

英语师范系  
英美概况重点课  
第2课 美国历史

# **History of United States**

## **I. Early Settlers**

- Native American
- Discovery and European Colonists

## **II. The Founding of the Nation**

- American War of Independence (American Revolutionary War)

## **III. The Forming of the Nation**

- Civil War
- Westward Movement
- The Reconstruction and Industrial Era

## **IV. Post-WWI Period**

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- The Prosperous 1920s
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# **The Early Settlers**

# Native Americans

**Native Americans in the United States** are the indigenous peoples in North America within the boundaries of the present-day continental United States, parts of Alaska, and the island state of Hawaii. The native Americans in continental America are usually referred as **American Indians** or **Indians**.

# Discovery of The New World

Christopher Columbus

First Voyage \* August 3, 1492

Columbus wanted to discover an easier route to the East that would open up trading.



# Colonial Period

- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia

earn money by tobaccos

- between 1607 (Virginia) and 1733  
(Georgia)

13 colonies in the eastern part of America

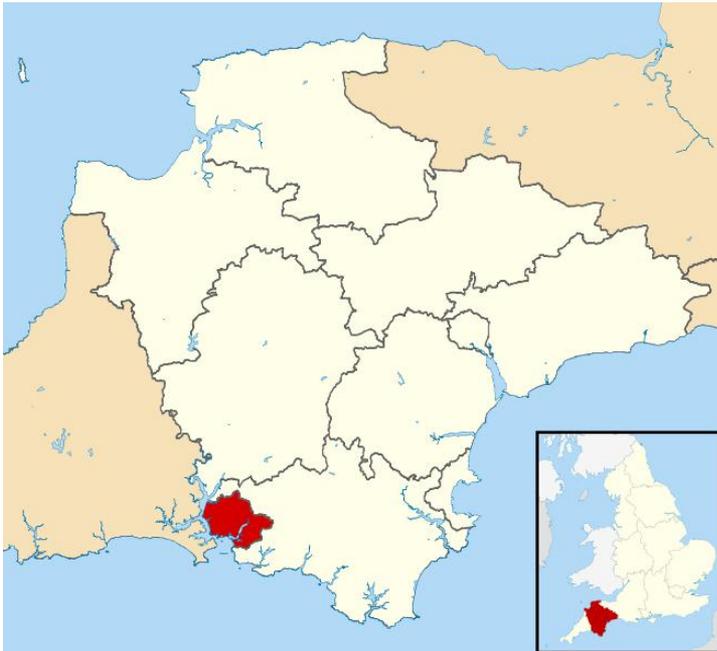
# • Puritans

The **Puritans** were a significant grouping of **English Protestants** in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Puritans by definition felt that the English Reformation had not gone far enough, and that the Church of England was tolerant of practices which they associated with the Catholic Church. **They formed into and identified with various religious groups advocating greater "purity" of worship and doctrine, as well as personal and group piety.**

- **The Mayflower**

The *Mayflower* transported European **puritans** fleeing religious persecution from James VI and. The Mayflower departed Plymouth, England on September, 1620 with 102 passengers and about 30 crew members in a small 100 foot ship.



In November, 1620, after about 3 months at sea, including a month of delays in England, they spotted land, which was Cape Cod.

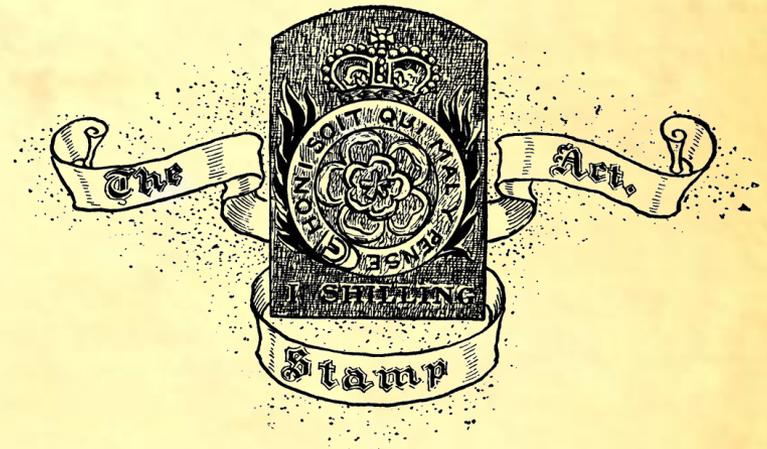


# • The Mayflower Compact



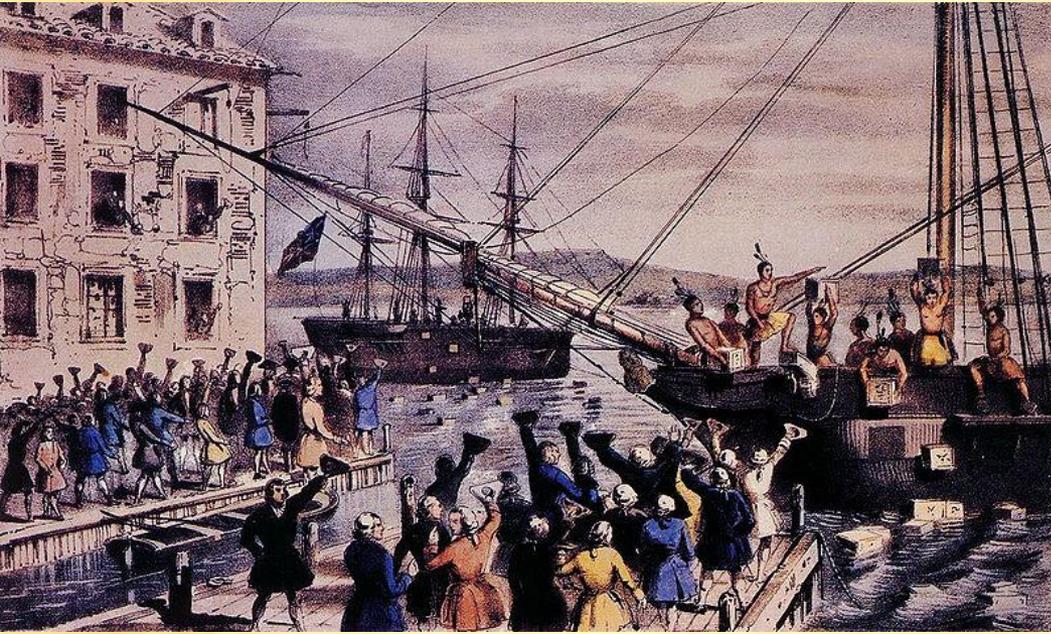
After several days of trying to get south to their planned destination of the Colony of Virginia, strong winter seas forced them to return to the harbor at Cape Cod hook, where they anchored on November 11/21. **The Mayflower Compact** was signed that day.

- To prevent fighting with the native Americans, King George III issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Included in its provisions was **the reservation of lands west of the Appalachian Mountains to its Indian population**
- The **Quartering Act** forced the colonies to house and feed British soldiers; and with the passage of the **Stamp Act**, special tax stamps had to be attached to all newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents and licenses.



**American  
Revolution  
(1775--1783)**

# The Boston Tea Party



The **Boston Tea Party** was a political protest against the British government and the monopolistic East India Company that controlled all the tea imported into the colonies.

The Tea Party was the culmination of a resistance movement throughout British America against the Tea Act, which had been passed by the British Parliament in 1773.

# The First Continental Congress

In September **1774, the First continental Congress** was met in Philadelphia.

The Congress met briefly to consider options, including an economic boycott of British trade; rights and grievances; and petitioning King George III for redress of those grievances.

# The First shot

**The first shots were fired just as the sun was rising at Lexington. And the American War of Independence began.**

# **The Second Continental Congress**

**On May 10, 1775, delegates from the Thirteen Colonies met again in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—The Second Continental Congress, soon after warfare in the American Revolutionary War had begun.**

- **United States Declaration of Independence**

On **July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence** was adopted by the Continental Congress, which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire.

- **The Independence Day**

The Independence Day of the United States of America is celebrated on July 4, the day Congress approved the wording of the Declaration.



The Declaration justified the independence of the United States by listing colonial grievances against King George III, and by asserting certain natural and legal rights. Since then, it has come to be considered a major statement on human rights, particularly its second sentence

**This theory of politics came from the British philosophy **John Locke**, and it is central to the Anglo-Saxon political tradition.**

The Declaration of Independence explained the philosophy behind the revolution:

**Men have a natural right to “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”**

**Government can rule only with “the consent of the governed”**

**Any government may be dissolved when it fails to protect the rights of the people.**

**This theory of politics came from the British philosophy **John Locke**, and it is central to the Anglo-Saxon political tradition.**

## • **Battles of Saratoga**

**The Battles of Saratoga (October 7, 1777) conclusively decided the fate of British General John Burgoyne's army and are generally regarded as a turning point in the war. The battles were fought eighteen days 9 miles (14 km) south of Saratoga, New York.**

- **Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis**
- **Treaty of Paris**

**The Treaty of Paris**, signed on September 3, 1783, recognized the independence of the United States and guaranteed the new nation all the territory north of Florida, south of Canada and east of the Mississippi River.

# **United States Constitution**

# Devising a Constitution

Since 1781, the 13 colonies has been governed by the Articles of Confederation.

In 1787, a convention met in Philadelphia with instructions to revise the Articles of Confederation. The delegates – among whom were **George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison** – drafted **a new and more workable constitution**. It established a stronger federal government empowered to collect taxes, conduct diplomacy, maintain armed forces, and regulate foreign trade and commerce among the states.

The Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787.

It is **the supreme law** of the United States of America. The first three Articles of the Constitution establish the rules and separate powers of the three branches of the federal government. The last four Articles frame the principle of federalism. The Tenth Amendment confirms its federal characteristics.

# • The Bill of Rights

Fearing that a powerful central government would trample on the liberties of the people, in 1791, **Ten Amendments- the Bill of Rights** were added to the Constitution. This document guaranteed **freedom of religion, a free press, free speech, the right of citizens to bear arms, protection against illegal house searches, the right to fair trial by jury and protection against “cruel and unusual punishments.”**

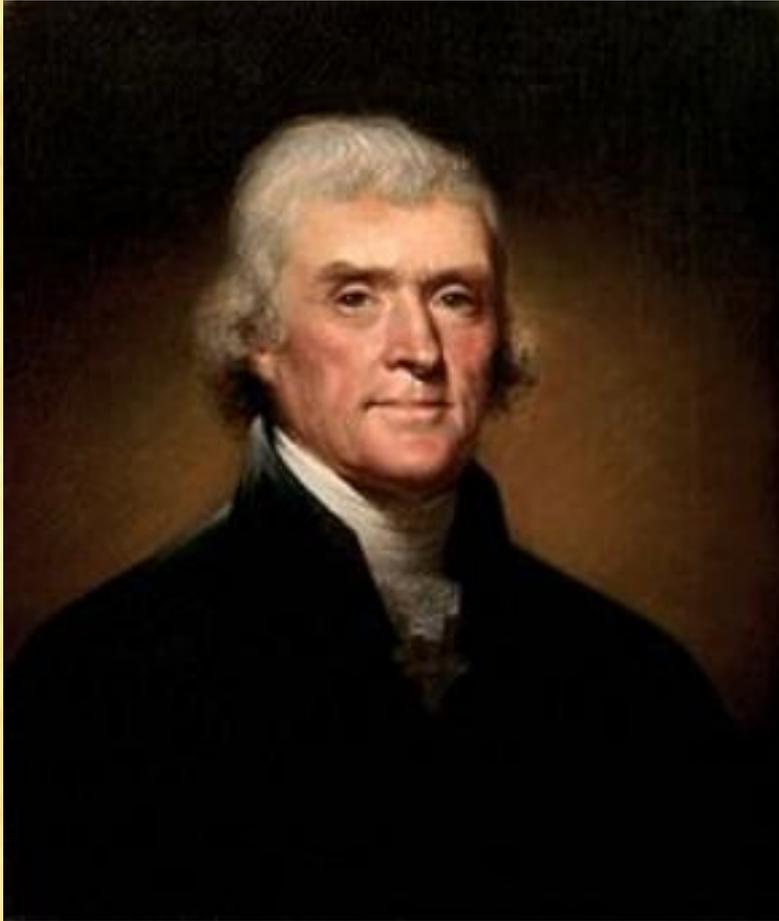
**New**

**Nation**

- **The first president of US**



**George Washington** was the first President of the United States of America, serving from 1789 to 1797. He led the American victory over Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army from 1775 to 1783, and presided over the writing of the Constitution in 1787.



3rd President of the United  
States

- **Thomas Jefferson**

In 1803, he bought the huge Louisiana territory from France for 15 \$ million.

# • **Founding Fathers of the United States**

The **Founding Fathers of the United States of America** were political leaders and statesmen who participated in the American Revolution by signing the United States Declaration of Independence, taking part in the American Revolutionary War, and establishing the United States Constitution. Within the large group known as the "Founding Fathers".



Andrew Jackson rewarded inexperienced but loyal supporters with government jobs. He made land available to western settlers—mainly by forcing Indian tribes to move west to the Mississippi.

**American  
Civil  
War (1861-  
-1865)**

# The Cause of War

There existed two economic systems in **the North** and **the South**. In the North, the importation of black slaves outlawed in 1908, the **capitalist economy** developed rapidly. By 1860, American industry had ranked fourth in the world.

The slaves in the South lived in small cabins near their master's big house. They were often cruelly treated and the punishments on them were rather severe.



**The Issue of slavery** became, in American politics, economics and cultural life, the central point of contention.

Plantation owners insisted that the slavery system should be kept because they considered slaves to constitute cheap labor, while the industrial capitalists of the North free labor was more economical and therefore more profitable for their industry.

This was the main cause of the conflict and also the main Cause of Civil War between the North and the South.

# The Beginning of the Civil War

In the presidential election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Led by president Lincoln, the Republican Party campaigned against expanding slavery beyond the states in which it already existed.

In response to the election of an anti-slavery Republican as President, **11 southern slave states** declared their **secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America ("the Confederacy")**; the **other 25 states supported the federal government ("the Union")**.

**on January 1, 1863 , Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which granted freedom to all slaves in areas controlled by the confederacy.**

# The Significance of Civil War

The American Civil War was one of the earliest true industrial wars. It remains the deadliest war in American history. The war resolved two fundamental questions:

**It put an end to slavery, which was officially outlawed by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865.**

**It also decided, once and for all, that America was not a collection of semi-dependent states, but a single indivisible nation.**

# The Situation of Blacks After the Civil War

Towards the 19th century, the segregation and oppression of blacks grew far more rigid: Southern laws enforced strict segregation in many public places; most blacks lost the right to vote because of their inability to pay the poll taxes and their failure to pass literacy tests. Most southern blacks had to continue to work as tenant farmers. Although blacks were legally free, they lived and were treated very much like slaves.

**Post-  
Civil  
War**

# **Manifest destiny**

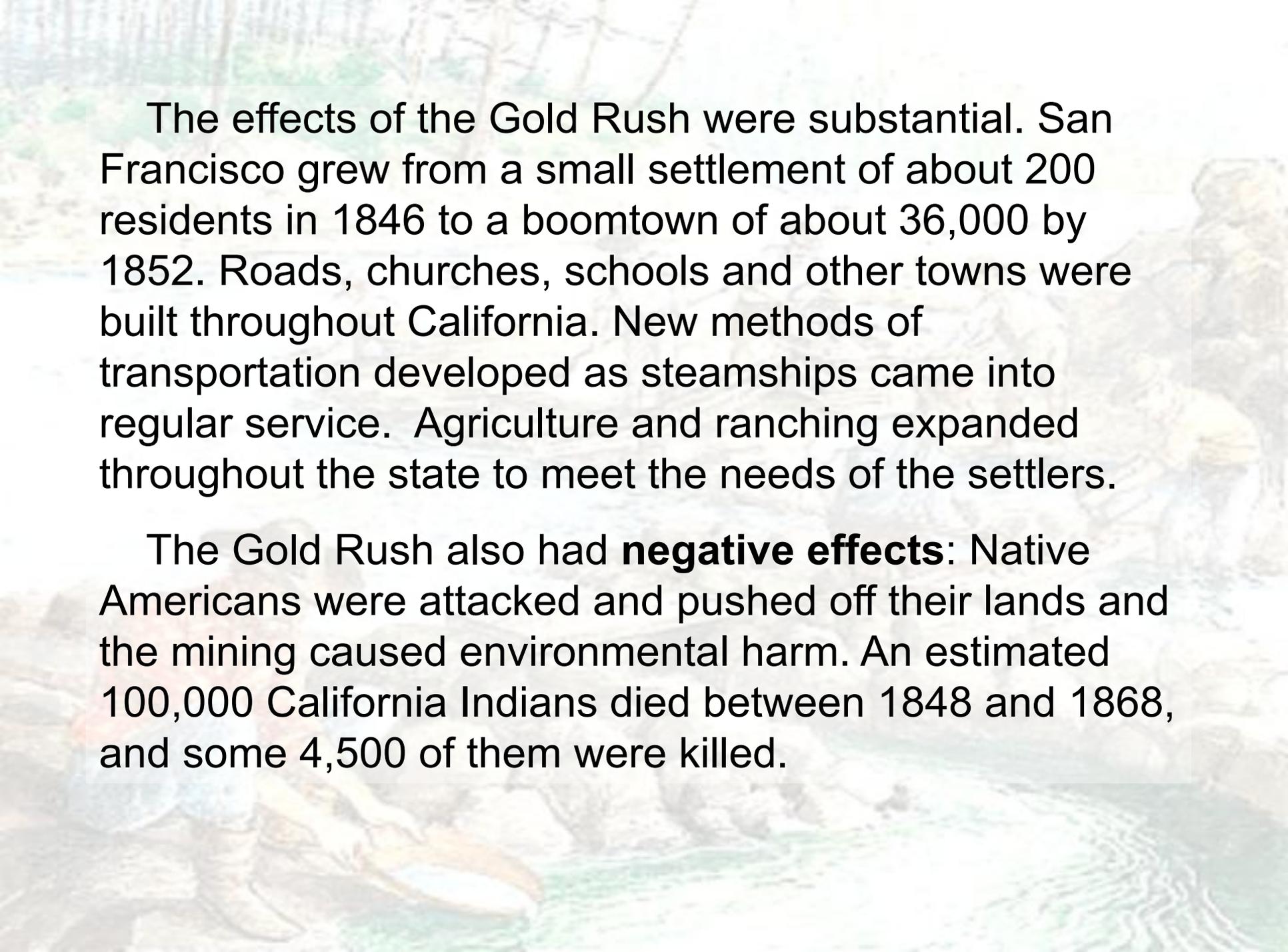
## **—the Westward Expansion**

**Following the Civil War, Manifest Destiny was the 19th century American belief that the United States was destined to expand across the continent. Advocates of Manifest Destiny believed that expansion was not only wise but that it was readily apparent (manifest) and inexorable (destiny).**

# • California Gold Rush



The **California Gold Rush** (1848–1855) began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Marshall in California. All told, the news of gold brought some 300,000 people to California from the rest of the United States and abroad.



The effects of the Gold Rush were substantial. San Francisco grew from a small settlement of about 200 residents in 1846 to a boomtown of about 36,000 by 1852. Roads, churches, schools and other towns were built throughout California. New methods of transportation developed as steamships came into regular service. Agriculture and ranching expanded throughout the state to meet the needs of the settlers.

The Gold Rush also had **negative effects**: Native Americans were attacked and pushed off their lands and the mining caused environmental harm. An estimated 100,000 California Indians died between 1848 and 1868, and some 4,500 of them were killed.

**Moving  
into  
20th  
Century**

# Progressive Movement

The **Progressive Movement** began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in cities with settlement workers and reformers who were interested in helping those facing harsh conditions at home and at work.

- It was primarily a movement of social engineers who believe that scientific and cost-efficient solution solutions could be found to all political problems.
- Social workers went into slums; Prohibitionists demanded restriction on liquor; states passed laws ensuring workers' rights; women fought for the right to vote; "muckrakers" and novelists attacked social evils.
- Theodore Roosevelt was a leader in the Progressive Era. The Roosevelt administration enforced the Sherman Antitrust Act against several large corporations.
- Some Americans even favoured more radical ideologies, such as socialism and Industrial Workers of the World.

# 1920s

1920s was an extraordinary and contradictory decade, when hedonism and bohemianism coexisted with a puritanical conservatism.

- **Lost Generation**

The "**Lost Generation**" is a term used to refer to the generation, actually a cohort, that came of age during World War I. The term was popularized by Ernest Hemingway who used it in his novel, *The Sun Also Rises*.

# The Great Depression

- **Wall Street Crash of 1929—Black Thursday**

## BLACK TUESDAY

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1929

### THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929

BY BARBARA  
SILBERDICK FEINBERG

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29—Another hurricane of liquidation hit the stock market today, as financial uncertainty fed on rumor and turned to panic. Frightened investors ordered their brokers to sell at any price, and the stock market crashed. Those on the floor of the Wall Street exchange waded in paper and tried to add up their losses.

It is believed those losses total billions of dollars. Thousands of accounts were wiped out as a record



Crowds Gathered On Wall Street As The Market Went Into Historical Decline

number of shares were traded. Some stocks were almost given away. Millions of shares traded hands.

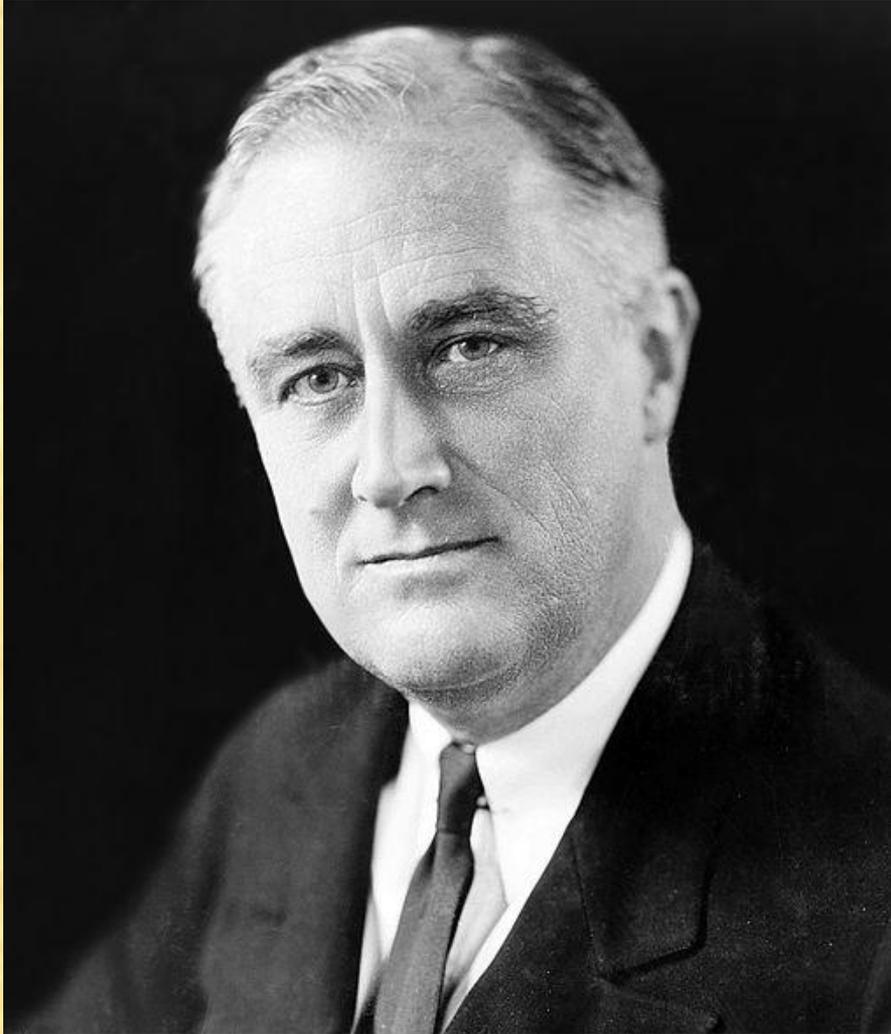
Brokers on the floor of the Exchange have never seen a day like this. The shock on Wall Street spread to other exchanges and markets. It

was a country-wide collapse of security values in which losses were the most disastrous and far-reaching in the history of the Stock Exchange. There was near-panic on the Chicago commodities exchange. Rumors spread from one end of the United

On October 24, 1929—“Black Thursday”—a wave of panic selling of stocks swept the New York Stock Exchange.

By 1932, thousands of banks and businesses had failed. **Industrial** production was **cut in half**. **Farm** income had fallen by more than half. **Wages** had **decreased** 60 percent. **New investment** was **down** 90 percent. As a result, one out of every four workers was **unemployed**.

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal**



Though the Republican president Herbert Hoover adopted many economic policies, the depression was not relieved until the election of Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.

- **New Deal**

To deal with the Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt rushed through Congress a great number of laws within the historic “Hundred Days”. Some of the famous ones in his New Deal program were the WPA, AAA and the Social Security Act.

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And Roosevelt explained his policies to the public in a series of evening radio addresses called "fireside chats" between 1933 and 1944.

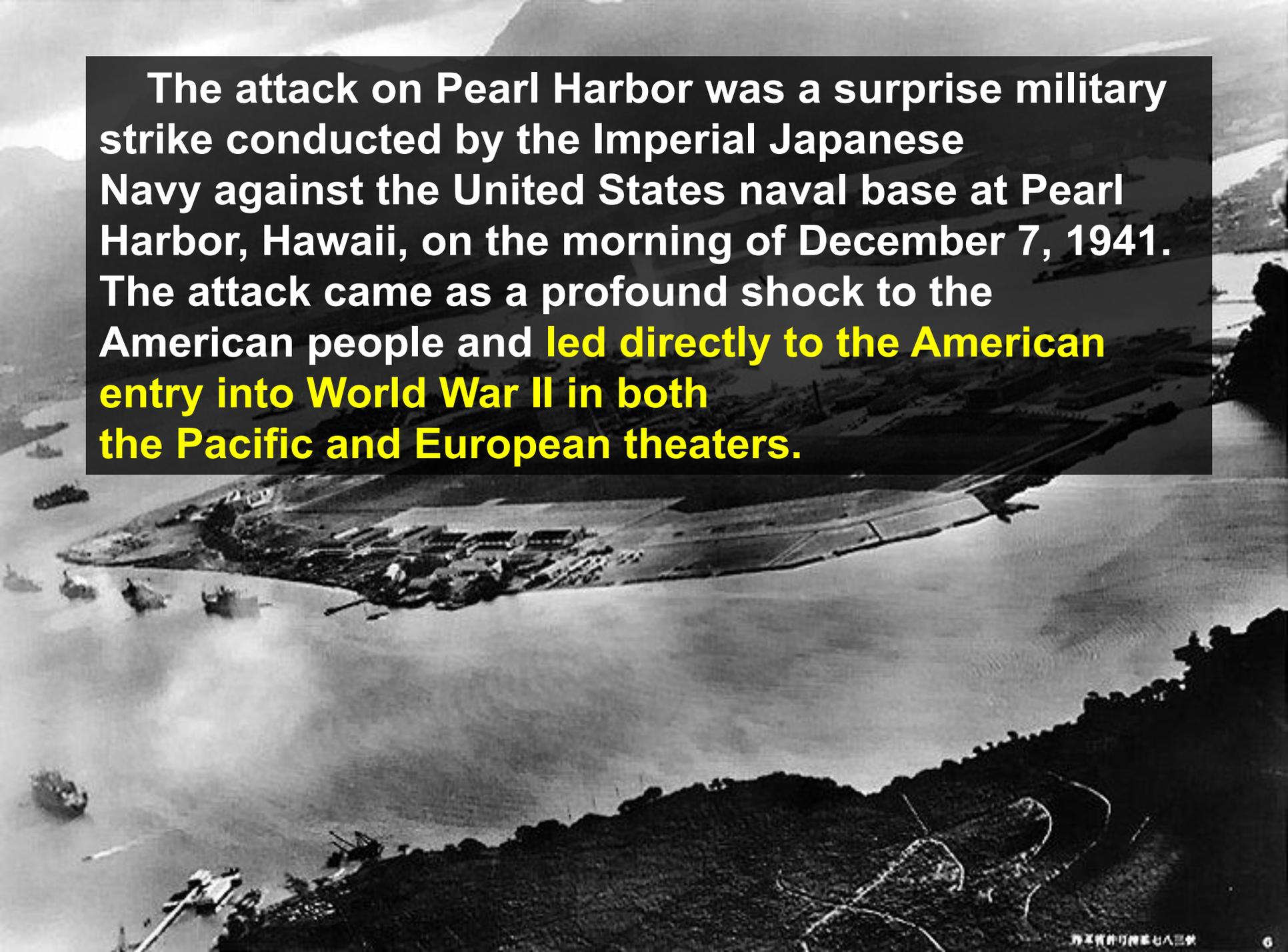


Though the New Deal did not end the Depression, many Americans considered him as one of the most respected presidents in American history.

# WWII (1939~1945)



**The Pearl Harbor** December 7, 1941

An aerial black and white photograph of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The harbor is filled with several large ships, including battleships and aircraft carriers. The surrounding land is visible, showing buildings and infrastructure. The sky is overcast.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941. The attack came as a profound shock to the American people and **led directly to the American entry into World War II in both the Pacific and European theaters.**

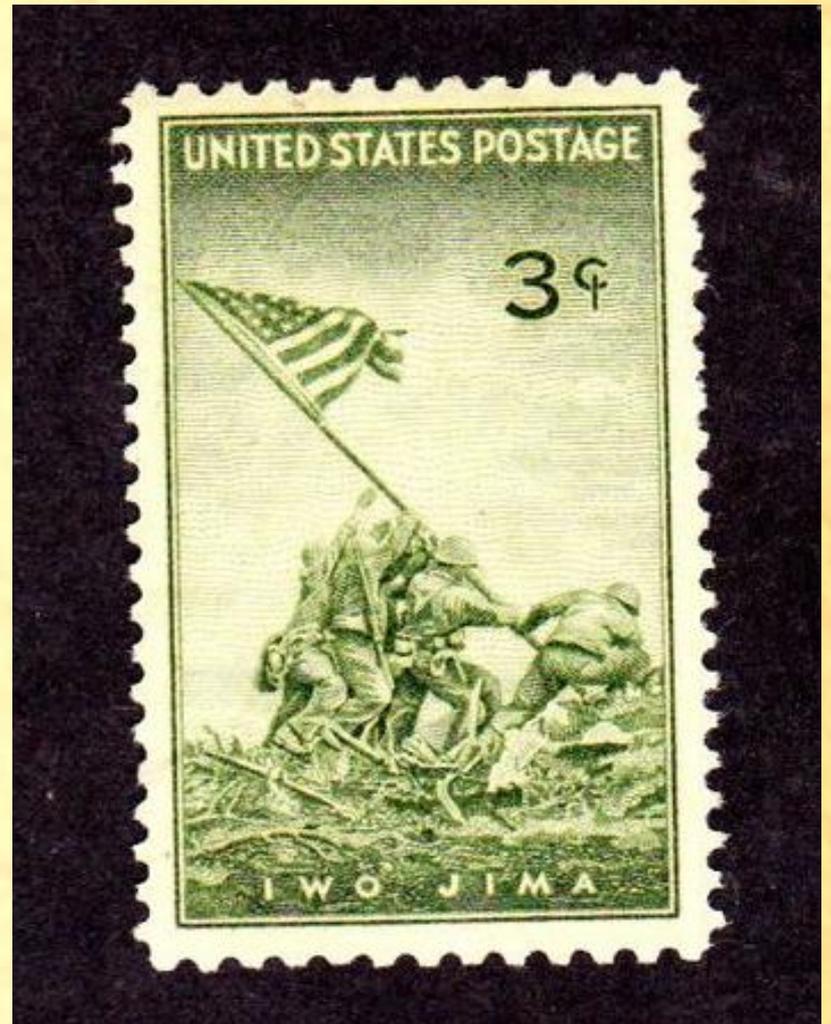
# D-day June 6, 1944



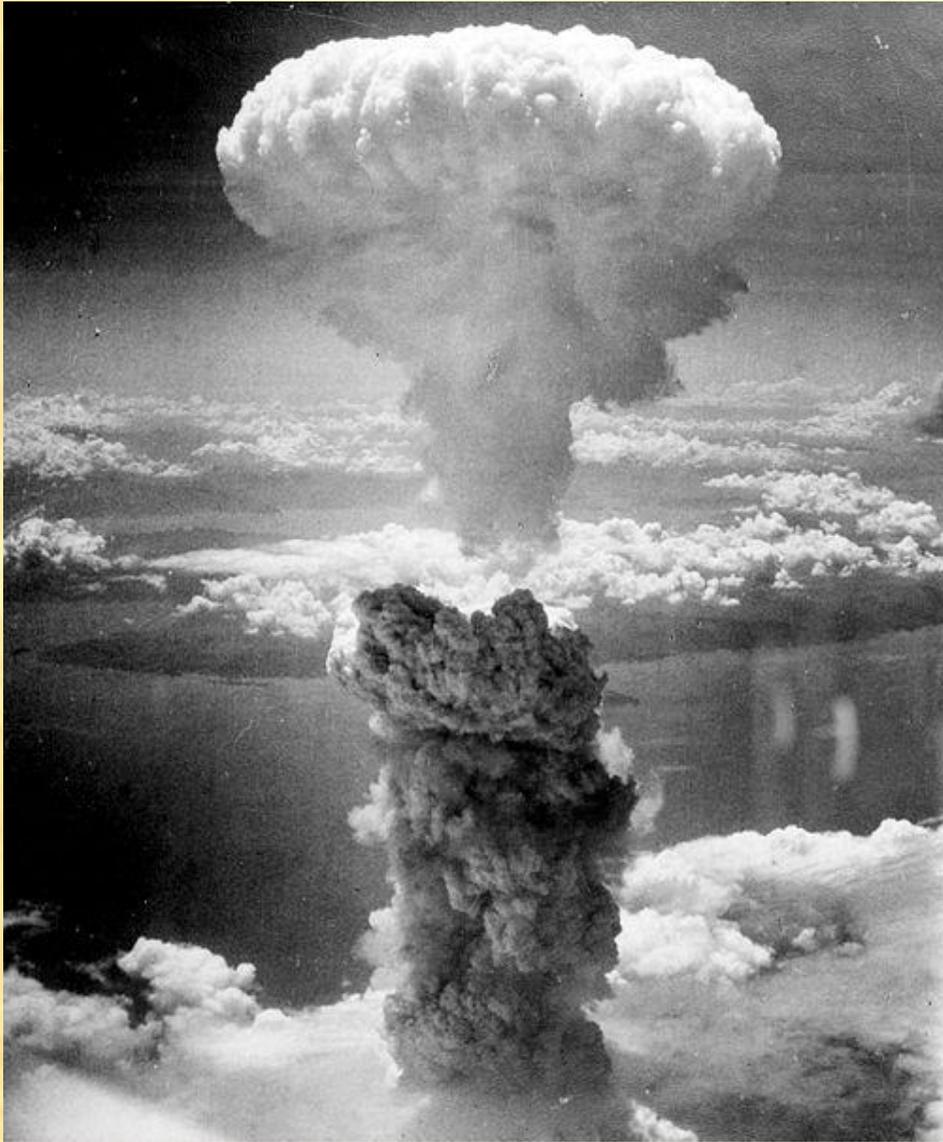
U.S. Army  
troops wade  
ashore on  
Omaha Beach  
during the  
landings, 6  
June 1944

# • The Battle of Iwo Jima





The photograph won the Pulitzer Prize that year, and came to be regarded in the United States as one of the most significant and recognizable images of the war, and possibly the most reproduced photograph of all time.



## • **Surrender of Japan**

During the final stages of World War II in 1945, by executive order of President Harry S. Truman the U.S. dropped the nuclear weapon "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima, followed by the detonation of "Fat Man" over Nagasaki. These are the only attacks with nuclear weapons in the history of warfare, which helped significantly the surrender of Imperial Japan.

**The surrender of the Empire of Japan on September 2, 1945, brought the hostilities of World War II to a close.**



Roosevelt's New Deal programs did not end the Depression. Although the economy improved as a result of government intervention, full recovery was finally brought about by the defense buildup prior to America's entering the WWII.

# The Civil Rights Movement

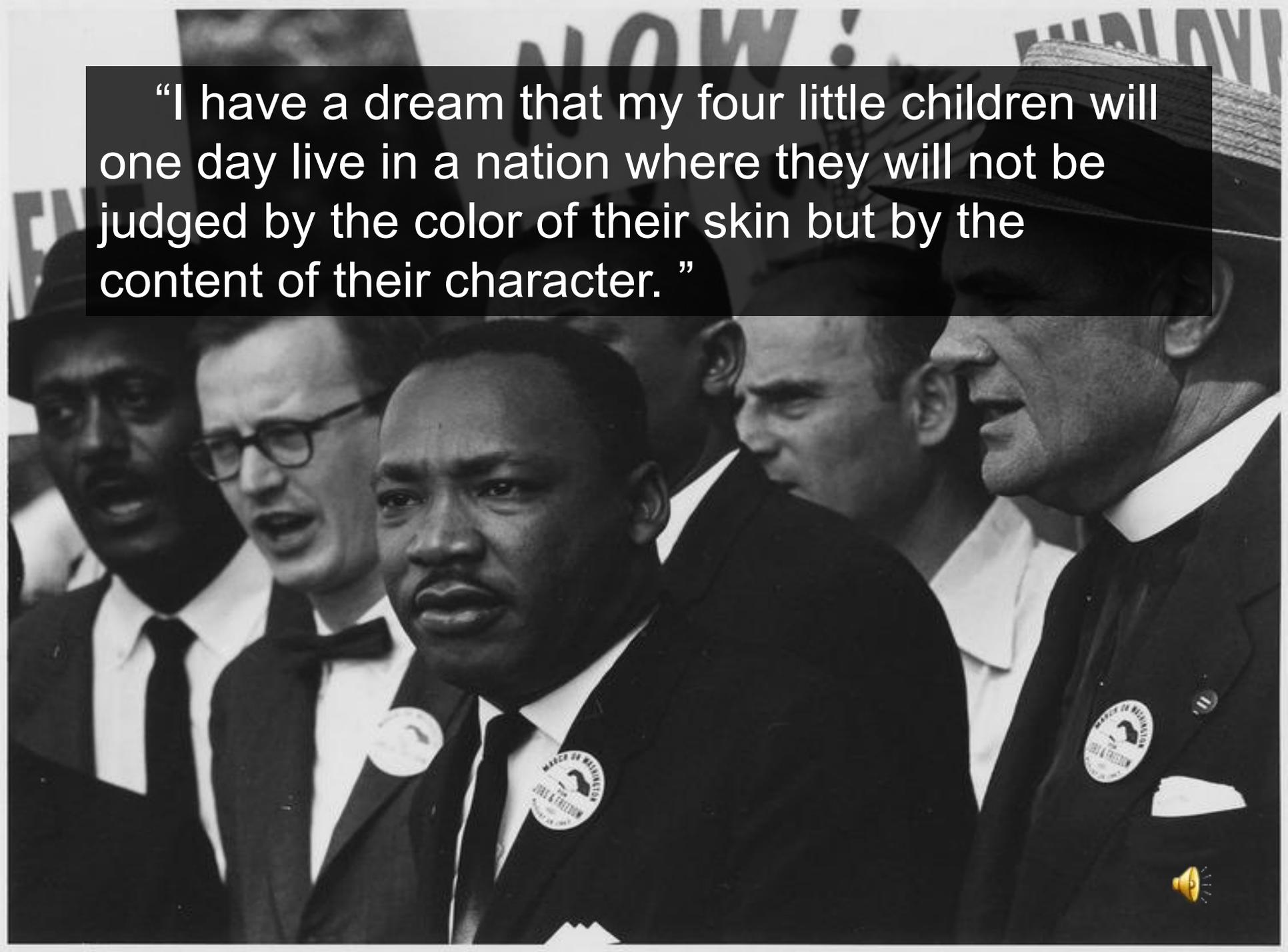
- **Integrationism**

The **African-American Civil Rights Movement** (1955–1968) refers to the social movements in the United States aimed at **outlawing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring voting rights to them particularly in southern United States**. The emergence of the **Black Power Movement**, which lasted roughly from 1966 to 1975, enlarged the aims of the Civil Rights Movement to include racial dignity, economic and political self-sufficiency, and freedom from oppression by white Americans.



**The civil rights movement is sometimes referred to as the Second Reconstruction era, echoing the unresolved issues of the Reconstruction era in the United States (1863–1877).**

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”



Noted achievements of the civil rights movement in this area include the judicial victory in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case that nullified the legal article of "separate but equal" and made segregation legally impermissible, passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** that banned discrimination in employment practices and public accommodations, passage of the **Voting Rights Act of 1965** that restored voting rights, and passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1968** that banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:  
“ We hold these truth to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day on the hills of Georgia, that sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.