



# UNIT 1: THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES



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1800 - 1850

**1800 - 1850** This period covers the early years of the United States, from the founding of the nation to the beginning of the Civil War. It is characterized by westward expansion, the growth of industry, and the struggle for slavery.

**1850 - 1860** This period covers the years leading up to the Civil War, including the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act. It is a time of intense political and social conflict.

**1860 - 1865** This period covers the Civil War, a major conflict between the Union and the Confederacy over the issue of slavery.

**1865 - 1877** This period covers the Reconstruction era, a time of rebuilding the South and integrating African Americans into society.

Year	Event	Significance	Impact	Legacy
1776	Declaration of Independence	Established the United States as a sovereign nation.	Created a new political system based on the principles of liberty and democracy.	Symbol of American independence.
1787	Constitution	Established the framework for the federal government.	Created a system of checks and balances and a federal judiciary.	Foundational document of the United States.
1800	Jefferson's Purchase	Acquired the Louisiana Territory, doubling the size of the United States.	Facilitated westward expansion and settlement.	Symbol of territorial growth.
1820	Missouri Compromise	Resolved the issue of slavery in the newly acquired territories.	Established a precedent for resolving sectional conflicts.	Highlighted the tension between free and slave states.
1848	Texas Annexation	Added Texas to the United States, leading to the Mexican-American War.	Expanded the United States to the Pacific Ocean.	Symbol of Manifest Destiny.
1850	Compromise of 1850	Resolved the issue of slavery in the territories acquired from Mexico.	Temporarily eased sectional tensions.	Highlighted the growing divide over slavery.
1861	Start of the Civil War	Outbreak of a major conflict between the Union and the Confederacy.	Resulted in the abolition of slavery and the preservation of the Union.	Symbol of national unity and the end of slavery.
1865	Emancipation Proclamation	Declared that all slaves in the Confederate states were free.	Accelerated the end of slavery in the United States.	Symbol of the fight for freedom.
1877	End of Reconstruction	Reconstruction ended, and the South returned to normalcy.	Allowed for the reintegration of the South into the Union.	Highlighted the challenges of Reconstruction.

**1877 - 1900** This period covers the Gilded Age, a time of rapid industrialization and economic growth.

**1900 - 1945** This period covers the Progressive Era and World War II, a time of social reform and global conflict.



**1945 - 1980** This period covers the Cold War and the Vietnam War, a time of international tension and domestic conflict.

**1980 - 2000** This period covers the Reagan Revolution and the end of the Cold War, a time of economic growth and global change.