830-1930 (Lesson Plan)
- Women’s Suffrage Movement Across America (Primary Source Set)
- Civil Disobedience and the National Woman’s Party (Lesson Plan)
- A More Perfect Union: Women’s Suffrage and the Constitution (Lesson Plan)
- The Progressive Movement: Life as a Muckraker (Lesson Plan)
- Mountain Dew: Prohibition in America (Lesson Plan)
IMPERIALISM AND WORLD WAR I, 1890-1920:

Destruction of the “Maine”. Havana Harbor, Cuba, Spanish-American War 1898 [1912]

Additional Links:
- Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I (Exhibition)
- Topics in Chronicling America: The Zimmerman Telegram
- Imperialism (Primary Source Set)
- The Spanish-American War: The United States Becomes a World Power (Primary Source Set)
- America and World War I (Primary Source Set)
- World War I (Collection)
- World War I (Primary Source Set)
- Wilson’s Fourteen Points
- TPS Newsletter: Imperialism

The Zimmerman Telegram as received by the German Ambassador to Mexico [1917]

The fruits of victory [c.1918]
The 1920s, 1920-1929:

- Portrait of F. Scott Fitzgerald [1937]
- Portrait of Langston Hughes [1936]
- Ida B. Wells, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing slightly right [1891]
- West Front, general view from northwest - Union Gospel Tabernacle, 116 Fifth Avenue, North, Nashville, Davidson County, TN
- Charleston at the Capitol [c.1920-1930]
- Louis Armstrong, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing left, playing trumpet [1953]

Three baseball stars here for the World Series. L. to R: George Sisler, Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb [1924]

Additional Links:
- Today in History: February 1
- Chicago: Destination for the Great Migration (Exhibition)
- Woman Journalist Crusades Against Lynching
- Today in History: May 5
- Baseball (Primary Source Set)
- The 1920s (Primary Source Set)
Group (Bonus Army?) in front of U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. [1932]

Migrant mother with child, near Harlingen, Texas [1939]

Dust bowl farmers of west Texas in town [1937]

Dwellers in Circleville’s Hooverville,” central Ohio [1938]

Automobiles. Automobiles in a full parking lot [c.1920s-1950s]

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]

Carpenter at work on Douglas Dam, Tennessee (TVA) [1942]

Additional Links:
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt First Inauguration, March 4, 1933
- FDR Library and Museum
- The Grapes of Wrath: Scrapbooks and Artifacts
- September 2014 MTSU TPS Newsletter: Tennessee Valley Authority
- American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940
- “A Necessary War”; December 1941-December 1942
- “Pride of Our Nation” June 1944 - August 1944
- “A World Without War”; March 1945 - December 1945
- Causes of the Great Depression (Primary Source Set)
- Investigating an Icon of the Great Depression: The Migrant Mother (Lesson Plan)
- Great Depression and the New Deal (Primary Source Set)
- New Deal Critics (Lesson Plan)
- Comparing & Contrasting Communities: Cumberland Homesteads, TN & Skyline Farms, AL (Lesson Plan)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (Primary Source Set)
WORLD WAR II, 1936–1945:

- FDR [1935]

Wreckage of the USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii [1941]

Mess line, noon, Manzanar Relocation Center, California [1943]

New Britain, Connecticut, Women Welders at the Landers, Frary, and Clark Plant [1943]

Photograph of several Tuskegee airmen at Ramitelli, Italy, March, 1945 [1945]

Second atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan [1945]

Additional Links:

- Great Depression and World War II, 1929–1945 (Timeline)
- World War II (Primary Source Set)
- African American Involvement in World War II (Lesson Plan)
- They Blazed a Trail in the Air... The Tuskegee Airmen
- Oral Histories and Historical Memory: The Experiences of Soldiers in the Second World War (Lesson Plan)
- The Double V Campaign (Lesson Plan)
- Choosing the Secret City: The Creation and Importance of Oak Ridge, Tennessee (Lesson Plan)
- WWII & the Atomic Bomb News Project (Lesson Plan)
- Rosie the Riveter: Real Women Workers in World War II
- On the Homefront (Activity)
- After the Day in Infamy: “Man on the Street” Interviews Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor (Collection)

THE COLD WAR, 1947-1991:

Lyndon B. Johnson, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing left [1964]

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, separated by heavy wire screen as they leave U.S. Court House after being found guilty by jury [1951]

John F. Kennedy motorcade, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 22, 1963 [1963]

Large crowd at a National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam direct action demonstration, Washington, D.C. [1967]

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir standing with president Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, outside the White House [1973]

A man and a woman watching a film footage of the Vietnam war on a television in their living room [1968]

Anti-Vietnam war protest and demonstration in front of the White House in support of singer Eartha Kitt [1968]

Additional Links:
- LBJ Presidential Library
- The Postwar United States, 1945-1968 (Timeline)
- The “Forgotten War” Remembered
- Military Resources: Korean War
- Cold War: PostWar Estrangement
- For European Recovery: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan
- Churchill and the Great Republic Cold War and Long Sunset
- November 2013 MTSU Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter: The Cold War
- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
- John F. Kennedy Inauguration, January 20, 1961
- Robert Frost Reads Poem at JFK's Inauguration: January 20, 1961
- Tim O'Brien: Bookfest 02
- Palmer Raids and the Red Scare (Lesson Plan)
- Investigating the Relationship between Harry Truman and Douglas MacArthur (Lesson Plan)
- Vietnam War (Primary Source Set)
- Experiencing War (Photo Collection)
A NATION IN TRANSITION, 1950s-1963:

National system of interstate and defense highways: as of June, 1958 [1958]

Dwight D. Eisenhower [c.1954]

Folklore music map of the United States from the Primer of American Music [1946]

Additional Links:

- America’s Library: Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Dwight D. Eisenhower: Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home
- The American Dream (Lesson Plan)
- Performing Arts: Music & Dance (Primary Source Set)
- Performing Arts: The Stage & Screen (Primary Source Set)
- Hope for America: Performers, Politics, and Pop Culture (Exhibition)
- Moving Image Section—Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recording Sound Division (Collection)

Sun Records Studio, Memphis, Tennessee [2008]

Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Memphis, Tennessee [2008]
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1950s–1960s

Additional Links:
- The Media and 20th-Century Race Riots: Causes and Consequences (Lesson Plan)
- The Road to Brown v. Board of Education (Lesson Plan)
- With an Even Hand: Brown v. Board at Fifty (Exhibition)
- The Little Rock Nine (Lesson Plan)
- Civil Rights History Project (Collection)
- The NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom (Primary Source Set)
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom (Exhibition)
- Segregation: From Jim Crow to Linda Brown (Lesson Plan)
- Rosa Parks: A Primary Source Gallery
- Rosa Parks Papers (Collection)
- Looking Back at the Bus Boycott (Blog)
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Caesar Chavez

Martin Luther King Press conf. [1965]

Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee [2006]

Martin Luther King and Malcolm X waiting for press conference [1964]

Clinton, TN, School integration conflicts [1956]

Back cover of Jackie Robinson comic book [c.1951]

Why Should We March? [1941]

Governor George Wallace attempting to block integration at the University of Alabama [1963]

In front of 170 W 130 St., March on Washington... [1963]

Rosa Parks [1956]
THE MODERN UNITED STATES, 1960s–Present

Additional Links:
- Presidents of the United States: Resource Guides
- Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
- Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum
- The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum
- Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute
- George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Center
- William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum
- U.S. Presidential Inaugurations: Richard M. Nixon – William J. Clinton
- America’s Story: Panama Canal Treaty
- Experiencing War: The Persian Gulf War

Richard M. Nixon
[c. 1969-1974]


Pres. Carter makes an announcement on aborted Iran rescue [1980]

Panama Canal Treaty — White House dinner [1977]

President Jimmy Carter at press conference, surrounded by journalist [1977]

First Lady Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton at the 1997 dedication of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. [1997]

Ronald Reagan [1981]

Chief Justice William Rehnquist administering the oath of office to George Bush on the west front of the U.S. Capitol [1989]
THE MODERN UNITED STATES, 1960s-PRESENT

President Bush poses for his official portrait in the Roosevelt Room (blue tie) [2003]

Sandra Day O'Connor [c.1981-1983]


Official portrait of President Barack Obama in Oval Office [2012]

Collection of unattributed photographs of the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, New York City [2001]

TEXTS & ADDITIONAL LINKS

- Presidents of the United States: Resource Guides
- U.S. Presidential Inaugurations: George W. Bush
- George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- U.S. Presidential Inaugurations: Barack Obama
- Barack Obama Presidential Library
- United States Elections Web Archives
- Colin Powell (Biography)
- Deciding on War in Iraq: Institutional Failures
- September 11th, 2001, A Documentary Project
- Remembering 9/11
- 9/11 Memorial & Museum
- World Trade Center Memorial (Archived Website)
- Experiencing War: The Global War on Terror
CITATIONS: United States History from 1850-Present

Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:


THE RISE OF INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1877-1900:


Bradley, Luther Daniels. “Before the Trojan horse is admitted the puzzled citizen will have to be shown a little more fully.” India ink over pencil, with scraping out on bristol board. February 3, 1909. From Library of Congress, Cartoon Drawings: Swann Collection of Caricature and Cartoon. http://www.loc.gov/item/2009616338/


THE PROGRESSIVE ERA, 1890-1920:


De Mar, J.L. “A bear was on the engine of the President's Special, it was in a bad humor and snarled viciously at the President when he went near it.” Illustration. 1903. From Library of Congress, Miscellaneous Items in High Demand. http://www.loc.gov/item/2010645530/


THE PROGRESSIVE ERA, 1890-1920:
United States Signal Corps, photographer. “U.S. Marines in France Digging in. Training for modern warfare consists mostly in digging one trench after another, and our boys, realizing the importance of this training, go at it with a will.” Photograph. 1917-1919. From Library of Congress, Miscellaneous Items in High Demand. [http://www.loc.gov/item/2013649103/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2013649103/)

IMPERIALISM AND WORLD WAR I, 1890-1920:
**THE 1920s, 1920-1929:**


**THE GREAT DEPRESSION & THE NEW DEAL, 1929-1941:**


WORLD WAR II, 1936-1945:


THE COLD WAR, 1947-1991:


A NATION IN TRANSITION, 1950s-1963:


CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1950S-1960S:


“Why Should We March?”. Print. 1941. From Library of Congress: Manuscript Division. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=ody_mssmisc&fileName=ody/ody0808/ody0808page.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/aaodyssey:@field(NUMBER+@band(mssmisc+ody0808))&linkText=0


THE MODERN UNITED STATES, 1960s-PRESENT:


