

## U. S. History Timeline 1950 - 1974

1950 - 53	<p><b>Korean War:</b> Cold war conflict between Communist and non-Communist forces on Korean Peninsula. North Korean communists invade South Korea (June 25, 1950). President Truman, without the approval of Congress, commits American troops to battle (June 27). President Truman removes Gen. Douglas MacArthur as head of U.S. Far East Command (April 11, 1951). Armistice agreement is signed (July 27, 1953).</p>
1950 - 75	<p><b>Vietnam War:</b> Prolonged conflict between Communist forces of North Vietnam, backed by China and the USSR, and non-Communist forces of South Vietnam, backed by the United States. President Truman authorizes \$15 million in economic and military aid to the French, who are fighting to retain control of French Indochina, including Vietnam. As part of the aid package, Truman also sends 35 military advisers (May 1950). North Vietnamese torpedo boats allegedly attack U.S. destroyer in Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of North Vietnam (Aug. 2, 1964). Congress approves Gulf of Tonkin resolution, authorizing President Johnson to take any measures necessary to defend U.S. forces and prevent further aggression (Aug. 7). U.S. planes begin bombing raids of North Vietnam (Feb. 1965). First U.S. combat troops arrive in South Vietnam (March 8–9). North Vietnamese army and Viet Cong launch Tet Offensive, attacking Saigon and other key cities in South Vietnam (Jan.–Feb. 1968). American soldiers kill 300 Vietnamese villagers in My Lai massacre (March 16). U.S. troops invade Cambodia (May 1, 1970). Representatives of North and South Vietnam, the Viet Cong, and the U.S. sign a cease-fire agreement in Paris (Jan. 27, 1973). Last U.S. troops leave Vietnam (March 29). South Vietnamese government surrenders to North Vietnam; U.S. embassy Marine guards and last U.S. civilians are evacuated (April 30, 1975).</p>
1951	<p><b>Twenty-Second Amendment</b> to the Constitution is ratified, limiting the president to two terms (Feb. 27). President Truman speaks in first coast-to-coast live television broadcast (Sept. 4).</p>
1952	<p><b>Puerto Rico</b> becomes a U.S. commonwealth (July 25). First <b>hydrogen bomb</b> is detonated by the U.S. on <b>Eniwetok</b>, an atoll in the Marshall Islands (Nov. 1).</p>
1953	<p>Dwight Eisenhower is inaugurated as the 34th president (Jan. 20). Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed for passing secret information about U.S. atomic weaponry to the Soviets (June 19).</p>
1954	<p><b>Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy</b> accuses army officials, members of the media, and other public figures of being Communists in highly publicized hearings (April 22–June 17). <b><i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans.</i></b>: <b>Landmark Supreme Court decision</b> declares that racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional (May 17).</p>
1957	<p>Eisenhower's second inauguration (<b>Jan. 21</b>). President sends federal troops to Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., to enforce integration of black students (<b>Sept. 24</b>).</p>
1958	<p><b><i>Explorer I</i></b>, first American satellite, is launched (<b>Jan. 31</b>).</p>
1959	<p>Alaska becomes the 49th state (<b>Jan. 3</b>) and Hawaii becomes the 50th (<b>Aug. 21</b>).</p>
1961	<p>U.S. severs diplomatic relations with Cuba (Jan. 3). John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th president (Jan. 20). <b>Bay of Pigs</b> invasion of Cuba fails (April 17–20). A mixed-race group of volunteers sponsored by the Committee on Racial Equality—the so-called Freedom Riders—travel on buses through the South in order to protest racially segregated interstate bus facilities (May).</p>

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1963	<p>Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech before a crowd of 200,000 during the civil rights march on Washington, DC (Aug. 28).</p> <p>President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Tex. (Nov. 22). He is succeeded in office by his vice president, Lyndon B. Johnson.</p>
1964	<p>President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act (July 2). In his annual state of the Union address, President Johnson proposes his <b>Great Society</b> program (Jan. 4).</p> <p>L. Johnson's second inauguration (Jan. 20).</p> <p>State troopers attack peaceful demonstrators led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., as they try to cross bridge in Selma, Ala. (March 7).</p> <p>President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits discriminatory voting practices (Aug. 6).</p> <p>In six days of rioting in Watts, a black section of Los Angeles, 35 people are killed and 883 injured (Aug. 11–16).</p>
1966	<p><b>Miranda v. Arizona:</b> Landmark Supreme Court decision further defines due process clause of Fourteenth Amendment and establishes Miranda rights (June 13).</p>
1967	<p><b>Twenty-Fifth Amendment</b> to the Constitution is ratified, outlining the procedures for filling vacancies in the presidency and vice presidency (Feb. 10).</p>
1968	<p>Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. (April 4). Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles, Calif. (June 5–6).</p>
1969	<p>Richard Nixon is inaugurated as the 37th president (Jan. 20).</p> <p>Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, Jr., become the first men to land on the Moon (July 20).</p>
1970	<p>Four students are shot to death by National Guardsmen during an antiwar protest at Kent State University (May 1). The <b>Twenty-Sixth Amendment</b> to the Constitution is ratified, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 (July 1).</p>
1971	<p>Nixon makes historic visit to Communist China (Feb. 21–27). U.S. and Soviet Union sign strategic arms control agreement known as SALT I (May 26).</p> <p>Five men, all employees of Nixon's reelection campaign, are caught breaking into rival Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, DC (June 17).</p>
1973	<p>Nixon's second inauguration (Jan. 20). <b>Roe v. Wade:</b> Landmark Supreme Court decision legalizes abortion in first trimester of pregnancy (Jan. 22).</p> <p>Senate Select Committee begins televised hearings to investigate <b>Watergate</b> cover-up (May 17–Aug. 7). Vice President <b>Spiro T. Agnew</b> resigns over charges of corruption and income tax evasion (Oct. 10).</p> <p>President Nixon nominates Gerald R. Ford as vice president (Oct. 12). Ford is confirmed by Congress and sworn in (Dec. 6). He is the first vice president to succeed to the office under the terms laid out by the Twenty-Fifth Amendment.</p>
1974	<p>House Judiciary Committee recommends to full House that Nixon be impeached on grounds of obstruction of justice, abuse of power, and contempt of Congress (July 27–30). Nixon resigns; he is succeeded in office by his vice president, Gerald Ford (Aug. 9). Nixon is granted an unconditional pardon by President Ford (Sept. 8). Five former Nixon aides go on trial for their involvement in the Watergate cover-up (Oct. 15); H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and John Mitchell eventually serve time in prison.</p> <p>Nelson Rockefeller is confirmed and sworn in as vice president (Dec. 19).</p>