

U.S. HISTORY: 1865 TO THE PRESENT

STUDY GUIDE – POST-WWII

CHANGES – 2023 STANDARDS

Key changing patterns of society during the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries

STANDARD USII.8A – THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA (1950s–1960s)

- a. *examine the contributions of key leaders and events during the **Civil Rights Era** including, but not limited to Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, John Lewis, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Jonathan Daniels, Dorothy Height, the Selma march, sit-ins, and boycotts*

Key Idea:

The Civil Rights Movement was a nationwide effort to end segregation and secure equal rights for African Americans and other marginalized groups.

Major Events and People:

- **Brown v. Board of Education (1954):** The Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were unconstitutional, overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*, which had allowed “separate but equal” facilities.
- **Barbara Johns and Moton High School (1951):** In Farmville, Virginia, teenager Barbara Johns led a student strike over unequal school conditions. Her case became part of *Brown v. Board*.



Rosa Parks arrest leads to Montgomery Bus Boycott



- **Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955):** Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus, sparking the year-long boycott, the **Montgomery bus boycott**, as well as other organized protests like **Freedom Riders, sit-ins, and boycotts**.

- In 1955, the **murder of Emmett Till** in Drew, Mississippi drew **national attention**. The newspaper coverage and murder trial galvanized a generation of young African

Americans to join the Civil Rights Movement.

- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:** Promoted **nonviolent “passive” resistance** and inspired millions through speeches like “I Have a Dream.”
- **Malcolm X:** Advocated for racial pride and self-defense, representing a more militant side of the movement.



“I have a dream speech” called for **passive (peaceful) resistance**

- **John Lewis and the Selma March (1965):** Lewis and others led peaceful marches for voting rights, met with violent resistance on “Bloody Sunday,” and helped push Congress to act.



Selma, Alabama march leads to “Bloody Sunday” when troopers fired on marchers

- **Ruby Bridges (1960):** At age six,



Ruby Bridges - age six, became one of the first Black students to integrate an all-white elementary school in Louisiana.

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- **Medgar Evers:** NAACP leader murdered for his activism in Mississippi.
- **Jonathan Daniels and Dorothy Height:** Daniels, a white seminarian, and Height, a women’s rights and civil rights leader, both worked for equality across racial and gender lines.

- **Robert F. Kennedy** played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, initially as Attorney General under his brother President John F. Kennedy, using his office to enforce **desegregation** and **investigate civil rights violations**.

Bombing of churches and homes by **opponents** of the Civil Rights movement were meant to inspire **fear** in those protesting for change.

Key Legislation:

- **Civil Rights Act (1964):** Outlawed segregation and discrimination in public places and employment.
- **Voting Rights Act (1965):** Ended literacy tests and ensured federal oversight of elections in states with histories of discrimination.

Impact and Legacy:



The **NAACP's expansion** was fueled by various victories in the early 20th century and its role in major civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act.

The **Civil Rights Movement** not only changed laws—it inspired other groups, such as women, Native Americans, Latinos, and people with disabilities, to fight for equal rights and social justice.

STANDARD USII.8B – URBAN RENEWAL AND COMMUNITY CHANGE

- b. explain the significance of **urban renewal plans** including, but not limited to **Jackson Ward** in Richmond and **Vinegar Hill** in Charlottesville

Key Idea:

Urban renewal programs aimed to **rebuild cities**, but they often destroyed **established neighborhoods** and displaced Black and working-class families.

Virginia Examples:

- **Jackson Ward (Richmond):** Once known as the “Harlem of the South,” this thriving Black business district was torn apart by **highway construction** and redevelopment projects.
- **Vinegar Hill (Charlottesville):** A once-bustling Black neighborhood demolished in the name of “progress,” forcing families to relocate.



Causes and Effects:

- In the 1930s, the Home **Owners' Loan Corporation** created “**redlined**” maps that **denied loans** to predominantly Black areas.



Demolition of Jackson Ward to make way for interstate highway

- By the 1950s and 1960s, federal highways (I-95, I-664, I-464) **cut through communities, increasing segregation**. These highways often **segregated** and **cut off predominantly Black communities** such as I-95 through Richmond's Jackson Ward, I-664 through Newport News's

East End, and I-464 through the Berkeley neighborhood of Norfolk.

- Though meant to attract investment and new housing, urban renewal often **erased cultural landmarks** and **weakened community bonds**.

STANDARD USII.8C - KEY EVENTS OF THE 1960S AND 1970S

- c. examine key events of the **1960s and 1970s** including, but not limited to the **Apollo missions**, the moon landing, **assassinations**, the **women's movement**, the creation of public sector **labor unions**, the **Watergate scandal** and

Nixon's resignation, and the passing of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act;

Space Race and Technology:

- **Apollo Missions and Moon Landing (1969):** Marked **U.S. dominance** in space exploration and symbolized **Cold War competition** with the Soviet Union.



Social and Political Turmoil:

- **Assassinations:** The deaths of **John F. Kennedy** (1963), **Martin Luther King, Jr.** (1968), and **Robert Kennedy** (1968) shocked the nation and deepened social divisions.
- **Women's Movement:** Groups like the **National Organization for Women (NOW)** pushed for **equal rights**, leading to **Title IX** (1972), which banned gender discrimination in education.
- **Labor reforms:** creation of labor **unions** and the public sector.
- **Environmental Reform:** Laws like the **Clean Air Act** (1970) and **Clean Water Act** (1972) were passed to protect public health and natural resources.
- **Watergate Scandal (1972–74):** President Richard **Nixon resigned** after being caught covering up a political break-in, damaging public trust in government.



STANDARD USII.8D - DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

- d. describe the impact of the **baby boom**, the changing **demographics** of the United States, and the ending of the military draft

Key Ideas:

- **Baby Boom (1946–1964):** A **population surge** after WWII led to suburban growth, new schools, and expanded consumer culture.
- **End of the Military Draft (1973):** The U.S. moved to an **all-volunteer military** after the Vietnam War.
- **Changing Demographics:** Immigration from Latin America and Asia increased, making the U.S. more **diverse** than ever.

STANDARD USII.8E - THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA, 1990)

- e. *examine describing the protections and provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*

Purpose:

The ADA **banned discrimination** against people with **physical or mental disabilities** in employment, public services, transportation, and communication.

Impact:

It **improved accessibility** in public buildings, required ramps and elevators, and inspired a broader movement toward **inclusion and equal opportunity**.

STANDARD USII.8F - THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: EARLY VS. MODERN GOALS

- f. *describe the similarities and differences between the objectives of the women's movement of the early and mid-20th century*

Early to Mid-20th Century:

Focused on the **right to vote** (19th Amendment, 1920), property ownership, and equal pay.

Late 20th Century Movement:

Pushed for **workplace equality**, reproductive rights, access to education, and the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**—which aimed to guarantee equality under the law, though it was never ratified.

STANDARD USII.8G - EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS, WOMEN, AND MINORITIES

- g. *describe expanded educational and economic opportunities for military veterans, women, and minorities*

- **GI Bill (1944):** Provided education and home loan benefits for **WWII veterans**, helping millions attend college and buy homes.
- **Title IX (1972):** Ensured **women equal access** to educational programs and sports.
- **Civil Rights Legislation:** Extended job and housing opportunities to **minorities**.
- **Affirmative Action Policies:** Encouraged hiring and college admission practices that **promoted diversity**.

STANDARD USII.8H - THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS

- h. *describe how the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including the heroic sacrifices of Flight 93 passengers, significantly impacted domestic policies, American society, and global perspectives on the war on terror.*

What Happened:

Terrorists hijacked four planes, crashing two into the World Trade Center towers, one into the Pentagon, and one (Flight 93) into a Pennsylvania field after passengers fought back.



September 11, 2001 two hijacked planes fly into Twin Towers

Impact on America:

- Nearly **3,000 people died**, including many first responders.
- The attacks reshaped **U.S. foreign policy**, launching the **War on Terror** in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- At home, new laws like the **Patriot Act** expanded **security** and surveillance to prevent future attacks.
- The tragedy fostered national unity, respect for heroes, and long-term debates about freedom versus security.