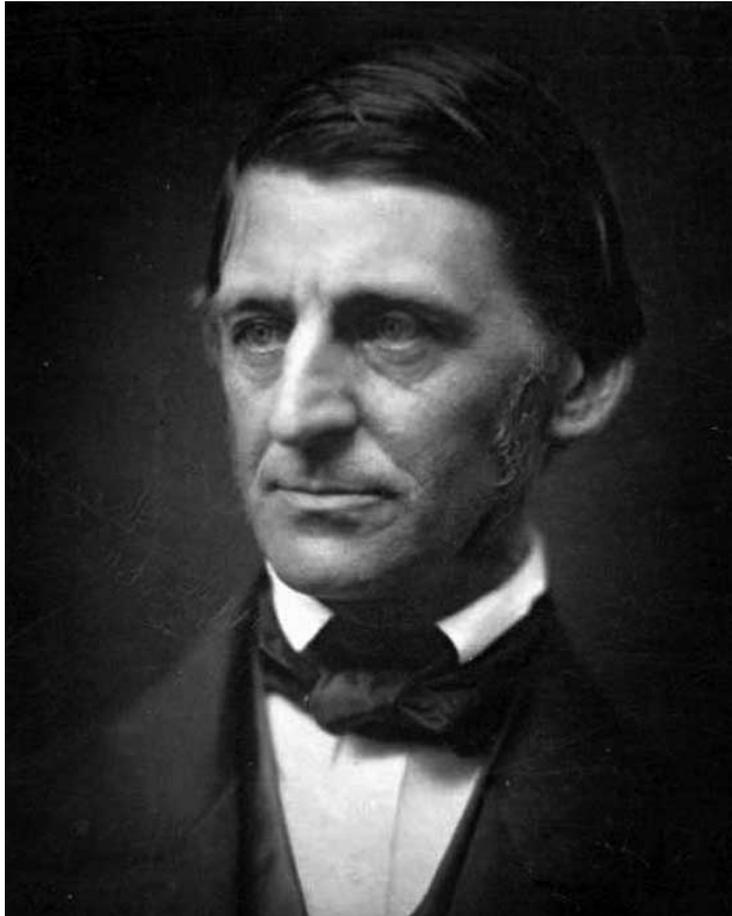


1830s-40s

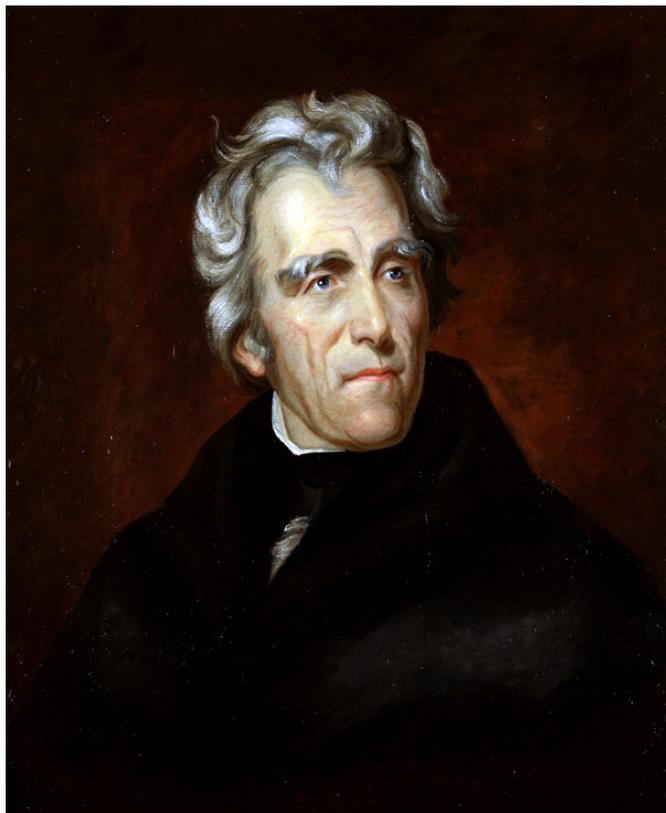
# Ralph Waldo Emerson



Philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson leads the Transcendentalist movement, stressing themes of nature, self-reliance, and a new American expression free of the “courtly muses” of Europe.

# 1828-50

## Jacksonian Democracy



The election of Andrew Jackson in 1828 ushered in a period of greater democracy for the “common man” by promoting greater public participation in government.

# 1830s – early 1900s

## The Minstrel Show



The most popular form of entertainment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the minstrel show featured whites “blacking up” their faces and presenting a series of songs, jokes and skits based on demeaning stereotypes of African Americans.

# 1861

## Civil War



Humboldt State University

*“The Civil War is the central event in America's historical consciousness. The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution:*

- *whether the United States was to be... an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and*
- *whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created equal, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world.”*

-Historian James McPherson

# 1863

## Battle of Gettysburg



Library of Congress

Over 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing in a brutal battle. Four months later President Lincoln dedicates the battlefield with his immortal "Gettysburg Address."

*...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

# 1865

## Turning Points



Funeral Procession of Abraham Lincoln. Library of Congress.

Abraham Lincoln is assassinated; he is succeeded by Andrew Johnson. The Civil War ends, Reconstruction begins, and the 13th Amendment abolishes slavery.

# 1866

## Ku Klux Klan



Library of Congress

The Ku Klux Klan is formed by ex-Confederate soldiers with the goal of overthrowing Republican state governments in the south using violence against African American leaders.

# 1892

## A Growing Nation



Library of Congress

Ellis Island becomes a gateway for the nation's immigrants; more than half a million are arriving each year. By 1900, the U.S. population tops 75,000,000.

# 1896

## **“Separate but Equal” becomes the law of the land**

**United States Supreme Court**

**PLESSY v. FERGUSON, (1896)**

**No. 210**

**Argued: Decided: May 18, 1896**

*We consider the underlying fallacy of the plaintiff's argument to consist in the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority... If the two races are to meet upon terms of social equality, it must be the result of natural affinities, a mutual appreciation of each other's merits, and a voluntary consent of individuals.*

# 1909

## A Crusade for Civil Rights



The NAACP is founded to promote equality under the law in response to the practice of lynching and widespread discrimination in housing, employment, and education.

# 1914-18

## World War I

### “The Great War”



*“... this worldwide festival of death, this ugly rotting fever  
that inflames the rainy evening sky all round”*

– Thomas Mann

The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand plunges the world into a bloody, senseless, and prolonged war.

# 1917

## Cultural Exchange



The US entry into World War I precipitates a vibrant cultural dialogue. Many Europeans are exposed to American popular music for the first time.

# 1917

## Russian Revolution



history.com

Russian Czar Nicholas II is forced to abdicate, followed several months later by a Bolshevik government led by Vladimir Lenin. the last Russian czar.

# 1920s

## Sweeping Cultural Change



**“The Jazz Age”**

**Birth of Radio**

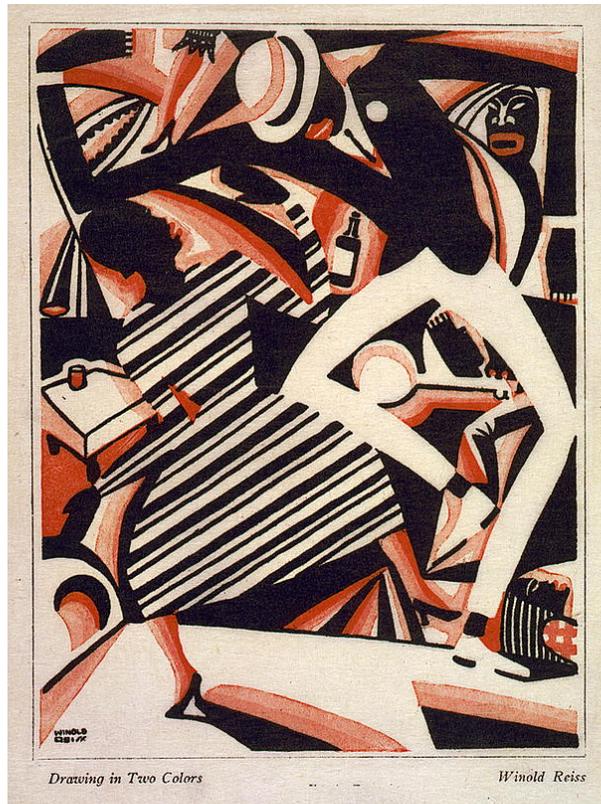
**Widespread use of automobiles**

**Prohibition**

**Women’s Suffrage**

# 1920s

## Harlem Renaissance



“The Great Migration” brings over 200,000 African Americans to the area of New York City north of Central Park. Harlem becomes the capital of a cultural phenomenon that introduces millions of Americans to figures such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Duke Ellington.

# 1929 - 1941

## The Great Depression



Bread line in the Bowery New York City. Library of Congress

The stock market crashes, sending the economy into depression. Millions depend on soup lines for basic sustenance.

# 1934

## *Der Führer*



Adolf Hitler declares himself  
"Führer" (leader).

# 1938

## *Kristallnacht*



The Nazis break out windows of Jewish-owned shops, ushering in a brutal repression of Jewish Civil liberties.

*Mob law ruled in Berlin throughout the afternoon and evening and hordes of hooligans indulged in an orgy of destruction... I saw fashionably dressed women clapping their hands and screaming with glee, while respectable middle-class mothers held up their babies to see the "fun".*

Carleton Greene, Hugh. *Daily Telegraph*, 11 November 1938 cited in "The Road to World War II", Western New England College.

# 1939-45



Charred remains of corpses near crematoria in the Majdanek camp.  
United States Holocaust Museum

Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II. The United States enters the war after the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor on December 7.

As the war in Europe winds down and the Nazi death camps are liberated, the extent and horror of the Holocaust are revealed.

# 1945

## A Frightening New Weapon



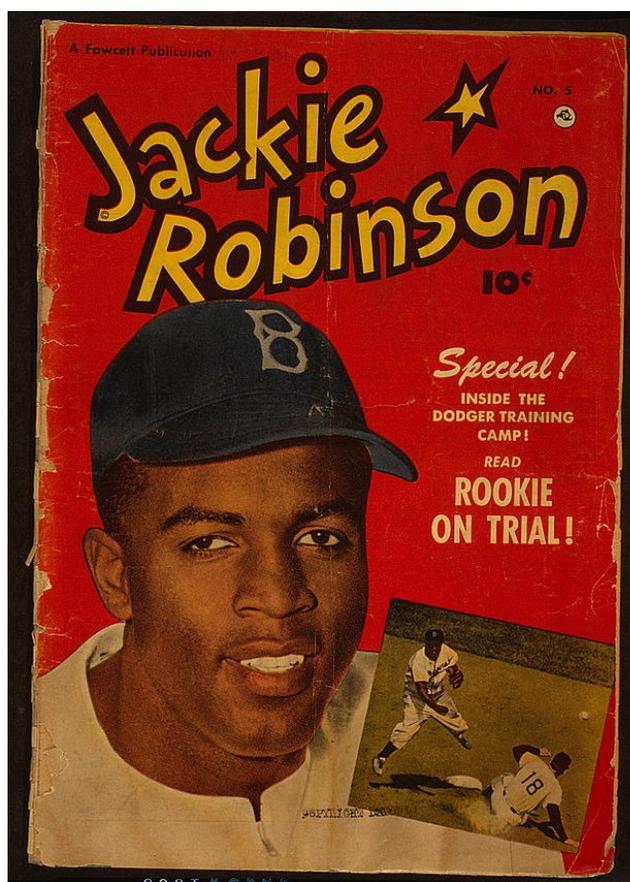
newyorker.com

Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki bring the war to a close.

*We saw Hiroshima today—or what little is left of it. We were so shocked with what we saw that most of us felt like weeping; not out of sympathy for the Japs but because we were revolted by this new and terrible form of destruction. . . The sickly sweet smell of death is everywhere. — Life editor Wilson Hicks*

# 1947

## Civil Rights Breakthrough



Library of Congress

Jackie Robinson signs with the Los Angeles Dodgers to become the first African American to play Major League Baseball.

# 1950

## “Red Scare”



countercurrents.com

Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee begin investigations targeting thousands of citizens suspected of ties to Communist party.

*The junior senator from Wisconsin, by his reckless charges, has so preyed upon the fears and hatreds and prejudices of the American people that he has started a prairie fire which neither he nor anyone else may be able to control. -- James William Fulbright*

# 1954

## Overturing “separate but equal”

United States Supreme Court  
**BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION, (1954)**

No. 10

Argued: December 9, 1952

Decided: May 17, 1954

*Segregation of white and Negro children in the public schools of a State solely on the basis of race, pursuant to state laws permitting or requiring such segregation, denies to Negro children the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment - even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors of white and Negro schools may be equal.*

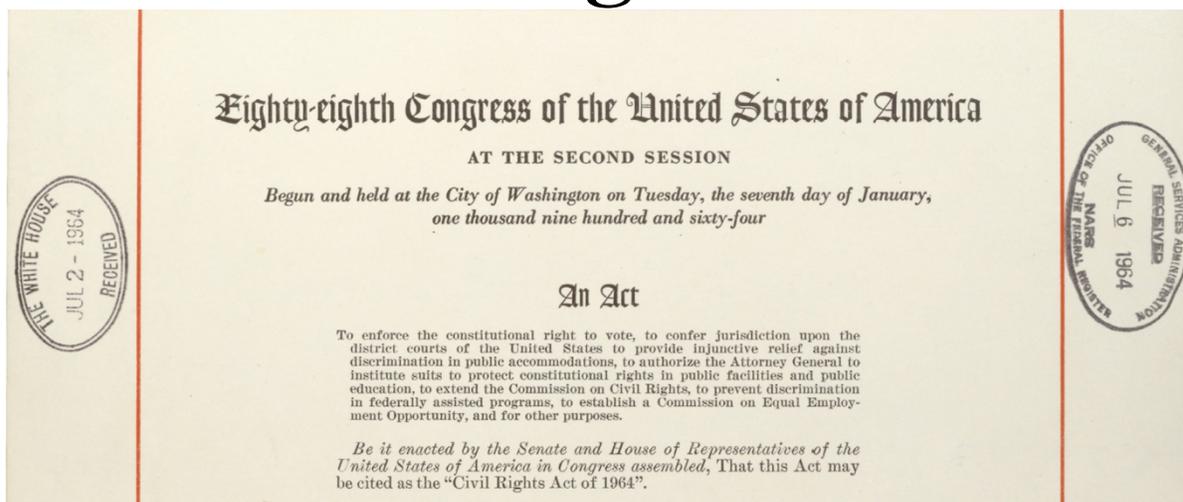
# 1963

## “I have a dream”



On August 28, over 200,000 join the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King declares, "I have a dream."

# 1964 Civil Rights Act



The Civil Rights Act is passed, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

# 1967

## Vietnam War Protests



50,000 march on the Pentagon to protest Vietnam War, including an increasingly vocal segment of the African American population.

# 1957



Composer Ned Rorem composes settings of Walt Whitman's war poetry, dedicated *"to those who died in Vietnam, both sides, during the composition: 20-30 June 1969."*

# 1995



Composer Ricky Ian Gordon sets “Song for a Dark Girl” by Langston Hughes.

# 1992



Composer Richard Pearson Thomas sets “I Never Saw a Moor” by Emily Dickinson.

# 1959



Composer Margaret Bonds sets  
“Minstrel Man” by Langston Hughes.