**Key Terms in American History**

**abolition**—the ending of legal slavery

**American Indian Movement (AIM)**—formed in 1968 to work for Native American rights

**Americanization movement**—education program designed to help immigrants assimilate to American culture

**anarchist**—a person who opposes all forms of government

**antebellum**—belonging to the period before the Civil War

**assimilation**—minority group’s adaptation to the dominant culture

**atomic bomb**—bombs using a nuclear reaction to create widespread destruction; ended World War II

**Berlin airlift**—U.S. and Britain dropped supplies into West Berlin, blockaded by Soviets, 1948

**Berlin Wall**—prevented citizens from moving between East and West Berlin, 1961–1989

**Bessemer process**—cheap, efficient way to make steel, developed c. 1850

**big stick diplomacy**—U.S. foreign policy of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt which used threats of military intervention to exert influence over other countries, especially in protecting U.S. interests in Latin America

**black codes**—laws, in Southern states after the Civil War, to limit rights of African Americans

**blacklist**—names of people barred from working in Hollywood because of alleged Communist connections

**Black Panthers**—militant political organization to combat police brutality and provide services in African-American ghettos, founded 1966

**Black Power**—slogan revived by Stokely Carmichael in the 1960s to encourage black pride and leadership

**Bleeding Kansas**—description of the antebellum Kansas Territory, due to conflict over slavery

**boycott**—refusal to have economic relations with a person or group

**buying on margin**—purchasing stocks or bonds on credit

**capitalism**—economic system in which private individuals and corporations control the means of production and earn profit on them

**cash crop**—one grown for sale rather than personal use

**Cold War**—period of tension between U.S. and USSR, 1945–1989

**colonization**—establishment of outlying settlements by a parent country

**Columbian Exchange**—movement of plants, animals, and disease between the Americas and Europe after Columbus's voyage

**communism**—political and economic philosophy of one-party government and state ownership of property

**concentration camp**—prison camp operated by Nazi Germany in which Jews and other minorities were murdered or forced into slave labor

**confederation**—alliance of states or nations acting together for mutual benefit

**consumerism**—preoccupation with purchasing material goods

**containment**—blocking of a nation’s attempt to spread its influence, especially attempts to spread communism after World War II

**counterculture**—American youth in the 1960s opposed to mainstream culture; based on peace, love, individual freedom

**D-Day**—Allied invasion of mainland Europe June 6, 1944

**debt peonage**—workers bound in servitude until debts are paid

**de facto segregation**—racial separation based on custom rather than law

**deficit spending**—government spending that exceeds revenue

**de jure segregation**—racial separation based on law

**demographic**—having to do with population

**depression**—very severe and prolonged contraction of economic activity

**dollar diplomacy**—U.S. foreign policy of using the nation’s economic power to exert influence over other countries; use first associated with Pres. Taft

**domino theory**—belief that if one country falls to communism its neighbors will

**double standard**—granting greater sexual freedom to men than to women

**dove**—opponent of U.S. participation in Vietnam War

**draft**—legally required military service

**Dust Bowl**—areas of Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas hard-hit by drought and dust storms, 1930s

**electoral college**—group selected by states to elect president and vice-president; number of electors equals Congressional representation of each state

**emancipation**—freeing of slaves

**Enlightenment**—18th-century intellectual movement that emphasized the use of reason and the scientific method as means of obtaining knowledge

**environmentalist**—a person who works to protect the environment

**executive branch**—administers and enforces laws

**fascism**—political philosophy that advocates centralized dictatorial nationalistic government

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**—created in 1933 to insure bank deposits against loss

**Federalist**—supporter of the Constitution and strong national government

**free enterprise**—economic system based on private property, free markets, and individuals making most economic decisions

**fundamentalism**—Protestant religious movement based on belief in literal truth of the Bible

**genocide**—deliberate and systematic extermination of a particular ethnic, national, or religious group
Key Terms in American History continued

Gentlemen’s Agreement—Japanese government agreed to limit emigration to the U.S., 1907–1908
GI Bill of Rights—1944 law that gave financial and education benefits to World War II veterans
gold standard—monetary system in which a country’s currency is valued at a fixed sum of gold
grandfather clause—exempted Southern whites from the strict requirements applied to African-American voters
Grange—organization of farmers to combat power of railroads, late 19th century
Great Awakening—revival of religious feeling in the American colonies during the 1730s and 1750s
Great Depression—period lasting from 1929–1940 in which the U.S. economy was in severe decline and millions of Americans were unemployed
Great Migration—movement of African Americans to northern cities, early 20th century
Great Plains—grasslands extending through west-central U.S.
Great Society—President Johnson’s program to end poverty and racial injustice, 1964–1968
gross domestic product (GDP)—market value of all goods and services produced in a country in a certain time period

Harlem Renaissance—flowering of African-American artistic creativity in the 1920s, centered in Harlem, New York City
haw—supporter of U.S. participation in the Vietnam War
Holocaust—systematic murder of 11 million Jews and other people by the Nazis before and during World War II
HUAC—House Un-American Activities Committee; investigated alleged Communist influence in U.S. after World War II

immigration—movement of foreigners into a country
impeach—accuse a government official of serious offenses
imperialism—policy of extending national influence over other countries by political, economic, or military means
income tax—tax on individuals’ earnings
Indian Removal Act—1830 law requiring Native Americans east of the Mississippi River to move to the West
Industrial Revolution—the change in society that occurred through replacing hand tools with machines and developing large-scale industry, late 19th–early 20th century
inflation—increase in prices or decline in purchasing power caused by an increase in the supply of money
initiative—a way for people rather than legislatures to originate laws
installment plan—buying over time with regular, periodic payments
Internet—worldwide computer network that allows almost instant communication of words, pictures, and sounds
internment—confinement or restriction of movement, especially under wartime conditions; used against Japanese Americans during World War II
isolationist—in opposition to political entanglements with other countries

Jim Crow laws—Southern laws that separated whites and blacks
judicial branch—interprets the laws and Constitution
Korean War—war between North (supported by China) and South (supported by U.S. and UN) Korea, 1950–1953
Kristallnacht—Nazi troops attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues in Germany November 9, 1938
 Ku Klux Klan—secret white supremacist organization that terrorized African Americans during Reconstruction
legislative branch—makes laws
Linotype machine—keyboard-operated typesetting device
literacy test—reading test formerly used in the South to keep African Americans from voting
Loyalist—a colonist who supported the British government during the American Revolution

Manhattan Project—secret U.S. program to develop the atomic bomb during World War II
manifest destiny—19th-century belief that U.S. would inevitably spread to the Pacific Ocean and into Mexican territory
mass media—means of communication that reach large audiences, such as radio, television, newspapers
McCarthyism—making or threatening to make public accusations of disloyalty without offering evidence, as done by Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s
migration—movement from one place to another within a country
monopoly—complete control of an industry by a single company
moral diplomacy—U.S. foreign policy used by Pres. Wilson to withhold support for any Latin American country which was oppressive, undemocratic, or hostile to U.S. interests

NAACP—National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in 1909 to promote racial equality
nationalism—devotion to the interests and culture of one’s nation
nativism—favoring the interests of native-born people over those of immigrants
Nazism—Hitler’s political philosophy based on nationalism, racism, and military expansionism in 1930s Germany
neutral—refusal to take sides in conflicts between other nations
New Deal—President Franklin Roosevelt’s program to alleviate problems of the Great Depression
New Frontier—President John Kennedy’s legislative program
Nisei—U.S. citizen born of immigrant Japanese parents
nuclear freeze movement—U.S. and international movement in 1980s to stop all testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons
nullification—a state’s refusal to recognize an act of Congress it considers unconstitutional
Open Door Policy—U.S. request that China be open to trade with all countries
Panama Canal—artificial waterway built to facilitate travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, opened 1914
Parliament—England’s legislative body
Patriot—colonist who supported American independence from Britain
plantation—large farm where a single crop such as cotton is grown by slaves or other workers
poll tax—an annual tax formerly required of voters in some Southern states
progressive movement—early 20th-century reform movement focused on quality of life as well as business and government corruption
prohibition—banning of the manufacture, sale, and possession of alcoholic beverages
Puritan—committed to removing all trace of Roman Catholic ritual from the Church of England
Radical Republican—Reconstruction congressmen who favored full rights for African Americans and decreased power for former slave owners
rationing—limitation on the amount of certain goods people may buy, usually in wartime to insure enough for the military
recall—a way for people to remove public officials from office
Reconstruction—period of rebuilding after the Civil War, former Confederate states readmitted to the Union
Red Scare—fear of communist takeover of America in the 1920s
referendum—a way for a proposed law to be voted on by the people
republic—government in which citizens rule through elected representatives
salutary neglect—English policy of relaxed enforcement of laws in return for colonies’ continued loyalty
Scopes trial—1925 trial over the teaching of evolution in Tennessee
Securities and Exchange Commission—created in 1934 to monitor and regulate the stock and bond markets
secession—formal withdrawal of a state from the Union
sectionalism—placing regional interests above national interests
segregation—separation of people based on race
settlement house—community center providing assistance to residents, especially immigrants, of slum neighborhood
sharecropping—landowners give farmers land, seed, and tools in exchange for part of the crops raised
sit-in—civil rights protest demonstration, sitting down in a business and refusing to leave until served
states’ rights—belief that rights of individual states take priority over laws of the national government
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee—formed in 1960 to give younger blacks a greater role in the civil rights movement
Social Darwinism—application of Charles Darwin’s natural philosophy of survival of the fittest to support unlimited business competition
Social Gospel movement—19th-century reform movement based on the belief that Christians have a responsibility to help improve working conditions and alleviate poverty
Social Security Act—1935, provided aid to retirees, unemployed, disabled, and dependent mothers and children
socialism—economic and political system of limited government ownership of business and property and equal distribution of wealth
Southern Christian Leadership Conference—formed in 1957 by Martin Luther King, Jr., and others to achieve racial equality through nonviolence
speakeasy—covert tavern in which alcoholic beverages were sold and drunk illegally during Prohibition
speculation—risky business practices in the hope of making a quick or large profit
standard of living—overall economic situation in which people live
stock market—where stocks and bonds are bought and sold
suburb—a residential community near a city
suffrage—the right to vote
tariff—a fee charged on goods brought into one place from another
temperance movement—organized effort to prevent drinking of alcohol
Trail of Tears—route of forced Cherokee evacuation from Georgia, 1838
trust—consolidation of competing companies into one large corporation
unalienable rights—natural rights which cannot be taken away by any government; Declaration of Independence lists them as “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”
urban flight—migration of people from cities to suburbs
urbanization—growth of cities
urban sprawl—unplanned and uncontrolled spreading of cities into surrounding regions
USS Maine—warship that exploded and sank in Havana harbor, February, 1898
Vietcong—South Vietnamese communists who fought against the government of South Vietnam, aided by North Vietnam, 1957–1975
Vietnamization—process of replacing U.S. troops in Vietnam with South Vietnamese troops; Nixon’s strategy for ending U.S. involvement
Watergate—scandal involving the Nixon administration’s attempt to cover up the 1972 break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters
Woodstock—free music festival attracting 400,000 young people to upstate New York, 1969