

Indian Removal Act:

The Indian Removal Act was a law that was passed in the **early 1800s** by **Andrew Jackson**. This act allowed Jackson to **use money and force to remove Native Americans from their lands**. Natives were removed from lands (mainly in the **southeast-Tennessee and Georgia**) and forced to live in federal territory **across the Mississippi River**. **Southerners** liked the act because they wanted to take lands occupied by the **Five Civilized Tribes** (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee-Creek, Seminole) for themselves. Some natives wanted to resist, but were eventually pressured into signing treaties and leaving their land. Many **European-Americans were happy** about the treaties, but some **missionaries** were not. Some Native Americans (Creek mostly) under **Chief Black Hawk tried to go back to their old lands** because they **disliked Iowa** and the surrounding area. They had **come in peace** but were **met with violence from European-Americans**, causing **Black Hawk's War**. The Cherokee people tried a different approach and tried to **fight using the legal system**. This resulted in two cases, ***Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*** and ***Worcester v. Georgia***. **John Marshall** found that the Cherokee had rights to their land in Georgia and shouldn't be forced off. **Andrew Jackson** then delivered his famous quote of, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!" **The Indian Removal Act is important because this act led to the emigration of thousands of natives and gave European-Americans more farmland in the process. It led to the Treaty of New Echota and the Trail of Tears, which was a dark part of our history. The removal of the natives led to bitter feelings as well.**

Trail of Tears:

**The Trail of Tears** was/were the path(s) taken by the **Cherokee people** across the **Mississippi River** in the **mid-1800s**. The natives travelled **hundreds of miles across the American South** after being forced to leave their native land by **Andrew Jackson**. Jackson's **Indian Removal Act** helped move the natives (by force if necessary). Some natives, like **Black Hawk**, tried to return to their old lands but found themselves **engaged in a bloody battle with the white Americans**. The **Cherokees decided to take a different approach**. The Cherokees tried to **fight for their land legally** in cases such as ***Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*** and ***Worcester v. Georgia***. **John Marshall** found them to **have rights to the land**. Andrew Jackson is famous for saying, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!" Jackson did not want to listen to the ruling and **wanted to remove the Cherokee people regardless**. This led to the signing of the **Treaty of New Echota**. Jackson would have (or at least *should have*) been **impeached**, but many **Americans agreed with Jackson over Marshall**. The Cherokee people were **forced to leave** and settled out west. **The Trail of Tears is a dark spot in our history but is still important because native peoples were forced to move from their lands and they took their culture with them. Many died, and the survivors suffered physically and spiritually. European-Americans took Cherokee lands and built plantations, which helped their economy.**

The Panic of 1819:

In **1819 (early 1800s)**, the **economy went downhill very quickly** because of **over-speculation in America**. **State banks had issued their own banknotes**, but had **given out too many** and made **bad investments**. Also, after the **Napoleonic Wars ended in Europe**, European soldiers were able to leave the battlefield and **return to their farm fields**. With European farmers able to **grow their own bumper crops** (like wheat) again, they **no longer relied on American farmers**-just as Americans began to depend on their support. Land prices fell, and so did the market for crops. Since Europe no longer needed Americans' crops, the **prices of said crops were nearly cut in half**. **Land prices fell**, which hurt **farmers and speculators**. At this time, the **Second Bank of the United States** wanted all of its **loans to be repaid in specie** (gold) instead of in state bank notes. The states found this to be a problem because they had **printed more bank notes than they had specie**. They **needed their loans to be paid** by the farmers so that they could pay the national bank. The farmers, however, **had very little specie to pay the states** with. Because the banks needed specie and they were not receiving it from the farmers, **they stopped issuing credit**. Without credit, no one bought anything and thus land sales declined. Everyone faced bankruptcy and unemployment. **The Panic of 1819 is important because it left a bitter taste in people's mouths when it came to banks**. People, including **Andrew Jackson**, especially **distrusted the Second National Bank**. Jackson would later decide **not to re-charter the bank when he became president**. The panic also **stimulated demands for higher tariffs such as the Tariff of Abominations (1828)**. It also marked the end of the **"Era of Good Feelings."**

Fulton's Clermont:

The **Clermont** (also known as the North River Steamboat) was the **first commercial steamboat**, created by **Robert Fulton and Robert R. Livingston** in the **early 1800s**. The Clermont was introduced on the **Hudson River**, and the two men were granted the ability to **run a ferry service between New York and New Jersey** by Congress. They profited greatly from this opportunity, prompting competitors to **challenge their success**. This led to the court case of **Gibbons v. Ogden** in which **John Marshall** found that **people did not have exclusive rights to a monopoly**. The Clermont is **important because the steamboat allowed goods and people to travel faster than before and also allowed them to travel upstream**. Steamboats would be improved so that goods could travel farther and safer. The Clermont and other early steamboats led to the canal boom and the creation of the Erie Canal, which connected the Midwest to the East Coast.

Alexis de Tocqueville:

**Alexis de Tocqueville** was a **Frenchman** who spent time in **America** in the **early 1800s**. He recognized that **there was inequality, but thought America was more equal than France**. In his two-volume **Democracy in America**, he said that **equality** among the people was the **fundamental shaping force** of American **society**. This book, written in the **mid-1800s**, examined a **democratic revolution** that de Tocqueville believed had been going on for several hundred years. He also wrote other works that **examined living standards and social classes** in Western society. de Tocqueville was a **critic of individualism** and thought that if people came together they would be able to overcome selfish desires. Individualism, a term coined by de Tocqueville himself, was described by him as being a kind of **selfishness that disposed humans to be concerned with only their own family and friends**. He thought that it **sapped the virtues of public life**. **Alexis de Tocqueville is important because he observed and recorded American life**. He also reinforced our feelings about being unique and different.

*Democracy in America:*

***Democracy in America*** was a two-volume book written in the **mid-1800s** by **Alexis de Tocqueville**. He had come to **America** and observed the **different social classes**. **Equality among the people, according to the volumes, shaped the society**. It explored America's history with democracy and its effect on the people. It **recognized the changes America was going through** at the time as well. ***Democracy in America* is important because it was read by other important political figures and also discussed democracy's effect on people. It talked about our unique society and how we should strive to be equal. It made us feel unique.**

*Calhoun and the South Carolina Exposition and Protest:*

**The *South Carolina Exposition and Protest*** was written in the **early 1800s** anonymously, but **John C. Calhoun** eventually took credit for it. The document **protested against the Tariff of 1828**, also known as the **Tariff of Abominations**. This tariff was passed in **Washington, D.C.** under **John Quincy Adams**, but the next president, **Andrew Jackson**, also supported it for the most part. The *Exposition and Protest* stated that the **tariff was unconstitutional** because it was **not justified by public necessity**. The tariff prohibited foreign trade and protected manufacture, the latter of which is in no way a constitutional power. The document threatened that if the tariff was not repealed, **South Carolina would leave the Union**. **The *South Carolina Exposition and Protest* is important because the issue of nullification once again arose and the power of the federal government was questioned. It also almost led to a Civil War and showed that sectionalism was present in the United States. It showed that judicial review was still present in America. It led to the Compromise Tariff and Force Bill as well.**

*The Second Great Awakening:*

**The Second Great Awakening** began in around **Connecticut and Vermont** in the **late 1700s**. It spread to the **majority of the country during the early 1800s**. At first, **educated Congregationalists** such as **Timothy Dwight** (Yale's President) led the revivals. Soon, however, **camp meetings** had more influence. Camp meetings were where many denominations gathered outside (since a building could not hold the huge number of people) and revivalists discussed the **Second Coming of Jesus**. **Baptist and Methodist memberships rose the most** and many revival leaders belonged to one of the two groups. People reacted **against previous ideas such as skepticism, deism, and rational Christianity**. **New denominations formed and millions joined congregations**. The Awakening was especially strong in the **Northeast and Midwest**. An important revivalist during this time was **Charles Grandison Finney**. Finney believed that the **Gospel could reform society**. As a **Methodist**, he also believed that **religion was a matter of the heart** (a personal matter) and that we had **control over our own lives**. He also **allowed women to pray in public** and developed "anxious benches" for those considering becoming Christians as well. **The Second Great Awakening is important because it led to the launch of more schools and created more religious groups and converts. More abolitionist and women's rights groups formed during the Age of Reform. People believed that they could control their destiny and their future. Law and order was also promoted during this time and the Second Great Awakening showed the changes that were happening in society.**

Horace Mann:

**Horace Mann** was an **education reformist** and the “**Father of the Common School Movement**” in the **early and mid-1800s**. He represented **Massachusetts** in the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**. He also served as the **Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education**. He **built public schools** because he thought that a good way to **turn unruly children into disciplined republicans**. Other **Whig members** supported his ideas. Mann used lessons from the **Prussian school system** and promoted the use of **high-quality teachers** and a **uniform curriculum**. His schools caught on the most in the **North and Midwest**. His schools taught **trust, patience, respect, and promptness**. He wrote many books and also founded and edited ***The Common School Journal***. Many of his schools were religiously passive. **Horace Mann is important because his ideas about education influenced schools in the North and Midwest. He began teaching students American ideals that we still value today.**

William Lloyd Garrison and *The Liberator*:

***The Liberator*** was an **anti-slavery newspaper** published by the abolitionist **William Lloyd Garrison** in the **mid-1800s**. This paper, originally printed in **Massachusetts**, was frequently read by **black slaves**. The newspaper **spoke out against slavery** and for the **equal rights of all Americans**. Despite being a fairly small publication, it gained fame due to **Garrison’s radical views**. Garrison called for the **immediate emancipation of slaves**- quite a radical idea at the time. Even abolitionists were unsure about this idea because it was widely believed that **black slaves would not be able to assimilate** into the white world very easily. William Lloyd Garrison also had less radical ideas, including that **slaves should be freed through peace and nonviolence**. He promoted **education on slavery**, feeling that this education could, in a sense, “kill” slavery. **Women leaders**, such as **Lucy Stone**, were also **elevated by his call for equality**. **William Lloyd Garrison and *The Liberator* are important because of the ideas of freedom that were portrayed and spread to people, including slaves. It called for legal and civil rights for slaves and eventually helped elevate women leaders as well.**

Seneca Falls Convention:

**The Seneca Falls Convention** was a **women’s rights convention** that took place in the **mid-1800s** in **Seneca Falls, New York**. Women planned the event upon the arrival of **Philadelphia Quaker Lucretia Mott**. Mott was unique for her time because women were not supposed to **speak out in public**. **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** also helped organize the convention. Stanton was a non-Quaker who wrote the **Declaration of Sentiments**. The **Declaration of Sentiments was a document based on the Declaration of Independence** and it **demanded that women got equal rights**. Stanton worked with and was mentored by Mott. **The two women and the Seneca Falls Convention are important because they demanded equal rights for all and it was the first women’s rights convention in America. They helped with the women’s suffrage movement and influenced other women, including Susan B. Anthony.**

American Renaissance:

**The American Renaissance** was a period of time where **American inventions, writing, and the arts thrived**. This American progression took place mostly in the **mid-1800s** in **New England** (Boston, Concord, New York, etc.). This was mainly a **literary movement** where writers such as **James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allen Poe** became household names in **America and Europe**. The work of authors such as **Nathaniel Hawthorne** showed the hypocrisy of Puritan New England. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, another essayist, preached **individualism and self-reliance**. Poets such as **Walt Whitman** and **Emily Dickinson** also thrived. The American Renaissance took off because people at this time were able to purchase books. **The American Renaissance is important because it signified our final social break and independence from Europe and showed that we could achieve literary greatness just like Europe could. It made people such as Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and Poe household names.**

Minstrel Shows:

**Minstrel shows** were popular forms of entertainment that became especially popular in the **mid-1800s**. They originated in **New York** but soon **spread across America**, with the first minstrel shows being linked to individuals such as **Thomas Dartmouth “Daddy” Rice**. In minstrel shows, white men would **blacken their faces** and perform routines that commonly included **singing, dancing, and racist “comedy.”** These shows normally painted a **negative image of blacks**- labeling them as **inappropriate, lazy, or unintelligent**. Common names in these shows include **Jim Crow, Zip Coon, and Mr. Tambo**. Popular minstrel shows included the **Virginia Minstrels, Christy Minstrels, and Bryant’s Minstrels** (led by **Daniel Bryant**). **These shows were important because of their popularity and negative and usually untrue portrayal of blacks. They intensified political conflicts over race as well.**

Henry Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience*:

***Civil Disobedience*** was written in the **mid-1800s** by **Henry Thoreau**. Thoreau **refused to pay** a poll tax because the **revenue was being used to fund the Mexican-American War**. Thoreau viewed this as a **southern conspiracy to extend slavery** (which the Massachusetts-born Thoreau disliked). He was **jailed**, and this event prompted him to write ***Civil Disobedience***. This essay **defended his right to disobey unjust or unfair laws**. He believed that the federal government should not overrule their consciences and people should not obey unfair laws. This, however, had to be done **peacefully**. ***Civil Disobedience* is important because it claimed that people should disobey unjust laws peacefully, and this led to future nonviolent protests. It also emphasized that people should be more independent and think for themselves.**