



Our Documents:

A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service

AN OVERVIEW

America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our country more, not less, American.

—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
JANUARY 20, 2001

we the people

in order to form a more perfect union
discover...investigate...participate

> www.ourdocuments.gov

If you have questions or want to learn more about how you, your school, or your community can participate in the *Our Documents* initiative contact:

National History Day at info@nationalhistoryday.org.

National Archives and Records Administration at education@nara.gov.

It is the purpose of *Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service*, to promote public understanding of how rights and responsibilities have taken shape over time. *Our Documents* is an initiative of National History Day and The National Archives and Records Administration in cooperation with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the USA Freedom Corps.

The *Our Documents* initiative revolves around 100 milestone documents drawn from thousands of public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches, treaties, constitutional amendments, and other national treasures that have shaped us as a people and that are a part of the historic legacy maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. The goal of the initiative is to engage students, teachers, parents, and members of the general public in reading these historical documents, reflecting upon them, and discussing them.

The *Our Documents* website and publications include everything students, educators, and the public need to participate in the *Our Documents* initiative, including opportunities to

- Review the list of 100 **milestone documents and descriptions**
- View or print the **featured documents in their original format** with background resources
- Vote online for the **10 most significant milestone documents**
- Consult the **educator sourcebook** for lesson plans and classroom activities
- Attend a **teacher workshop**
- Create an entry for National History Day's **student competition**
- Develop a lesson plan for National History Day's **teacher competition**
- Use *Our Documents poster* to promote this initiative in your classroom, library, or office

National History Day is a nationally acclaimed history education program that is promoting the study of civics and citizenship among the nation's students and teachers. National History Day is encouraging students in grade 6-12 to participate in its annual Student Competition on **Rights and Responsibilities in History** and challenging teachers to develop lessons to restore the study of our nation's heritage to a prominent place in the classroom. To find out more, go to www.NationalHistoryDay.org.

The National Archives and Records Administration, is a Federal agency that provides ready access to essential government records that document the rights of American citizens, the actions of Federal officials, and the national experience. Through the *National Archives Experience*, the National Archives is developing new, interactive educational programs to give people a deeper understanding of the contemporary importance and value of our country's recorded history. To find out more, go to www.archives.gov.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, is a Federal agency that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to help strengthen communities through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. To find out more, go to www.cnsc.gov.

USA Freedom Corps is a White House Coordinating Council created by President George W. Bush to help foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America's communities. To find out more, go to www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

Our Documents

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A National Initiative on
American History, Civics, and Service
AN OVERVIEW

Our Documents: A National

Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

Resolution presented by Richard Henry Lee to the Second Continental Congress, June 7, 1776.

Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service

Introduction

When

the tall, fiery Virginian Richard Henry Lee proposed that the Second Continental Congress adopt the simple Resolution at left, could he have known where it would take the people of the land we now call the United States of America? That subsequent to his Resolution a young Thomas Jefferson would articulate the long list of grievances against the King of Britain we today embrace as our Declaration of Independence? That a

Constitution elaborating an ambitious system of government and the basic political rights of a wide-ranging assortment of individuals would soon come to bind the rebellious colonies together? That this government and its people would define and redefine their political relationships as their nation expanded in population and geography? That the relatively tiny America of Lee's time would grow from a land of farmers into a postindustrial society that increasingly found itself compelled to concern itself with the affairs of the world beyond national borders?

Mr. Lee probably did not foresee such a future for the nation he helped bring into being, though he continued to shape the affairs of the new country well after it had established its independence. Among other achievements, Lee helped secure passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, which expanded the size of the fledgling nation, but he opposed the strong central government created by the Constitution, preferring a looser association among the newly united states. By the time of Richard Henry Lee's death in 1794, however, the nation's political complexion had changed from the days of revolution. A people with a different set of beliefs about rights, responsibilities, and republican democracy than Lee had come to prevail over the new government. Such was and would be the pattern of historical change in the nation to this very day: ideas about the nation, its

It is the purpose of Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service, sponsored by the National Archives and Records Administration, National History Day, and the U.S.A. Freedom Corps to promote public exploration of how our understandings of rights and responsibilities have changed over time.

people, and their rights and responsibilities change repeatedly over time, even as they remain inspired by the core set of principles outlined by the Founders in the nation's earliest years.

With the Lee Resolution, then, began a new nation and a conversation about the rights and responsibilities of a people who saw themselves as united by the civic ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These founding documents contain the earliest expression of our nation's political ideals: the right of individuals to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the emphasis on equal opportunity and justice, and a commitment to a democratic republic and the general welfare of the citizenry. Most Americans' notions of rights and responsibilities still reflect these civic ideals, first articulated more than two hundred years ago.

It is the purpose of *Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service*, a collaboration between the National Archives and Records Administration, National History Day, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the U.S.A. Freedom Corps to promote public understanding of how rights and responsibilities have taken shape over time. Such an exploration of the nation's civic legacy will encourage national reflection on the meanings of citizenship in a democratic society. The *Our Documents* initiative revolves around 100 milestone documents drawn from thousands of public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches,

treaties, constitutional amendments, and other national treasures that have shaped us as a people and that are a part of the historic legacy maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. These documents reflect the diversity of America, its unity, and the commitment of this nation to continue the work of forming "a more perfect union." The goal of the initiative is to engage students, teachers, parents, and members of the general public in reading these historical documents, reflecting upon them, discussing them, and considering which they deem the most significant.

Our Documents includes a variety of activities to assist all Americans in this exploration.

- 1) A project web site that features the milestone documents. Three new documents will be added to the site each week. The site will include not only a high-resolution scanned version of the original document, but also a transcription, and supplementary materials.
- 2) A national vote on the ten most significant documents in American history that will be launched next year.
- 3) A sourcebook assisting teachers in using *Our Documents* in their classrooms that will be published on the website and in hard copy.
- 4) A student competition to engage young people in an exploration of their nation's history.
- 5) A teacher competition to encourage educators to develop lessons incorporating the milestone documents in classroom teaching.

For additional information related to *Our Documents*, visit www.ourdocuments.gov.

Understanding *Our Documents*: A Competition for Students Rights and Responsibilities in History, National History Day 2003

For more than 25 years National History Day (NHD), a non-profit history education program dedicated to improving the way history is taught and learned, has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. The year-long NHD program engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Student participants produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries and research papers based on research related to an annual theme. These projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions. Through participation in the competitions, students not only gain a deeper understanding of history, they improve their research, presentation, and critical thinking skills. With programs in 50 states and the District of Columbia, NHD engages all types of students—public, private, parochial and home-school students; and urban, suburban, and rural. More than 700,000 students participate in the NHD program yearly.

In collaborating with the National Archives and Records Administration, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the USA Freedom Corps in the *Our Documents* Initiative this year, NHD hopes to expand appreciation of our nation's history among students, as well as promote excellent teaching in the nation's schools. The collaboration is especially fitting this year, as the aim of *Our Documents* is to further appreciation for our nation's civic legacy through study of key documents related to the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and this year's NHD theme is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. The wide availability of documents so relevant to this year's NHD theme via the new *Our Documents* website maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration opens opportunities to create exceptionally strong projects this year.

Any student in grades 6-12 may enter the National History Day Contest in either the junior (grades 6-8) or senior (grades 9-12) divisions. Winners of the National History Day Contest will be announced at the national contest held at University of Maryland at College Park, June 15-19, 2003. For more information on National History Day, visit the NHD website at www.nationalhistoryday.org.

The collaboration is especially fitting this year, as the aim of *Our Documents* is to further appreciation for our nation's civic legacy through study of key documents related to the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and this year's NHD theme is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*.

100 American Milestone Documents

Teaching Our Documents: A Lesson Competition for Educators Rights and Responsibilities in History, National History Day 2003

National History Day is pleased to announce a new opportunity for history and social studies teachers to develop document-based lesson plans for national awards and distribution. *Teaching Our Documents: A National History Day Lesson Competition for Educators* invites teachers to develop and test a classroom lesson focusing on one or several of the 100 Milestone Documents in US History. Lessons should engage students in a meaningful examination of the documents within their historical context.

Awards will be announced at the annual National History Day national competition June 15-19, 2003 at the University of Maryland at College Park and award-winning lesson plans will be shared with other teachers nationwide.

Additional information and contest rules are available online at www.ourdocuments.gov.

The following is a list of 100 American milestone documents, compiled by the National Archives and Records Administration, and drawn primarily from its nationwide holdings. The documents chronicle United States history from 1776 to 1965¹.

The list begins with the Lee Resolution of June 7, 1776, a simple document resolving that the United Colonies “are, and of right, ought to be free and independent states. . .” and ends with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a statute that helped fulfill the promise of freedom inherent in the first documents on the list. The remaining milestone documents are among the thousands of public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches, treaties, constitutional amendments, and other documents that have influenced the course of United States history. They have helped shape the national character, and they reflect our diversity, our unity, and our commitment as a nation to continue our work toward forming “a more perfect union.”

1. Lee Resolution, 1776

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced this resolution in the Second Continental Congress, proposing independence for the American colonies.

2. Declaration of Independence, 1776

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It was copied on parchment, and on August 2, 1776, delegates began signing it.

3. Articles of Confederation, 1777

After considerable debate and alteration, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. This document served as the United States’ first constitution, and was in force from March 1, 1781, until 1789 when the present day Constitution went into effect.

4. Treaty of Alliance with France, 1778

The American Colonies and France signed this treaty on February 6, 1778, that established a military alliance whose goal was the independence of the United States of America.

5. Original Design of the Great Seal of the United States, 1782

Just a few hours after the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the first committee to design a seal for the United States was appointed, and its design began. After undergoing numerous changes, on June 20, 1782, the seal was officially adopted by the Continental Congress.

¹ The decision not to include milestone documents since 1965 was a deliberate acknowledgement of the difficulty in examining more recent history. As stated in the guidelines for the National History Standards, developed by the National Center for History in the Schools, “Historians can never attain complete objectivity, but they tend to fall shortest of the goal when they deal with current or very recent events.”

6. Treaty of Paris, 1783

This treaty, signed on September 3, 1783 in Paris, between the American colonies and Great Britain, ended the American Revolution and formally recognized the United States as an independent nation.

7. Virginia Plan, 1787

Drafted by James Madison, and presented by Edmund Randolph to the Constitutional Convention on May 29, 1787, the Virginia Plan proposed a strong central government composed of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

8. Northwest Ordinance, 1787

Officially titled “An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States North-West of the River Ohio,” the Northwest Ordinance was passed on July 13, 1787. Providing for the orderly expansion of the United States into the western territory—the lands north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi, this document promised settlers of the Northwest Territory the same individual liberties that had been fought for during the Revolution.

9. Constitution of the United States, 1787

Drafted in secret by delegates to the Constitutional Convention during the summer of 1787, this four-page document, signed on September 17, 1787, established the government of the United States.

10. The Federalist Papers Number 10, 1787; Number 51, 1788

The Federalist Papers were a series of essays published in newspapers in 1787 and 1788 by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay to promote the ratification of the Constitution.

11. President George Washington’s First Inaugural Speech, 1789

Although not required by the Constitution, President George Washington presented the first presidential inaugural address on April 30, 1789.

12. Federal Judiciary Act, 1789

One of the first acts of the new Congress was to establish a federal court system through the Judiciary Act signed by President George Washington on September 24, 1789.

13. Bill of Rights, 1791

Although twelve amendments to the U.S. Constitution were originally proposed, the ten that were ratified became the Bill of Rights in 1791. They defined citizens’ rights in relation to the newly established government under the Constitution.

14. Patent for the Cotton Gin, 1794

Designed to separate cotton fiber from seed, Whitney’s cotton gin, for which he received a patent on March 14, 1794, introduced a new, profitable technology to agricultural production in America.

15. President George Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796 **

In his farewell presidential address, President George Washington advised American citizens to view themselves as a cohesive unit and to avoid political parties, and issued a special warning to be wary of attachments and entanglements with other nations.

16. Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798

Passed in preparation for an anticipated war with France, the Alien and Sedition Acts tightened restrictions on foreign-born Americans and limited speech critical of the government.

17. Jefferson’s Secret Message to Congress Regarding Exploration of the West, 1803

In this secret message of January 18, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson asked Congress for \$2,500 to explore the West—all the way to the Pacific Ocean. At the time, the territory did not belong to the United States. Congress agreed to fund the expedition that would be led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

18. Louisiana Purchase Treaty, 1803

In this transaction with France, signed on April 30, 1803, the United States purchased 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River for \$15 million. For roughly 4 cents an acre, the United States doubled its size, expanding the nation westward.

19. Marbury v. Madison, 1803

The decision in this Supreme Court case established the right of the courts to determine the Constitutionality of the actions of the other two branches of federal government.

20. Treaty of Ghent, 1814

This treaty, signed on December 24, 1814, ended the War of 1812, fought between Great Britain and the United States.

21. McCulloch v. Maryland, 1819

This Supreme Court case addressed the issue of federal power and commerce.

22. Missouri Compromise, 1820

This legislation admitted Missouri as a slave state, and Maine as a non-slave state at the same time, so as not to upset the balance between slave and free states in the nation. It also outlawed slavery above the 36° 30’ latitude line in the remainder of the Louisiana territory.

23. Monroe Doctrine, 1823

The Monroe Doctrine was articulated in President James Monroe’s seventh annual message to Congress on December 2, 1823. The European powers, according to Monroe, were obligated to respect the Western hemisphere as the United States’ sphere of interest.

24. Gibbons v. Ogden, 1824

This Supreme Court decision forbids states from enacting any legislation that would interfere with Congress's right to regulate commerce among the separate states.

25. President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress "On Indian Removal," 1830

On December 6, 1830, in a message to Congress, President Andrew Jackson called for the relocation of eastern Native American tribes to land west of the Mississippi River, in order to open new land for settlement by members of the United States.

26. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848

This treaty, signed on February 2, 1848, ended the war between the United States and Mexico. By its terms, Mexico ceded 55% of its territory, including parts of present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Nevada, and Utah, to the United States.

27. Compromise of 1850

The Compromise was actually a series of bills passed mainly to address issues related to slavery. The bills provided for slavery to be decided by popular sovereignty in the admission of new states, prohibited the slave trade in the District of Columbia, settled a Texas boundary dispute, and established a stricter Fugitive Slave Act. This featured document is Henry Clay's handwritten draft.

28. Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854

Officially titled "An Act to Organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas," this act repealed the Missouri Compromise.

29. Dred Scott v Sanford, 1857

The ruling in this Supreme Court case stated that no slave or descendant of a slave had ever been a citizen, or could be a citizen of the United States.

30. Telegram Announcing the Surrender of Fort Sumter, 1861

In this 2-page document, Major Robert Anderson, commanding officer of the Union troops at Fort Sumter, announces the surrender of Ft. Sumter, the first battle of the Civil War.

31. Homestead Act, 1862

Passed on May 20, 1862, the Homestead Act accelerated the settlement of the western territory by granting adult heads of families 160 acres of surveyed public land for a minimal filing fee and five years of continuous residence on that land.

32. Pacific Railway Act, 1862

This act, passed on July 1, 1862, provided federal subsidies in land and loans for the construction of a transcontinental railroad across the United States.

33. Morrill Act, 1862

Passed on July 2, 1862, this act made it possible for new western states to establish colleges for their citizens. The new land-grant institutions, which emphasized agriculture and mechanic arts, opened opportunities to thousands of farmers and working people previously excluded from higher education.

34. Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. It declared, "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

35. War Department General Order 143: Creation of the U.S. Colored Troops, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln approved the recruitment of slaves and free blacks for military service, and the War Department issued General Order 143 on May 22, 1863, creating the United States Colored Troops.

36. Gettysburg Address, 1863 **

Delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The address urged Americans to remember the cause for which the soldiers at Gettysburg died, and to rededicate themselves to the principles of freedom and equality announced in the Declaration of Independence.

37. Wade-Davis Bill, 1864

At the end of the Civil War, this bill created a framework for Reconstruction and the re-admittance of the Confederate states to the Union.

38. President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, 1865 **

On March 4, 1865, in his second inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln spoke of mutual forgiveness between the North and South, asserting that the true mettle of a nation lies in its capacity for charity.

39. Articles of Agreement Relating to the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, 1865

On April 9, 1865, Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee met in the parlor of a house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, to discuss this surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. According to the terms, the men of Lee's army could return home in safety if they pledged to end the fighting and deliver their arms to the Union Army.

40. 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Abolition of Slavery, 1865

Passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

41. Cancelled Check for the Purchase of Alaska, 1868

With this check, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million.

42. Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1868

In this treaty, signed on April 29, 1868, between the U.S. Government and the Sioux Nation, the U.S. recognized the Black Hills as part of the Great Sioux Reservation, set aside for exclusive use by the Sioux people.

43. 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Civil Rights, 1868

Passed by Congress on June 13, 1866, and ratified on July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment extended liberties and rights granted by the Bill of Rights to former slaves.

44. 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Voting Rights, 1870

Passed by Congress on February 26, 1869, and ratified on February 3, 1870, the 15th Amendment granted African-American men the right to vote.

45. Act Establishing Yellowstone National Park, 1872

Yellowstone became the first federally-protected national park by the Act of Congress signed into law on March 1, 1872.

46. Thomas Edison's Patent Application for the Light Bulb, 1880

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison received the historic patent incorporating the principles of his incandescent lamp that paved the way for the universal domestic use of electric light.

47. Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882

The Chinese Exclusion Act was approved on May 6, 1882. It was the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States.

48. Pendleton Act, 1883

Approved on January 16, 1883, the Pendleton Act established a merit-based system of selecting government officials and supervising their work.

49. Interstate-Commerce Act, 1887

Approved on February 4, 1887, the Interstate Commerce Act created an Interstate Commerce Commission to oversee the conduct of the railroad industry. With this act, the railroads became the first industry subject to federal regulation.

50. Dawes Act, 1887

Approved on February 8, 1887, "An Act to Provide for the Allotment of Lands in Severalty to Indians on the Various Reservations," known as the Dawes Act, emphasized *severalty*, the treatment of Native Americans as individuals rather than as members of tribes.

51. Sherman Anti-Trust Act, 1890

Approved July 2, 1890, The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was the first federal act that outlawed monopolistic business practices.

52. Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896

The ruling in this Supreme Court case upheld a Louisiana state law, which allowed for "equal but separate accommodations for the white and colored races."

53. de Lome Letter, 1898

This letter, written by the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, Enrique Dupuy de Lome, criticized American President William McKinley by calling him weak and concerned only with gaining the favor of the crowd. Publication of the letter helped generate public support for a war with Spain over the issue of independence for the Spanish colony of Cuba.

54. Joint Resolution to Provide for Annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, 1898

On July 7, 1898, the Hawaiian Islands were annexed by this joint resolution.

55. Platt Amendment, 1903

Approved on May 22, 1903, the Platt Amendment was a treaty between the U.S. and Cuba that attempted to protect Cuba's independence from foreign intervention. It permitted extensive U.S. involvement in Cuban international and domestic affairs for the enforcement of Cuban independence.

56. Theodore Roosevelt's Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, 1905

In his annual messages to Congress in 1904 and 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt expanded the Monroe Doctrine. The corollary stated that not only were the nations of the Western Hemisphere not open to colonization by European powers, but that the United States had responsibility to preserve order and protect life and property in those countries.

57. 16th Amendment to the Constitution: Federal Income Tax, 1913

Passed by Congress on July 2, 1909, and ratified on February 3, 1913, the 16th Amendment established Congress's right to impose a federal income tax.

58. 17th amendment to the Constitution: Direct Election of U.S. Senators, 1913

Passed by Congress on May 13, 1912, and ratified on April 8, 1913, the 17th Amendment modified Article I, section 3, of the Constitution, by allowing voters to cast direct votes for United States Senators. Prior to its passage, Senators were chosen by state legislatures.

59. Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, 1916

This act limited the working hours of children and forbade the interstate sale of goods produced by child labor.

60. Zimmermann Telegram, 1917

This telegram, written by German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann, is a coded message sent to Mexico, proposing a military alliance against the United States. The obvious threats to the United States contained in the telegram inflamed American public opinion against Germany and helped convince Congress to declare war against Germany.

61. Joint Resolution to Congress leading to a Declaration of War against Germany, 1917

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson delivered this address to a joint session of Congress and called for a declaration of war against Germany. The resulting congressional vote brought the United States into World War I.

62. President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points, 1918

In this January 8, 1918, address to Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proposed a 14-point program for world peace. These points were later taken as the basis for peace negotiations at the end of the war.

63. 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote, 1920

Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.

64. Boulder Canyon Project Act, 1928

This act authorized the construction of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and the All-American Canal to the Imperial Valley in California.

65. Tennessee Valley Authority Act, 1933

This act of May 18, 1933, created the Tennessee Valley Authority, to oversee the construction of dams to control flooding, improve navigation, and provide affordable electric power in the Tennessee Valley basin.

66. National Industrial Recovery Act, 1933

On June 16, 1933, this act established the National Recovery Administration that supervised fair trade codes and guaranteed laborers a right to collective bargaining.

67. National Labor Relations Act, 1935

Also known as the Wagner Act, this bill was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt on July 5, 1935. It established the National Labor Relations Board and addressed relations between unions and employers in the private sector.

68. Social Security Act, 1935

On August 14, 1935, the Social Security Act established a system of old-age benefits for workers, benefits for victims of industrial accidents, unemployment insurance, and aid for dependent mothers and children, the blind, and the physically handicapped.

69. President Franklin Roosevelt's Radio Address Unveiling Second Half of the New Deal, 1936

In this radio address, President Franklin Roosevelt announced a second set of measures to combat the Great Depression, which became known as the Second New Deal. These included a series of new relief programs, such as the Works Progress Administration.

70. President Franklin Roosevelt's Annual Message to Congress, 1941

This speech delivered by President Franklin Roosevelt on January 6, 1941, became known as his "Four Freedoms Speech," due to a short closing portion describing the President's vision in which the American ideals of individual liberties were extended throughout the world.

71. Lend Lease Act, 1941

Passed on March 11, 1941, this act set up a system that would allow the United States to lend or lease war supplies to any nation deemed "vital to the defense of the United States."

72. Executive Order 8802: Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry, 1941

In June of 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, banning discriminatory employment practices by federal agencies and all unions and companies engaged in war related work. The order also established the Fair Employment Practices Commission to enforce the new policy.

73. Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War against Japan, 1941

On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered this "Day of Infamy Speech," asking Congress to declare war against Japan.

74. Executive Order 9066: Japanese Relocation Order, 1942

Issued by President Franklin Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, this order authorized the evacuation of persons deemed a threat to national security from the West Coast to relocation centers further inland.

75. General Dwight D. Eisenhower's Order of the Day, June 6, 1944

This order was issued by General Dwight D. Eisenhower to encourage Allied soldiers taking part in the D-Day invasion.

76. Servicemen's Readjustment Act, 1944

Signed into law by Franklin Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, this act, also known as the G.I. Bill, provided veterans of the Second World War funds for college education, unemployment insurance, and housing.

77. Manhattan Project Notebook, 1945

This notebook records an experiment of the Manhattan Project, the all-out, but highly secret effort of the Federal government to build an atomic bomb during World War II. Recorded here is the world's first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, achieved on December 2, 1942.

78. Surrender of Germany, 1945

This instrument of surrender was signed on May 7, 1945, at General Eisenhower's headquarters in Rheims by Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl, Chief of Staff of the German Army.

79. United Nations Charter, 1945

On June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, the United Nations was established. Article 111 of its charter indicated that, "The present Charter, of which the Chinese, French, Russian, English, and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America. Duly certified copies thereof shall be transmitted by that Government to the Governments of the other signatory states."

80. Surrender of Japan, 1945

Aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri*, this instrument of surrender was signed on September 2, 1945 by the Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamora Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu.

81. Truman Doctrine, 1947

On March 12, 1947, President Harry Truman presented this address before a joint session of Congress. His message, known as the Truman Doctrine, asked Congress for \$400 million in military and economic assistance for Turkey and Greece.

82. Marshall Plan, 1948

On April 3, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Economic Recovery Act of 1948. It became known as The Marshall Plan, named for Secretary of State George Marshall, who in 1947 proposed that the United States provide economic assistance to restore the economic infrastructure of post-war Europe.

83. Press Release Announcing U.S. Recognition of Israel, 1948

At midnight on May 14, 1948, the Provisional Government of Israel proclaimed a new State of Israel. On that same date, the United States, in the person of President Harry Truman, recognized the provisional Jewish government as de facto authority of the Jewish state (de jure recognition was extended on January 31, 1949).

84. Executive Order 9981: Desegregation of the Armed Forces, 1948

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed this executive order establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, committing the government to integrating the segregated military.

85. Armistice Agreement for the Restoration of the South Korean State, 1953

This Armistice signed on July 17, 1953, formally ended the war in Korea. North and South Korea remained separate, and occupied almost the same territory they had when the war began.

86. Senate Resolution 301, Censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy, 1954

On December 2, 1954, the Senate voted to censure Senator Joseph McCarthy, who had led the fight in Congress to root out suspected Communists from the federal government. The censure described his behavior as "contrary to senatorial traditions."

87. Brown v. Board of Education, 1954

In this decision, the Supreme Court ruled that separating children in public schools on the basis of race was unconstitutional. It signaled the end of legalized racial segregation in the schools of the United States, overruling the "separate but equal" principle set forth in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case.

88. National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, 1956

This act authorized the building of highways throughout the nation, which would be the biggest public works project in the nation's history.

89. Executive Order 10730: Desegregation of Central High School, 1957

This executive order, signed by President Dwight Eisenhower, sent federal troops to maintain order and peace while the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas took place.

90. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address, 1961

On January 17, 1961, in this farewell address, President Dwight Eisenhower warned against the establishment of a "military-industrial complex."

91. President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, 1961

On January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy delivered his inaugural address in which he announced that "we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."

92. Executive Order 10924: Establishment of the Peace Corps, 1961

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed this executive order establishing the Peace Corps. On September 22, 1961, Congress approved the legislation that formally authorized the Peace Corps. Goals of the Peace Corps included: 1) Helping the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained workers; 2) Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and 3) Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

93. Transcript of John Glenn's official communication with the command center, 1962

John Glenn conducted the first manned space orbit of the earth on February 20, 1962. This is the transcription of his in-flight communication with Mission Control in Florida.

94. Aerial Photograph of missiles in Cuba, 1962

Instrumental in the early stages of the Cuban Missile crisis, these photographs showed that the Soviet Union was amassing offensive ballistic missiles in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy warned that any attempt by the Soviet Union to place nuclear weapons in Cuba would be seen as a threat to the United States.

95. Test Ban Treaty, 1963

On July 25, 1963, the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed by the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union. After Senate approval, the treaty that went into effect on October 11, 1963, banned nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water.

96. Official Program for the March on Washington, 1963

This program listed the events scheduled at the Lincoln Memorial during the August 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The highlight of the march, which attracted 250,000 people, was Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

97. Civil Rights Act, 1964

This act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964, prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal. This document was the most sweeping Civil Rights legislation since Reconstruction.

98. Tonkin Gulf Resolution, 1964

This Joint Resolution of Congress (H.J. RES 1145) dated August 7, 1964, gave President Lyndon Johnson authority to increase United States involvement in the war between North and South Vietnam.

99. Social Security Act Amendments, 1965

This act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 30, 1965, in Independence, MO. It established Medicare, a health insurance program for the elderly, and Medicaid, a health insurance program for the poor.

100. Voting Rights Act, 1965

This act was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson. It outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many Southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.

Except where noted with **, all of the documents listed above are in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration.

