CRITICAL PERIOD: 1788-1815

1. George Washington, 1789-1797
   V.P.- John Adams
   Secretary of State-Thomas Jefferson
   Secretary of the Treasury-Alexander Hamilton
   Major Items: Judiciary Act (1789)
   French Revolution (1789)
   Tariff of 1789
   Whiskey Rebellion (1794)
   Jay Treaty with England (1794)
   Pickney Treaty with Spain (1795)
   Farewell Address (1796)
   First Bank (1791-1811)

2. John Adams, 1797-1801
   Federalist
   V.P.-Thomas Jefferson
   Major Items: XYZ Affair (1797)
   Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)
   Naturalization Act
   “Midnight Judges” (1801)
   Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions (1798)

3. Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809
   Democrat-Republican
   V.P.-Aaron Burr
   Secretary of State-James Madison
   Major Items: Marbury v. Madison (1803)
   Louisiana Purchase (1803)
   Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-05)
   12th Amendment (1804)
   Embargo Act (1807)
   Non-Intercourse Act (1809)

4. James Madison, 1809-1817
   Democrat-Republican
   V.P.-George Clinton
   Secretary of State-James Monroe
Major Items:  
- Macon Act (1810)  
- Berlin and Milan Decrees  
- Orders in Council  
- “War Hawks” (1811-1812)  
- War of 1812  
- Hartford Convention (1814)  
- First Protective Tariff (1816)

**ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS/ERA OF THE COMMON MAN: 1815-1840**

5. James Monroe, 1817-1825  
   Democrat-Republican  
   V.P.-Daniel Tomkins  
   Secretary of State-John Quincy Adams  
   Major Items:  
   Marshall Court Decisions:  
   - *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)  
   - Dartmouth College Case (1819)  
   - *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824)  
   Acquisition of Florida from Spain (Adams Onis Treaty, 1819)  
   Missouri Compromise (1820)  
   Monroe Doctrine (1823)  
   Sectional Tariff (1824)  
   “Corrupt Bargain” election, 1824

6. John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829  
   Democrat-Republican  
   V.P.-John C. Calhoun  
   Secretary of State-Henry Clay  
   Major Items:  
   - New York’s Erie Canal  
   - Tariff of Abominations (1828)  
   - Calhoun’s Exposition and Protest (1828)

7. Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837  
   Democrat  
   V.P. John C. Calhoun/later Martin Van Buren  
   Major Items:  
   - Jacksonian Democracy  
   - Tariffs of 1832 and 1833  
   - Second Bank of the United States (B.U.S.-due to expire in 1836)  
   - Formation of the Whig Party (1832)

8. Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841  
   Democrat  
   V.P.-Richard Johnson
Major Items: Panic of 1837
- overspeculation in land
- specie circular, no B.U.S.
- unsound financing by state governments

**ANTEBELLUM PERIOD: 1840-1860**

9. William Henry Harrison, 1841
   Whig
   V.P.-John Tyler
   Secretary of State-Daniel Webster

10. John Tyler, 1841-1845
    Anti-Jackson Democrat, ran as VP on Whig ticket
    Secretary of State-Daniel Webster
    Major Items: Webster-Ashburton Treaty (1842)
                 Vetoes Clay’s bill for 3rd B.U.S.
                 Canadian border at 45th parallel

11. James K. Polk, 1845-1849
    Democrat
    V.P.-George Dallas
    Major Items: Texas becomes a state (1845)
                 Oregon boundary settled (1846)
                 Wilmot Proviso (1846); tried to keep slavery out of newly acquired territory (failed to pass Senate)
                 Mexican War (1846-1848)
                 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)

12. Zachary Taylor, 1849-1850
    Whig
    V.P.-Millard Fillmore

13. Millard Fillmore, 1850-1853
    Whig
    Secretary of State-Daniel Webster
    Major Items: Compromise of 1850
                 Clayton-Bulwer Treaty (1850)-Britain and the
14. Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857
   Democrat
   V.P.-William King
   Major Items: Kansas-Nebraska Bill (1854)
                Japan opened to world trade (1853)
                Underground Railroad
                Bleeding Kansas
                Ostend Manifesto (1854)-desire for Cuba, Spain is offered
                $100,000,000 in Ostend, Belgium, U.S. threatens to take
                Cuba by force if deal is not made

15. James Buchanan, 1857-1861
   Democrat
   V.P.-John C. Breckenridge
   Major Items: Taney’s Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)
                Lincoln-Douglas Debates
                South Carolina secession (1860)

16. Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865
    Republican
    V.P.-Andrew Johnson
    Secretary of State-William H. Seward
    Secretary of Treasury-Salmon P. Chase
    Major Items: Civil War 1861-1865
                 Homestead Act (1862)
                 Morill Act-created agricultural colleges
                 Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
                 Ten Percent Plan
                 Lincoln’s assassination-April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth

17. Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869
    Republican
    Secretary of State-William H. Seward
    Major Items: 13th Amendment (1865)
                 14th Amendment (1868)
                 Amnesty Plan (1865)
                 Military Reconstruction Plan (1867)
                 Tenure of Office Act (1868)
                 Impeachment Trial (1868)
                 Formation of the KKK
                 Adoption of Black Codes
18. Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877  
V.P.-Califax Wilson  
Secretary of State-Hamilton Fish  
Major Items:  First Transcontinental Railroad (1869)  
15th Amendment (1870)  
Tweed Ring  
Panic of 1873  
Credit Mobilier scandal  
Whiskey Ring

**GILDED AGE: 1877-1900**

19. Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1900  
Republican  
V.P.-William Wheeler  
Major Items:  Bland-Allison Act-free coinage of silver  
Troops withdraw from the South as a result of Compromise 1877

20. James A. Garfield, 1881 (March 4-September 19)  
Republican  
V.P.-Chester A. Arthur  
Secretary of State-James A. Blaine  
Major Items:  Garfield’s assassination by C. Julius Guiteau

21. Chester A. Arther, 1881-1885  
Republican  
Secretary of State-James A. Blaine  
Major Items:  Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883)-civil service commission and testing set up (to deter patronage)

22. Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889  
Democrat  
V.P.-Thomas Hendricks  
Major Items:  Knights of Labor (1886)  
Haymarket Riot (1886)  
Interstate Commerce Act (1887)  
*Washburn v. Illinois* (1886)
23. Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893
   Republican
   V.P.-Levi Morton
   Secretary of State-James A. Blaine
   Major Items: Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)
                Populist Party Platform of 1892
                North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana,
                Washington becomes states (1889)
                Idaho, Wyoming become states (1890)
                McKinley Tariff (1890)
                Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)

24. Grover Cleveland (again), 1893-1897
    Second Administration
    Democrat
    V.P.-Adlai Stevenson
    Major Items: Panic of 1893
                 Hawaiian Incident (1893)
                 Venezuelan Boundary Affair (1895)
                 Pullman Strike (1894)
                 American Federation of Labor
                 Wilson-Gorman Tariff (1894)

25. William McKinley, 1897-1901
    Republican
    V.P.-Garet Hobart, 1896-1900
    V.P.-Theodore Roosevelt
    Secretary of State-John Hay
    Major Items: New Imperialism
                 Spanish-American War (April 1898-
                 February 1899)
                 Open Door Policy (1899)
                 Boxer Rebellion (1900)
                 McKinley’s assassination by Leon Czolgosz (1901)

26. Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909
    Republican
    V.P.-Charles Fairbanks
    Secretary of State-John Hay, Elihu Root
    Major Items: Panama Canal (1903-1914)
                 “Big Stick” Diplomacy
                 “Square Deal”
                 3 C’s-consumer protection, conservationism,
                 control of corps.
                 Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
Portsmouth Treaty (1905)
Gentlemen’s Agreement with Japan (1904)
Hague Conferences (1899 and 1907)
Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Inspection Act, Muckrakers (1906)
Political Reforms of the Roosevelt era
Trustbusting
Coal Strike
Venezuelan Debt Controversy (1902)
Dominican Republic crisis (1902-1905)
Algerius Conference over Morocco (1906)

27. William H. Taft (1909-1913)
Republican
V.P.-James Sherman
Major Items: Paine-Aldrich Tariff (1909)
Pinchot-Ballinger controversy
16th Amendment (income tax)
“Dollar Diplomacy”

28. Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1921
Democrat
V.P.-Thomas Marshall
Major Items: Underwood Tariff (1913)
17th, 18th, 19th Amendments
Federal Reserve System (1913)
Federal Trade Commission (1914)
Clayton Anti-Trust Act (1914)
“Moral Diplomacy”
Troops to Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Virgin Islands, and Mexico
World War I (1914-1918)
Lusitania-sunk May 1915
Zimmerman telegram
“Fourteen Points” January 1917
Treaty of Versailles (1919-1920)
“New Freedom”
29. Warren G. Harding, 1921-1923
   “Dark Horse”
   Republican
   V.P.-Calvin Coolidge
   Secretary of State-Charles E. Hughes
   Major Items: Teapot Dome Scandal, Albert Fall
                Washington Conference (1921-22)
                Fordney-McCumber Tariff (1922)

30. Calvin Coolidge, 1923-1929
    Republican
    V.P.-Charles Dawes
    Secretary of State-Frank Kellogg
    Major Items: Dawes Plan (1924)
                  Immigration Act of 1924 (National Origins Act)
                  Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)

31. Herbert Hoover, 1929-1933
    Republican
    V.P.-Charles Curtis
    Secretary of State-Henry L. Stimson
    Major Items: National Origins Act, revised (1929)
                 Panic and Depression
                 Stock Market Crash (1929)
                 Hawley-Smoot Tariff (1930)
                 Reconstruction Finance Corporation
                 Bonus Army (marched to D.C. to demand WWI bonus)
                 20th Amendment (changed inauguration date to Jan. 20th)

THE NEW DEAL/ERA OF REFORM: 1929-1945

32. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945
    Democrat
    V.P.-John Garner, Henry Wallace, Harry Truman
    Major Items: New Deal and “alphabet” government
                  (AAA, CCC, NIRA, SEC, TVA, etc.
                  Second New Deal (WPA, Wagner Act, Social Security, etc)
                  21st Amendment-ends Prohibition (repeals 18th Amendment)
Huey Long, “Share Our Wealth” program
“Court Packing” scheme

33.  Harry S. Truman, 1945-1953
Democrat
V.P.-Alben Barkley
Major Items:  Potsdam Conference (1945)
World War II ends-atomic bomb (Hiroshima, Nagaskai), 1945
Taft-Hartley Act (1947, Congress passes over Truman’s veto)
Truman Doctrine (1947)
Marshall Plan (1947)
Executive Order 9981-desegregation of military (1948)
Berlin Airlift (1948-49)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO (1949)
Fall of China to Communism (1949)
Korean War (1950-1953)
“Fair Deal”

THE COLD WAR: 1945-1968

34.  Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-1961
Republican
V.P.-Richard Nixon
Major Items:  22nd Amendment
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)
Beginning of Civil Rights Movement (Montgomery Bus Boycott, Little Rock 9 at Central High School, etc).
Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)
Suez Crisis (1956)
Eisenhower Doctrine
Space Race
Federal Highway Act of 1956
Alaska and Hawaii become states (1959)
U-2 spy plane incident (1960)
Farewell Address-warms U.S. of dependence on “military-industrial complex”
35. **John F. Kennedy, 1961-1963**  
   Democrat  
   V.P.-Lyndon B. Johnson  
   Major Items:  
   - Alliance for Progress  
   - Peace Corps  
   - Cuba-Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961) and Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)  
   - “New Frontier”  
   - Civil Rights Movement (Montgomery March, March on Washington and MLK Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, etc.)  
   - Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty  
   Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, TX (Nov. 1963) by Lee Harvey Oswald

36. **Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1969**  
   Democrat  
   V.P.-Herbert Humphrey  
   Major Items:  
   - The “Cold War”  
   - Income tax cuts  
   - *Wesberry v. Sanders* (1964)  
   - Civil Rights Act of 1964  
   - Voting Rights Act of 1965  
   - Civil Rights Movement (SNCC, Black Panthers, Malcolm X)  
   - Elementary and Secondary Education  
   - “Great Society”, a.k.a. War on Poverty  
   - Medicare  
   - Medicaid  
   - Vietnam War-Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964), Tet Offensive (1968)  
   - Mr. Jarocki was born (1967)  
   - Assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and RFK (1968)  
   - Counterculture and hippies

**DÉTENTE/RAPPROCHEMENT: 1968-2000**

   Republican  
   V.P.-Spiro Agnew, Gerald Ford  
   Major Items:  
   - “Imperial Presidency”  
   - Moon Landing, July 1969  
   - Warren Burger becomes Chief Justice (1969)  
   - Woodstock (1969)
E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) est. 1970
26th Amendment (1971), lowers voting age to 18
Pentagon Papers-Supreme Court to allow NY Times to publish (1971)
Visit to China (1972)
Visit to U.S.S.R. (1972)
SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty) 1972
Kissinger “Shuttle Diplomacy” (1973-75)
Wounded Knee, South Dakota (1973)
Allende regime in Chile-C.I.A. (1973)
Agnew resigns (1973)
Watergate Scandal (1973-1974)
Nixon resigns August 1974

38. **Gerald Ford, 1974-1976**
   Republican
   1st appointed (not elected) president
   V.P.-Nelson Rockefeller*
   *neither the president or vice president had been elected
   Major Items: Nixon pardon

   Democrat
   V.P.-Walter Mondale
   Major Items: Panama Canal Treaty (1977)
                Established diplomatic relations with Communist China, ended recognition of Taiwan
                Mrs. Griffiths was born (1978)
                Three Mile Island Incident (nuclear power plant leak) 1979
                Egypt and Israel Peace Treaty (Camp David Accords) 1979
                Iran Hostage Crisis (1979); rescue attempt failed
                Seizure of Afghanistan by Soviets (1979)
                “Stagflation”
                Energy Crisis
                Boycott of 1980 Moscow Olympics to protest Afghanistan invasion

   Republican
   V.P.-George Bush
   Major Items: Hostages released from Iran
                Failed assassination attempt of Reagan (1981)
1500 marines sent to Beruit in 1983, withdrawn in 1984
Grenada Invasion (1984)
Nicaragua and the Contras (1984)
Strategic Defense Initiative, a.k.a. “Star Wars”
Sandra Day O’Connor appointed to the Supreme Court (1st Woman)
“Supply Side Economics,” tax cuts
Rise of Religious Rights
Iran Contra Hearings, Oliver North (1987)
Increased terrorism in the Middle East
Space Shuttle disaster

41. George Bush, 1989-1993
   Republican
   V.P.-Dan Quayle
   Major Items: Savings and Loan Scandal (1990)
                Berlin Wall Falls, Reunification of Germany (1989)
                Invasion of Panama (1990)
                Soviet Union collapses, Cold War over (1991)
                Operation Desert Storm (1991)

42. Bill Clinton, 1993-2001
   Democrat
   V.P.-Al Gore
   Major Items: NAFTA (1994)
                Troops sent to Bosnia
                Whitewater Scandal
                Oklahoma City Bombing (1995)
                Unemployment and inflation down
                Deficit lowered
                Lewinsky Affair, Impeachment (1998)
43. George W. Bush, 2001-2009
   Republican
   V.P.-Dick Cheney
   Major Items: 9/11
   Bush Doctrine (Afghanistan, Iraq)
   Homeland Security
   PATRIOT Act
   No Child Left Behind (2001)
   Hurricane Katrina (2005)
   Great Recession (2007-2009)

44. Barack Obama, 2009-2017
   Democrat
   V.P.-Joe Biden
   Major Items: Death of Osama Bin Laden
   Iraq (ended occupation)
   Afghanistan (Taliban resurgence)
   Arab Spring (Egypt, Libya, Syria)
   Ukraine (Crimea)
   ISIS
   Great Recession (2007-2009)
   American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
   Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act