



The Social Security Act

1935 A.D. As part of F. D. Roosevelt's New Deal, this legislation was enacted to provide a Federal program of unemployment compensation and senior citizens benefits, as well as funds to aid in state level programs and general welfare.



The First Television Public Broadcast

1939 A.D. The first U.S. public transmission was from the New York World's Fair by the National Broadcasting Company, with further transmissions following that same year of President Roosevelt's speech and a baseball game.



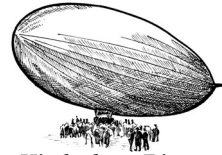
Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929-1968 A.D. American cleric, orator, and civil rights leader who organized peaceful protests against racial inequality during the 1950s-60s. Well known for his "I have a dream..." speech and 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee.



The Stock Market Crash and The Great Depression

1929-1930s A.D. On Tuesday, October 29, 1929, the New York Stock Exchange collapsed, dubbing it "Black Tuesday," and leading America and much of the economic world into several years of unemployment and bankruptcy.



Hindenburg Disaster

May 6, 1937 A.D. A German, hydrogen-filled Zeppelin (airship) that was bound for Lakehurst, New Jersey, bearing 97 passengers. It mysteriously exploded in mid air, crashing to the ground in a ball of fire, killing 36. By 1939, the age of airships came to an end.



World War II

1939-1945 A.D. A war between Allies (Great Britain, France, the U.S. the Soviet Union, China, and others) and Axis Powers (Germany, Japan, and Italy) that began with Hitler's invasion of Poland, and was riddled with Nazi influence, such as the Holocaust. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 triggered U.S. involvement. Hitler's suicide and the invasion of Germany ended the war in Europe in 1944, with Japan surrendering in 1945.



Oklahoma Dust Bowl

1934-1937 A.D. Three years of drought and dust storms forced farmers of parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma to migrate to other locations, leaving literally everything behind. Steinbeck captured the plight of those involved in his novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*.



The Bombing of Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941 A.D. With a U.S. naval base established on the coast of Oahu, the Japanese engaged the U.S. without warning during WWII with an air raid over the base. Damaging and destroying 200 aircraft and 19 ships, and killing 2,400 Americans, the U.S. soon entered the war. It is remembered as "A day that will live in infamy."

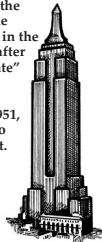


The Battle for Iwo Jima

February 19th, 1945 A.D. A strategically important volcanic island in the Pacific during WWII, needed as an air base. Although a necessary conquest, the severe assault lasted 36 days until its capture. Once occupied by U.S. troops, invading Japan was one step closer.

Empire State Building

1931 A.D. Erected over a two-year period on Fifth Avenue in New York City, this 1,250-foot high skyscraper had the reputation as the tallest building in the world. Named after the "Empire State" of New York, a television mast was added in 1951, bringing it up to a lofty 1,472 feet.



D-Day

June 6, 1944 A.D. During WWII, allied forces invaded German-occupied France with air, sea, and land forces. The campaign's invasion covered five beaches. With General Eisenhower supreme commander, U.S. forces fought on the western beaches, while British and Canadian troops took the eastern ones. The Allies drove the Germans from France.



Rosie the Riveter

1939-1945 A.D. An icon of the contributions women made during the war efforts of WWII. She portrayed the 6,000,000 women from all locations, classes, and backgrounds who worked in wartime industries.