

# Timeline

The colours represent different types of events, legislation and changes as follows:

- Blue: Economic
- Yellow: Social
- Red: Political
- Black: International (including foreign policy)
- Green: Religious

JAN 1953  
- JAN 1961  
- DWIGHT  
EISENHOWER

HARRY  
TRUMAN 1945 - 1953

Year	Event	Category
1945	Democrat Franklin Roosevelt dies, replaced by Harry Truman	Political
1945	Dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japan surrenders	Political
1945	Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 5.2 per cent, GDP declines 12.7 per cent	Economic
1945	Brown v Board of Education decision by Supreme Court	Political
1945	CIA overthrows Arbenz in a military coup in Guatemala	Political
1947	Truman introduces 'Truman Doctrine'	Political
1947	Construction of suburb of Levittown; New York begins process of suburbanisation	Social
1947	Republicans take control of Senate and House	Political
1948	The Marshall Plan introduced	Political
1949	Chairman Mao pronounces communist takeover in China	Political
1949	Democrats regain control of Senate and House	Political
1950	Senator Joseph McCarthy launches campaign to expose communists in government	Political
1950	US tests first Hydrogen bomb	Political
1950-54	1950-3 US forces fight in the Korean War	Political
1950-54	1953-4 Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 6.1 per cent, GDP declines 2.6 per cent	Economic
1950-54	1953 CIA overthrows Mossadegh in a military coup in Iran	Political
1951	Freedom Riders begin	Political
1951	CIA orchestrates failed Bay of Pigs invasion	Political
1951	Building of Berlin Wall	Political
1952	Republican Dwight Eisenhower elected as president	Political
1955-56	Montgomery Bus Boycott	Political
1955	Household television ownership exceeds 90 per cent	Social
1956	'In God we trust' adopted as the official motto of the United States	Political
1956	President Eisenhower signs Interstate Highway Act	Political
1956	Southdale Centre opens as first US shopping mall	Social
1957	Little Rock Crisis	Political
1957	Sit-ins lead to the founding of the SNCC	Political
1957	John F Kennedy elected as president	Political
1957	Food and Drug Administration approve the use of the contraceptive pill	Political
1957	1960-61 Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 7.1 per cent, GDP declines 1.6 per cent	Economic
1958	Martin Luther King assassinated	Political
1958	Assassination of Robert Kennedy by Palestinian nationalist Sirhan Sirhan	Political
1958	Tet Offensive in Vietnam	Political
1959	Republican Party candidate Richard Nixon elected president	Political
1959	Stonewall Rebellion in New York launches gay rights movement	Political
1959	Women's movement protests at Miss America pageant in Atlantic City	Political
1959	News of My Lai massacre reaches US	Political
1960	Woodstock music festival	Political
1960	US astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the Moon	Political
1960	1969-70 Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 6.1 per cent, GDP declines 0.6 per cent	Economic
1960	250,000 protesters march in Washington against the Vietnam War	Political
1961	Cuban missile crisis	Political
1961	Rachel Carson publishes <i>Silent Spring</i>	Political
1962	Bombing of Cambodia begins	Political
1962	Four students shot and killed at Kent State University during anti-war protests	Political
1963	President John F Kennedy assassinated; Lyndon Johnson becomes president	Political
1963	Betty Friedan publishes <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>	Political
1963	CIA overthrows Bosch in a military coup in the Dominican Republic	Political
1964	Mississippi Freedom Summer	Political
1964	CIA overthrows Goulart in a military coup in Brazil	Political
1964	1964-68 Major race riots in many US cities	Political
1964	Civil Rights Act signed by Johnson	Political
1965	Voting Rights Act signed by Johnson	Political
1965	César Chávez and United Farm Workers begin strike action	Political
1965	Selma campaign	Political
1965	Malcolm X assassinated in New York	Political
1966	National Organization of Women (NOW) founded	Political
1967	Church Committee condemns CIA abuses	Political
1968	Democrat Jimmy Carter elected president	Political
1968	Three Mile Island incident	Political
1968	Hostage crisis at US embassy in Tehran, Iran	Political
1968	'Moral Majority' founded as Christian political group	Political
1968	Soviet Union invades Afghanistan; CIA begins funding guerrilla opposition	Political
1969	Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 7.8 per cent, GDP declines 2.2 per cent	Economic
1969	Republican Ronald Reagan elected president	Political
1970	Recession hits US economy, unemployment reaches 7.8 per cent, GDP declines 2.2 per cent	Economic
1970	Republican Ronald Reagan elected president	Political
1971	Richard Nixon declares a 'War on Drugs'	Political
1971	US pulls out of Bretton-Woods Accord and abandons the gold standard	Political
1972	Nixon re-elected and makes historic visit to China	Political
1972	Nixon and Brezhnev complete talks on Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)	Political
1972	Equal Rights Amendment passes Congress	Political
1973	Roe v. Wade decision by Supreme Court	Political
1973	CIA overthrows Allende in a military coup in Chile	Political
1973	OPEC raise oil price by 70 per cent	Political
1973	Vietnam ceasefire agreement signed	Political
1973	American Indian Movement seizes Wounded Knee, South Dakota	Political
1974	Inflation hits 11 per cent	Economic
1974	Nixon announces his resignation; Gerald Ford becomes president	Political
1975	Jimmy Carter elected president	Political
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