

Quarter One Terms

Archaic Period:

The Archaic Period is considered to be the time between 8000 to 2000 BCE when humans could be found in America. The period ends at the time in which sedentary farming was adopted. People living during this time were mainly found in hunter-gatherer societies. Some societies, however, also fished due to their location. In the Lower Mississippian Valley, mounds were constructed by the Mississippian people approximately 5,000 years ago. Other notable achievements include the first pottery and the domestication of plants like maize and cassava. The Archaic Period is important because it represents a time before sedentary farming.

Christopher Columbus:

Christopher Columbus was an explorer and navigator born in Genoa, Italy in the mid- 1400s. Participating in multiple expeditions, his most famed is that of 1492. He travelled across the Atlantic for the Spanish monarchs Queen Isabella I of Castille and Ferdinand II of Aragon, using outdated maps and calculations during his quest. Searching for a trade route to India, Columbus' faulty calculations landed him on the continent today known as North America. He and his crew reached San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Here, they were met by a curious tribe of Taino "Indians", whom eagerly traded with the strange European men. Columbus and his men returned to Spain and spread the news of this rich, desirable land. Christopher Columbus is important because he introduced Europe to North America and a trade developed because of this (it is disputed if he really "discovered" America). His journey also led to wealth for some European nations, including the Spanish (Golden Century) and also led to more exploration.

Joint-Stock Company:

The joint-stock company was a new form of business organization that started in England in the mid-1500s and later spread across Europe. In these companies, wealthy men would invest money and receive a percentage of the total profit. Since the English crown rarely spent money on colonies they believed might fail, colonies were funded by joint-stock companies throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Colonists, who were business employees, would then travel to the newly funded colonies and the stockholders regulated their behavior. Joint-stock companies are important because they had set up more colonies, such as Jamestown. Without joint-stock companies, fewer colonies would have been set up and less people would have settled in America because the wealthy weren't always ready to invest in the New World. It also shows the differences between the north and south of the new World; the north was settled for religion while the south was settled for money.

The Elect:

The elect were Puritans who had been predetermined by God to be saved. The idea of the elect came from European Calvinists around the mid-1500s, but this idea spread to the American colonies as well. The process to becoming a member of the elect, also known as a saint, was a very difficult one. To become a member of the elect, one had to go through the *conversion experience* and then *sanctification*. Only saints were able to join Puritan congregations, vote, and take communion. The Elect were important because the society became stressed due to the strict rules of the religion. It was difficult to become an elect, and thus the Half Way Covenant was created. Puritans themselves became less strict and essentially destroyed the strength of Puritanism. The work ethic did, however, last for much longer and helped colonizing America.

Columbian Exchange:

The Columbian Exchange was the trade of products across the Atlantic that began after Christopher Columbus returned to Spain after his 1492 voyage. After the news of the New World reached Europe, the late 1400s and early 1500s saw a shift in world trade. From the Americas came corn, tobacco, and cocoa; Africa brought sugar cane, slaves, and disease; Europe traded horses, guns, and manufactured goods. The Columbian Exchange is important because the world was introduced to new products and trade patterns changed. Disease wiped out American natives, leading to the use of African slaves instead.

Indentured Servants:

Indentured servants were unemployed English immigrants who travelled to the American colonies in hope of finding work. Many of them came over between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s. In exchange for free passage, servants worked unpaid for a master for around seven years, unless they acquired debt. After paying off their debts, servants were freed and able to start their own families. Indentured servants were vital in the colonies especially because farmers needed laborers to work their fields. Indentured servants are important because they allowed for more crops to be grown, helping their masters make a larger profit and also helping the economy of the colony. After the amount of indentured servants dwindled, the number of African slaves increased. Overall, colonies became more populated as well.

Mayflower Compact:

The Mayflower Compact was a contract signed aboard the ship known as the *Mayflower* in 1620 by Separatists originally from England. When the ship landed in Plymouth, off-course and out of Virginia territory, they had no authority controlling them. Because of this, the Mayflower Compact was signed, forming a government based on consent of the people. The compact itself was a social contract that acknowledged the settlers' loyalty to King James I, and also stated that everyone would agree to the rules of the settlement for the sake of their survival. This is important because the Mayflower Compact was the first written framework of government on American soil.

Bacon's Rebellion:

Bacon's Rebellion took place in Virginia in the late 1600s. At this time, tensions between natives and settlers began to rise due to the natives' struggle against their declining population while the settlers took more land. Resentments against the governor, William Berkeley, shifted to the natives when the governor's fur trade monopoly profited from the help of natives. Violence ensued, which the governor proposed to stop by constructing a costly chain of forts to protect the colonists. Many poor farmers disliked this costly option, so Nathaniel Bacon, a councilman, was elected to lead a group of men on an Indian slaughter. Berkeley eventually tried to call Bacon back, resulting in the rebels burning Jamestown and forcing Berkeley to flee. This is important because it was the first rebellion of the American colonies, it resulted in the burning of Jamestown, and many natives were captured and forced into slavery during this time. It also led to the end of indentured servitude and the use of African slaves.

Maryland's Act for Religious Toleration:

The Act for Religious Toleration was a law drafted by Lord Baltimore in the mid-1600s. Before the law, there was tension in Maryland between Catholics and Protestants, and it led to them arguing about the use of the city's chapel. The law reinforced legal rights of the Catholics and also allowed religious groups to practice their religion without being persecuted. This was the first law that affirmed the liberty of worship. However, it was revoked a few years after being created. This law is important because some believe that it inspired laws later on guaranteeing freedom of religion. It sets the precedent for religious toleration and also shows that there was not religious acceptance in the colonies.

Roger Williams:

Roger Williams was an English Protestant theologian in the mid-1600s. He stirred controversy in Massachusetts and soon became a very popular and respected. He believed that church and state should be separate, and because of this idea he was seen as a threat and banished. He went on to found the colony of Rhode Island, and it became a safe place for people suffering from religious persecution. Williams is also known for founding the first Baptist Church in America. He is important because he was one of the first to propose religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and also for his work with the Native Americans. Not only did he promote equality for religions and start a colony, he also was one of the first abolitionists. The intolerance of Massachusetts bay led him to form a colony that was more tolerant.

John Winthrop:

While on the ship the *Arabella* during the voyage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, John Winthrop gave a sermon known as "A Model of Christian Charity". He described the city as a utopia and this sermon is known for using the term "City Upon a Hill" to describe the colony and the founding of America. In his sermon, Winthrop explained that the differences in people allowed for God to be honored in different ways and that the rich and poor needed to help one another out. He also explained that a common need among the colonists was necessary and brought the community together. Having such a godly community, he hoped, would shame England into repenting and fixing itself. This revival of piety would lead to an entire nation of saints. This is important because the Puritans started out different than other colonies, since they believed that self-restraint should stop merchants from taking advantage of buyers and they hoped to turn their religious idealism into a community. It set the tone for Massachusetts and helped its development.

John Winthrop and "A Model of Christian Charity":

While on the ship the *Arabella* during the voyage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, John Winthrop gave a sermon known as "A Model of Christian Charity". He described the city as a utopia and this sermon is known for using the term "City Upon a Hill" to describe the colony and the founding of America. In his sermon, Winthrop explained that the differences in people allowed for God to be honored in different ways and that the rich and poor needed to help one another out. He also explained that a common need among the colonists was necessary and brought the community together. Having such a godly community, he hoped, would shame England into repenting and fixing itself. This revival of piety would lead to an entire nation of saints. This is important because the Puritans started out different than other colonies, since they believed that self-restraint should stop merchants from taking advantage of buyers and they hoped to turn their religious idealism into a community. It set the tone for Massachusetts and helped its development.

Roger Williams:

Roger Williams was an English Protestant theologian in the mid-1600s. He stirred controversy in Massachusetts and soon became a very popular and respected. He believed that church and state should be separate, and because of this idea he was seen as a threat and banished. He went on to found the colony of Rhode Island, and it became a safe place for people suffering from religious persecution. Williams is also known for founding the first Baptist Church in America. He is important because he was one of the first to propose religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and also for his work with the Native Americans. Not only did he promote equality for religions and start a colony, he also was one of the first abolitionists. The intolerance of Massachusetts bay led him to form a colony that was more tolerant.

Indentured Servants:

Indentured servants were unemployed English immigrants who travelled to the American colonies in hope of finding work. Many of them came over between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s. In exchange for free passage, servants worked unpaid for a master for around seven years, unless they acquired debt. After paying off their debts, servants were freed and able to start their own families. Indentured servants were vital in the colonies especially because farmers needed laborers to work their fields. Indentured servants are important because they allowed for more crops to be grown, helping their masters make a larger profit and also helping the economy of the colony. After the amount of indentured servants dwindled, the number of African slaves increased. Overall, colonies became more populated as well.

Half-Way Covenant:

The Half-Way Covenant was formed in the mid-1600s by a convention of clergy and laity members in New England. Many second-generation Puritans did not want to go through the hard process of becoming a member of the elect, and because of this, their kids were not able to be baptized. This was a problem, so an agreement was made. The Half-Way Covenant permitted children of baptized Puritans, elect or not, to be baptized as well. These half-way members, however, were not allowed to take communion or allowed to vote. This is important because with the creation of the Half-Way Covenant, the number of saints began to decline. It also signaled the end of the New England Way.

House of Burgesses:

The House of Burgesses first met in the early 1600s in Jamestown, Virginia. There were 22 members, usually 6 royally appointed councilors, and one governor (who was at first appointed by the colony and later by the British crown). The House of Burgesses met and made laws for the colony, although its power was restricted once England took more control. In the mid-1600s, the House of Burgesses was divided, with the governor and twelve advisors making up the Governor's Council. The House of Burgesses was important because it was the first legislature in the colonies and would set an example for future government in the colonies.

Maryland's Act for Religious Toleration:

The Act for Religious Toleration was a law drafted by Lord Baltimore in the mid-1600s. Before the law, there was tension in Maryland between Catholics and Protestants, and it led to them arguing about the use of the city's chapel. The law reinforced legal rights of the Catholics and also allowed religious groups to practice their religion without being persecuted. This was the first law that affirmed the liberty of worship. However, it was revoked a few years after being created. This law is important because some believe that it inspired laws later on guaranteeing freedom of religion. It sets the precedent for religious toleration and also shows that there was not religious acceptance in the colonies.

Bacon's Rebellion:

Bacon's Rebellion took place in Virginia in the late 1600s. At this time, tensions between natives and settlers began to rise due to the natives' struggle against their declining population while the settlers took more land. Resentments against the governor, William Berkeley, shifted to the natives when the governor's fur trade monopoly profited from the help of natives. Violence ensued, which the governor proposed to stop by constructing a costly chain of forts to protect the colonists. Many poor farmers disliked this costly option, so Nathaniel Bacon, a councilman, was elected to lead a group of men on an Indian slaughter. Berkeley eventually tried to call Bacon back, resulting in the rebels burning Jamestown and forcing Berkeley to flee. This is important because it was the first rebellion of the American colonies, it resulted in the burning of Jamestown, and many natives were captured and forced into slavery during this time. More importantly, it marked the end of the use of the indentured servant and the start of the use of African slaves in the American colonies.

The Navigation Acts:

In the mid-1600s during Cromwell's reign and after, the British parliament passed a series of acts that limited trade to other countries in an attempt to hurt the Dutch. The Navigation Acts began to cause tension between England and the American colonies, especially. These acts limited trade to British ships, restricted the exports of goods unless they passed through England or Scotland, encouraged people to do different jobs in order to be more economically diverse, and forbade Americans to compete with large-scale British manufacturers. In short, these acts regulated trade and allowed England to tax the colonies. England wanted to be more self-sufficient in order to hurt their rivals' markets and to improve their own. They used products from their American colonies and pushed for their colonies to use products from them. This led to conflicts like the Anglo-Dutch Wars later on. This is important because it was the basis of colonialism, created conflict among not only European nations but colonies as well, and also led to the use of subsidies to stimulate commerce.

The Glorious Revolution:

The Glorious Revolution took place in the late 1600s (1688-1689) in England. Charles II and his brother James II became more openly Catholic, to the horror of the citizens. Enlightened thinkers like Locke, in his *Two Treatises* showed this, as he explained that citizens could rebel if the king was unfair. Parliament, including the Whigs, asked William of Orange and his wife Mary to intervene. This caused James II to flee. They created a limited monarchy in which Parliament had to be summoned annually, all bills had to be signed, and traditional liberties needed to be respected. Assemblies rose to power during this time in the colonies, and the Dominion of New England was destroyed after word of the Glorious Revolution reached Anglo-Americans. This is important because Anglo-Americans, after hearing about the Glorious Revolution, rose up against the representatives in the colonies and got more control over themselves, and learning in the process that they could get away with revolutions and rebellions. This, in effect, also led to the demise of the Dominion of New England.

Middle Passage/Triangular Trade:

The Middle Passage was the trade route that involved the bringing of African slaves to the New World in the late 1500s. African slaves were sent to the Americas; gold, ivory, and spices were sent from Africa to Europe; rum was sent from the Americas to Africa; Lumber and tobacco made its way to Europe; manufactured goods were sent from Europe to the colonies. European nations benefitting at the expense of slaves included the Netherlands, Portugal, France, and England. The British East India Company was a major player in this trade, which brought money back to Britain. The Middle Passage is important because it was a symbol of slavery's brutality and it led to a mass increase in trans-Atlantic trade.

Salutary Neglect:

After George I became ruler of England in the early 1700s, Britain began to focus less on its colonies. America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow. Assemblies were created and helped create laws for the colonists living there. People felt independent, to a degree, from Britain; however, they still felt like British subjects. This feeling of independence grew until the late 1700s when George III became king. George III, through acts such as the Stamp Act and the American Revenue Act, ended the time of salutary neglect in order to pay for British debts. The term itself originates from Edmund Burke's "Speech on Conciliation with America" to the House of Commons in 1775. This all led to conflict and eventually the Revolutionary War. Salutary Neglect was important because it created a feel of independence and led to conflict when it ended.

Dominion of New England:

The Dominion of New England was formed in the late 1600s by James II. The Dominion of New England consisted of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Plymouth, New York, and the Jerseys. James II consolidated them to control their unruly behavior and uncooperative trade and religious practices. The Dominion regulated land and trade and it limited the amount of representative government. After news of the Glorious Revolution in England reached colonists, they arrested Dominion leaders including the governor, Sir Edmund Andros. The Dominion government crumbled and old colonial leaders took control. This is important because the failure of the Dominion of New England helped change the attitudes of some British officials and America was left on its own for a period of time, allowing self-government to grow in America. Americans figured out that resisting the Dominion of New England and not getting punished meant that they were different than the British and could fight to get their way.

John Locke:

John Locke was a political philosopher from England in the mid-seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and was known for his many works including A Letter Concerning Toleration, Second Treatise of Civil Government, and An Essay Concerning Human Understanding. He believed that civil government should be put in place to protect the people and proclaimed that men had basic rights that, if not protected by a government, the people could start a revolution in order to get their rights. This social contract between people and their government said that the people had to give up some rights and their consent to be governed and in exchange their government would protect their natural rights of life, liberty, and property. Furthermore, as described in his An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Locke states that a person is born with a "blank" mind and has the ability to author their own soul; his ideas of tabula rasa mean that people, while their human nature can't be changed, have control over their own character. John Locke is important because his famous works defended the need for revolutions, such as the Glorious Revolution. He was also a symbol of Enlightenment thought.

The Restoration:

The Restoration took place in the mid-1600s with Charles II's ascension to the British throne. He was restored as king after years of military rule under the Protectorate. Oliver Cromwell died, Charles II was restored as long as he agreed to forgive his enemies and promote religious toleration. After Charles II regained the throne, more colonies were created and the government tried to tighten control over them. Due to the fact that Oliver Cromwell was a Puritan and had Charles I beheaded, Charles II disliked the Puritans- including those living in the colonies. This eventually led to their downfall and their prominence in New England. Furthermore, Charles founded or took over colonies- the Restoration Colonies- including the following: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Stuart Kings also attempted to reassert power over the colonies, as evident in the later-created Dominion of New England. The restoration is important because it marked the reassertion of Stuart power, evident through the Restoration Colonies, and the decline of the Puritans and their "City Upon a Hill". A new wave of colonization began and filled out the colonies more, later leading to problems and conflicts.

The Enlightenment:

The Enlightenment was a cultural movement that started in England and France but came to America, especially seaboard cities, in the mid-1700s after the onset of the Scientific Revolution. Stressing reason, science, and logic, John Locke was a key figure in this movement. Known for works such as *Essays Concerning Human Understanding* and *Two Treatises of Government*, Locke believed that people had the natural rights to life, liberty, and property; a social contract with the king allowed unfair treatment and the infringement of these rights to be met with rebellion. Locke, Franklin, and others were deists- that is, they believed in a God that created the world but did not intervene in daily life. Intellectuals in the colonies drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers and ideals. They believed that they could have confidence in anything backed by human reason, but should be skeptical of beliefs with little or no science and logic to support them. This is important because people began to question things and used Enlightenment ideas to justify their actions; Locke's works influenced the Founding Fathers and eventually could be used as justification for the revolutionary War.

The Great Awakening:

The Great Awakening was a revivalism of Christianity that spread throughout all of British North America in the mid-1700s. Ministers of this time stressed the emptiness of material comfort, the corruption of human nature, the fury of divine wrath, and the need for repentance. Leaders at this time were Jonathan Edwards, Gilbert Tennant, and George Whitefield, and they worked to get a strong emotional response from their congregations instead of just engaging their intellects. Whitefield was a very overpowering and moving Calvinist speaker who hoped to use emotions in his own voice to get strong emotional responses. Whitefield inspired many to seek salvation, even some of his critics. He helped convince thousands of people to join churches due to his speeches, including women and slaves. The Great Awakening made a split in Protestantism between the New Lights (revivalists) and Old Lights (rationalists), and the two groups did not get along. Further, groups such as the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists made their influence in America, helped by the rise in colleges. The Great Awakening is important because it saw the decline in Puritanism and the increase in other protestant sects. Overall, people began to question their faith- and later, authority.

The French and Indian War:

The French and Indian War, also known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, took place in the mid-1700s. The war was mainly fought (in the colonies) between the American colonists, French-Canadian colonists, and their native allies (Britain and France fought each other in Europe). The French, hoping to gain more land and more opportunity, attempted to take control of the Ohio Valley and Western Pennsylvania. They wanted this land because they believed it to be theirs in the first place (both France and England claimed the land belonged to them). The French started building forts, prompting the colonists to send George Washington to talk to the French and natives. This confrontation went badly and started the French and Indian War. General Braddock was sent to the French fort of Fort Duquense, but they were ambushed and many were killed. William Pitt got more Americans involved by promising to pay for the war. Under the leadership of James Wolfe, Montreal and Quebec were taken by the British. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris, with the British and Spanish gaining parts of France's North American claims. The war was important because the English and Americans had a new sense of patriotism and felt connected. Despite these new feelings of loyalty, the English imposed taxes on the colonies, marking the end of salutary neglect and leading to conflicts.

The Stamp Act Congress:

The Stamp Act Congress met in New York in the mid-1700s after the Stamp Act was imposed. Representatives came to New York from nine colonies. The Stamp Act Congress met because they wanted to discuss the Stamp Act, which had outraged many colonists. The Stamp Act was an internal tax that was placed on all paper products by the prime minister, George Grenville. The members of the Stamp Act Congress agreed that external taxes that did not directly affect colonists could be imposed by Parliament, but internal taxes such as the Stamp Act could not be passed by Parliament. They determined that local officials should be in charge of directly taxing the colonists. William Pitt, a member of Parliament, agreed with the colonies and objected to the tax as well. The Stamp Act Congress is important because it was the first Congress that brought members from multiple colonies together to discuss problems. It signified an attempt by the colonies to unite, and it was the first successful cooperation. It also led to the first boycotts.

Virtual Representation:

In the mid-1700s, after the Stamp Act was imposed, representatives came to New York from nine colonies to discuss the new tax. Overall, the colonists thought Parliament couldn't impose the Stamp Act because they weren't represented in Parliament. George Grenville defended the act by claiming that Parliament represented everyone from the entire British Empire. This "virtual representation" was one of the major complaints of the colonies. Virtual representation is important because it showed the British attitude towards the colonists and made the colonists feel as though they were second-class citizens.

Committees of Correspondence:

Committees of Correspondence were formed all around the American colonies by colonial legislatures. Originally forming in Boston in the mid-1700s, these committees formed so that important legislatures and individuals could communicate throughout the colonies. Providing education and communication to the Patriots, some being notable Sons of Liberty members, meant that a pro-Patriot and anti-Regular message was spread. Because of this, the issue of British injustices in the colonies did not fade and propaganda circulated through the colonies. The committees were important because they united the colonies, provided a means for communication and education, and spread a pro-Patriot message.

Intolerable Acts:

The Intolerable Acts consisted of the Coercive Acts and the Quebec Act. These acts were passed by Parliament in the mid-late 1700s. The Coercive Acts affected all of the colonies, but mainly Massachusetts due to the colony's rebellious nature. Essentially, Massachusetts was being punished for the Boston Tea Party. The Coercive Acts closed Boston Harbor, revoked the Massachusetts charter, and expanded on the Quartering Act. The new Quartering Act allowed soldiers to be housed in empty private buildings. The Quebec Act gave land that Americans hoped to inhabit to Quebec. Furthermore, the official religion of Quebec became Catholicism and let some small debates be decided by French-style courts. This made colonists feel threatened. These acts are important because the colonies became unified and this led to the First Continental Congress.

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*:

Common Sense was written in the late 1700s by Thomas Paine. It challenged the authority of British rule, stating that America didn't need the help of Britain economically. *Common Sense* became popular among colonists all over America. The publication made many people realize that the king himself was to blame for the taxes, not just corrupt politicians. Paine's *Common Sense* is important because it led to a feeling that the king was not needed and also led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence.

The Northwest Ordinance:

The Northwest Ordinance was a law developed in the late 1700s under the Articles of Confederation. The law, which was established by the Continental Congress, designated all land above the Ohio River as part of the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory would one day be divided into different states, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery and set aside land to be used for education. Three stages were set up that allowed people to enter the union: a governor and judge were appointed, people wrote a temporary constitution and elected a legislature, and then a Congress-approved constitution would allow for the formation of a new state after 60,000 people lived in the territory. The Northwest Ordinance is important because it helped lay orderly foundations for future states, influenced the movement of settlers, and set a precedent for education and a ban on slavery.

The Peace of Paris:

The Peace of Paris was a set of treaties that ended the American Revolutionary War in the late 1700s. In Paris, France, representatives from both America (Adams, Jay, Franklin) and Britain signed the Peace of Paris while two other treaties were also being signed in Versailles. Through the Peace of Paris America gained its independence, as well as land east of the Mississippi River (minus Florida, which belonged to Spain). France won a victory against Britain, but it cost the nation dearly. The nation, now in debt, would enter the French Revolution soon after. The Dutch did not win nor lose much, but the Spanish on the other hand regained Florida. The Peace of Paris is important because it brought an end to the first British Empire, gave the Americans more freedom, and granted America and European powers more land. The Peace of Paris was also a precedent to British and American conflict because British forts stayed in America because the Americans owed the British and Loyalists as well.

Articles of Confederation:

The Articles of Confederation were crafted by John Dickinson in the late 1700s. After the end of the Revolutionary War, America needed a new national government. Under the Articles of Confederation, there was a single-chamber congress that was elected by state legislatures. States received only one vote, despite their differences in size and population. Congress could ask for money from the states but could not directly impose taxes unless every state agreed to it. There were no executive or judicial branches either. Congressional committees oversaw financial, diplomatic, and military affairs in America. The first President of the Continental Congress was John Hanson. The Confederation had its fair share of problems, since the national government was weak and Congress had limited power. The Articles of Confederation were designed weak in order to prevent a tyranny from forming. They did give us, however, the Northwest Ordinance. The Articles of Confederation are important because they marked the end of the Revolutionary War after the signing of the Treaty of Paris and also included the Northwest Ordinance. They were also the first attempt at a new government, although soon replaced by the Constitution.

Shays' Rebellion:

Shays' Rebellion took place in the late 1700s. The rebellion took place because of an economic depression that hit Massachusetts especially hard, along with a huge tax increase. To make matters worse, bankers and merchants demanded to be paid in specie (gold and silver), which many poor farmers had very little of. Angry farmers, led by Daniel Shays, attempted to close courts in order to prevent sheriffs' auctions and foreclosures on mortgages. They were fighting against a "new tyranny" - the Massachusetts government. The Founding Fathers were upset and realized that the Articles of Confederation were too weak. Eventually, many of the rebels were captured and the rebellion ended. Shays' Rebellion is important because it was the first rebellion after the Revolutionary War and showed the rebellious spirit still present in Americans. The rebellion also led to the Philadelphia Convention and the adoption of the Constitution, as it was proven the Articles of Confederation were too weak.

Federalists vs Antifederalists:

When the Constitution was being created in Philadelphia in the late 1700s, people both supported and opposed it. Americans who were for the Constitution were called Federalists. Federalists believed that the Articles of Confederation were weak and needed to be replaced with a plan with a stronger national government. The national government would protect the people and there was no need for a bill of rights. Federalists were usually wealthier and had more influence. Important Federalists included George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. On the other hand, Antifederalists believed that the Articles of Confederation could be saved and that a strong national government would be harmful and threaten everyone's rights. They also disliked the fact that the proposed Constitution did not have a bill of rights. Important Antifederalists included Patrick Henry, James Monroe, and Thomas Jefferson. Antifederalists and Federalists are both important because they influenced the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These two groups also led to the start of political parties in America. It also showed that not everyone was happy with the government.

The Federalist Papers:

The Federalist Papers were written in the late 1700s by John Jay, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. They were a collection of essays that explained how the new government would work and the benefits of a stronger central government. Their purpose was to convince the New York legislature to ratify the Constitution, and they were successful. *The Federalist Papers* are important because they helped get the Constitution passed.

Bill of Rights:

The Bill of Rights was created in the late 1700s at the nation's capital (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) by the First Congress, with James Madison in the lead. The Bill of Rights was adopted after the Massachusetts Compromise, which was between Federalists and Antifederalists. The Bill of Rights consisted of the first ten amendments in the Constitution. The first eight amendments gave citizens more guaranteed freedoms without declining the national government's authority. These rights had not been specifically granted by the Constitution, and before the Bill of Rights was written Antifederalists had worried about the rights of the people. The First Amendment, for instance, guaranteed five basic freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition. Other rights protected by the first eight amendments included the ability for states to create militias, protection from standing armies, and limitations of state police power. The final two amendments gave people or the states power that the federal government did not have. The Bill of Rights is important because it guaranteed Americans more individual freedoms, as the Antifederalists had hoped. The country could not fall into tyranny because of the rights that states and citizens now possessed. Because of its creation, the Bill of Rights led to the passage of the Constitution; while the Federalists believed that it was unnecessary, the Antifederalists wanted to guarantee individual liberties before agreeing to the Constitution.

Strict vs. Loose Interpretation of the Constitution:

The Constitution was ratified in the late 1700s and from the very beginning Americans had different interpretations of it. Federalists, led by Alexander Hamilton, believed in a looser interpretation of the Constitution. On the other hand, Antifederalists (Republicans) led by Thomas Jefferson had a stricter interpretation of the document. Antifederalists thought that in order for America to thrive there needed to be defined rights for the states and citizens. These liberties, they believed, could only be granted by a strict interpretation of the Constitution. On the other hand, Federalists believed that all rights that were undefined should automatically go to the federal government. They preferred a stronger federal government. Hamilton's national bank idea was the first clear-cut argument over strict and loose interpretations of the Constitution. Hamilton's bank was based on a loose interpretation of the Constitution since the Constitution did not have any clear rules regarding a national banking system. George Washington was unsure about the bank and asked for Jefferson's opinion. Jefferson, being Antifederalist, disliked the idea and told Washington this. Nevertheless, Washington still followed Hamilton's plan. This is important because it set a precedent for loose interpretations of the Constitution and that the federal government would have more power. Political parties also formed due to the differing interpretations.

The XYZ Affair:

The XYZ Affair took place in Paris, France in the late 1700s. The French were attacking American ships and taking men from them, so John Adams sent over a peace commission (Charles Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry) to Paris. The French foreign minister, Charles de Talleyrand, refused to meet the Americans and instead sent three agents who were only known as "X, Y, and Z" to talk to them. France demanded a large loan and bribe in order to start discussing their relations, which the Americans refused. Americans were upset by this, and this led to anti-French and anti-immigrant feelings in America. Americans wanted to be respected, but the French had not shown them much respect. The XYZ Affair is important because although it didn't do anything about the French impressment (in fact, the fighting went on in an event known as the Quasi War), it caused America to pass the Alien and Sedition Acts. These acts were geared towards Republicans and immigrants, as these Americans had supported the French. American feelings towards the French (at least in the cases of the Federalists) sank due to this event and the Quasi War.

Alien and Sedition Acts:

The Alien and Sedition Acts were laws passed in the late 1790s at the nation's capital. The laws were passed and approved by the Federalist-dominated Congress and John Adams. They were supposed to protect national security in America. The Alien Enemies Act prevented wartime spying, the Alien Friends Act allowed for foreigners to be expelled from the country (by the chief executive if they were considered dangerous), and the Naturalization Act changed the procedures that let immigrants become citizens. The Alien Acts targeted Irish and French immigrants the most and also impacted their abilities to vote. The Sedition Act forbade people from opposing the government. The Sedition Act affected both Americans and foreigners. It could be interpreted to mean that all criticism could be punished. The act violated freedom of speech, which was protected by the Bill of Rights. These acts, made to hurt immigrants, were ultimately supposed to harm Republicans. Federalists were losing support, so they were trying to make it harder for immigrants (supporters of Republicans) to vote. These acts are important because it showed that the downfall of Federalists was coming. They also led to the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions.

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions:

The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions were written by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson in the late 1790s. These resolutions were created because they believed that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional. Jefferson and Madison, who were Republicans, believed that states should have more power and disliked how much power the federal government had. They decided to draw up their resolutions and present them to the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures. The men wanted the states to be able to "nullify" laws that they deemed unconstitutional, such as the Alien and Sedition Acts. The two states agreed and passed these resolutions, and this nearly led to a civil war. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions are important because the resolutions could have potentially led to a civil war and to violence. States declared that they were equal and didn't have to listen to every law, and this issue would arise later on in history during the Civil War-era. Highlighting the differences between opinions and sectional conflict, they symbolized the issues between state and federal rights.

Monroe Doctrine:

The Monroe Doctrine was President James Monroe's message to Congress in Washington D.C. (but written mostly by John Quincy Adams) in the early 1800s. The Doctrine was written after Britain proposed that it and America make a statement that opposed interference (like that of the Holy Alliance) in South America and that neither would annex any part of Spain's old empire. Adams wanted the United States, however, to issue a separate statement from Britain. The message stated that America would stay out of European wars unless it involved their interests, "American continents" were not for the colonization of European powers, and any attempt at American colonization would be seen as an "unfriendly act." The Doctrine itself didn't have a huge effect (the British navy did). Monroe's Doctrine is important because America promised to stay out of European affairs, including revolutions and wars. It also claimed America's position in the New World and showed that the nation saw itself as strong and powerful.

Marbury v. Madison:

Marbury v. Madison was a court case that took place in the early 1800s between William Marbury and James Madison. On his last day in office, President John Adams appointed many judges ("the midnight judges") including the Federalist Marbury as Justice of the Peace in the District of Columbia. Marbury's commission had never been granted however, and the new Secretary of State (James Madison) refused to release the commission. Marbury wanted a writ of mandamus that would force them to make the delivery. Chief Justice John Marshall eventually decided that the Judiciary Act (which allowed for such a writ to be issued) was unconstitutional and Marbury thus did not get his writ. Furthermore, both Federalists and Antifederalists were happy with the result of the court case. Federalists were glad that Marbury did not get his writ, while Antifederalists were pleased with the implementation of judicial review since it made sure Congress did not have too much power. This court case is important because it was the first time that an act of Congress was seen as unconstitutional. This event set a precedent for similar events and gave the courts the power of judicial review.

John Marshall:

John Marshall was a Chief Justice in the Supreme Court in the early 1800s. Marshall, before being on the Supreme Court, had been merely the son of a farmer in Virginia. His service in the Continental Army made him feel like part of the Union as a whole instead of one particular state. Marshall was the Chief Justice during multiple cases that shaped American history. In *Marbury v. Madison* for instance, he found an act of Congress unconstitutional. He paved the way for judicial review and tended to have a relatively loose interpretation of the Constitution (since he was Federalist). He helped shape the Supreme Court as it is today through his rulings. He helped define the rights of the people, states, and federal government within the young nation. His most important cases include: *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, and *Gibbons v. Ogden*. John Marshall is important because he was the first member of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional (which led to judicial review). He set a precedent for events occurring later on in the century, including the power of the federal government and the influence of judicial review.

Impressment:

After the Treaty of Amiens collapsed in the early 1800s, France and England began fighting while America remained neutral. American ships were seized and British sailors who abandoned the Royal Navy were taken back. Sailors had been deserters because they were paid less and British ships were brutal. Impressed sailors were continually escaping and being recaptured. Many deserters had even become American citizens, but if they were born British they were still considered Britons. Sometimes American-born citizens were taken as well. The Chesapeake Affair, where the British ship called the Leopard seized the American ship called the Chesapeake right near the coast. The practice died down after the British defeated Napoleon in the Battle of Trafalgar and no longer needed the manpower of impressed sailors. Impressment is important because it created conflicts between America and Britain, ultimately leading to the War of 1812. This also somewhat led to the formation of the Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts and the Industrial Revolution.

Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts:

The Embargo Act was an early 1800s law created during Jefferson's presidency to stop the impressment and the unfair handling of U.S. ships by the warring England and France. Averting war with Europe, it hurt American trade as well. Because of its effect, it was a catalyst to domestic manufacturing and industrialization. The Non Intercourse Act came soon after during Madison's presidency and allowed America to trade with nations other than Britain or France. Part of this act included Macon's Bill No. 2, which would allow trade with both Britain and France if the two countries stopped seizing American ships. Napoleon said that he would stop when the British did, and the British claimed the opposite; in reality, impressment didn't end. These acts are important because it attempted to stop conflicts and impressment and eventually led to the War of 1812.

Missouri Compromise and Henry Clay:

The Missouri Compromise came to be in the early 1800s. At this time, Missouri was entering (or trying to) as a slave state to the Union. James Tallmadge, Jr. wanted an amendment that prohibited more slaves from entering Missouri and gave slave offspring freedom at age 25. The south did not support it, but the north did. A compromise was made between northern Federalists and southern Republicans. The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to become a slave state as long as Maine (which also was applying for statehood) became a free state. Slavery was also prohibited north of 36°30' which meant that the Northwest Territory was free of slaves. This compromise almost fell apart after Missouri declared that free blacks were not allowed in the state. Missouri was stopped from becoming a state until Kentucky Senator Henry Clay came up with a resolution. Missouri couldn't discriminate against other states' citizens but had control over its own people. The Missouri Compromise is important because it declared that the Northwest Territory would lead to free states. It also showed that Congress could allow or prohibit slavery, which would be an issue in the future (although it halted the conflict for a while). It promoted sectionalism through the 36-30 line as well.

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 stimulated demands for higher tariffs such as the Tariff of Abominations (1828). A result of the boom-bust cycle of capitalist nations and the dependency of foreign nations for prosperity, it also marked the end of the "Era of Good Feelings."

Alexis de Tocqueville and *Democracy in America*:

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. He 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* 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 and caused the rise of American Individualism.

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 while marking the end of the Puritans. More abolitionist and women's rights groups formed during the Age of Reform, causing more sectionalism between the north and south. 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.