

## The Progressive 1900s

### Events and Policies

**Theodore Roosevelt** (1858-1919, in office 1901-1909, 26<sup>th</sup> President)

- succeeded the assassinated **WILLIAM McKINLEY** (1843-1901, in office 1901) to whom he served as Vice-President
- the first ecologically conscious president, founded many parks
- provided the name for teddy bears, spared the life of a bear at a hunting trip

### **Colonialism**

- US were constituted from 45 states and 5 territories, i.e. Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma
- prevailing policy was that of imperialism and expansion, at the same time colonies started fight for independence

### **Spanish American War** (1898)

- conflict between the US and Spain over Spanish colonies
- started after Spain rejected the US demand to resolve the struggle for independence at Cuba
- ended with US victory and gain of Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam
- Cuba became independent from US by the Cuban Revolution in 1959 led by **FIDEL CASTRO** and **CHE GUEVARA**
- the Philippines became independent from US in 1946

### **Panama Canal Construction** (1902-1914)

- France was unsuccessfully trying to build a canal across the isthmus for some twenty years
- Roosevelt purchased the rights for the canal construction (1902)
- Panama won independence from Colombia (1903), sold the isthmus to the US, the US controlled it until 1999

### Society

#### **Second Industrial Revolution** (1870-1914)

- **THOMAS ALVA EDISON**, **NIKOLA TESLA**, **ALEXANDER BELL**: steam engine, electricity, telephone implementation
- railways: enabled quick transport of resources and goods
- assembly line: introduced by Ford Motor Company with the first American car Ford **Model-T** aka Tin Lizzie
- aviation: brothers **ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT** constructed and flew the first plane (1903)
- mail delivery catalogues: e.g. Sears Roebuck, even houses could be ordered through the catalogues
- industrial magnates: **ANDREW CARNEGIE** (steel), **JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER** (oil), the **VANDERBILT** family (railways)

#### **Trade Unions**

- factories were often employing poor immigrants, including women and children, for long hours and low wages
- trade unions (working unions) were introduced, e.g. Industrial Workers of the World (since 1905) aka **Wobblies**
- unions organized radicals, socialists, even anarchists

#### **Urbanization**

- population grow of urban areas caused by people looking for jobs and immigrants from southern/eastern Europe
- the cities were overcrowded, the poor lived in tenement houses, plagued by diseases from unsanitary environment
- **muckrakers** exposed slum problems, the name was coined by Roosevelt, based on Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906)
- Roosevelt passed the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) prescribing sanitary regulations

### Culture

- fashion: slim waists emphasizing breast and bottom size for ladies, narrow trousers for gentlemen
- **Gibson Girl**: the ideal female beauty, modelled on actual model **EVELYN NESBIT**, invented by **CHARLES DANA GIBSON**
- leisure activities: vaudeville, dancing, family gatherings with piano playing and song singing, reading
- **HARRY HOUDINI**: a magician, stunt performer, and escape artist

### Film

- **EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE**: produced the first American proto-film, a series of photos of a running horse
- **Nickelodeon** (1905): the first American cinema, showed short films for a nickel, primarily for male audiences
- *The Great Train Robbery* (1903): a 12-minute silent western film directed and shot by **EDWIN S. PORTER**

## Music

- radios, phonographs (invented by Edison), Victrola machines (a phonograph trademark)
- Broadway musicals, operas
- IRVING BERLIN: Jewish-American musical producer, wrote both music and lyrics ('God Bless America')
- SCOTT JOPLIN: African-American composer and pianist, popularized ragtime music ('The Entertainer')

## Photography

- JACOB AUGUST RIIS, *How the Other Half Lives* (1891): a pioneering work of photojournalism from NY tenements
- ALFRED STIEGLITZ, 'The Steerage' (1907): a photo of poor immigrants crowded on the lower deck of a steamer

## Painting

- painters were only finding their own way by studying European art movements
- realism, impressionism, early modernism
- MAURICE PRENDERGAST (impressionism), JOHN SINGER SARGENT (portraits), WINSLOW HOMER (landscapes), FREDERICK REMINGTON (wild west scenes), MAX WEBER (cubism), ARTHUR DOVE (abstract paintings)
- **Ashcan School** (or, Gritty City Art): a loose group of urban realism painters, including GEORGE LUKS ('Hester Street'), JOHN SLOAN ('The Wake of the Ferry'), or EDWARD HOPPER

## Architecture

- **Arts and Crafts** Movement: bungalow architecture
- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: Penn Station in New York City (railway building), Prairie Houses (extended low buildings)
- RICHARD MORRIS HUNT: Vanderbilt Mansion, 'Marble House' in Newport, Rhode Island

## Literature

- realism: WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS
- naturalism: STEPHEN CRANE's *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* (1893), THEODORE DREISER's *Sister Carrie* (1900), FRANK NORRIS's *The Octopus* (1901), JACK LONDON's *The Sea-Wolf* (1904), UPTON SINCLAIR's *The Jungle* (1906)
- early modernism: HENRY JAMES's *The Golden Bowl* (1904), EDITH WHARTON's *The House of Mirth* (1905), GERTRUDE STEIN's *Three Lives* (1909)
- black civil rights: W.E.B. DuBois's *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

## **The Alienated 1910s**

### **Events and Policies**

- WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1857-1930, in office 1909-1913, 27<sup>th</sup> President)
- WOODROW WILSON (1856-1924, in office 1913-1921, 28<sup>th</sup> President)

#### **Tampico Affair (1914)**

- started as a minor incident between Mexican land forces loyal to General VICTORIANO HUERTA and US soldiers from U.S.S. *Dolphin* who were detained in the Tampico harbour, though this was a violation of sovereign immunity (all soldiers of all states are equal and immune to legal actions of other soldiers unless they willingly submit)
- resulted in a brief punitive expedition and a six-month US occupation of the crucial Mexican port city Veracruz

#### **First World War (1914-1918)**

- triggered by the assassination of Archduke FRANZ FERDINAND OF AUSTRIA, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne
- the conflict of Central Powers (German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria) and Allied Powers (originally France, Russian Empire, UK, later Canada, Australia, Italy, Japan, US)
- the US declared war on Germany (1917) when it violated American neutrality by attacking international shipping
- **Zimmermann Telegram** (1917): Germany offered Mexico material aid in reclaiming the territory lost to the US in the Mexican-American War and a military alliance, if the US seem likely to enter the WWI against Germany
- the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) were sent to Europe under General JOHN J. PERSHING, promoted to the highest military rank, General of the Armies, in 1917
- **Fourteen Points** (1918): President Wilson's proposal of after-war arrangements presented at the Paris Conference
- Treaty of Versailles (1919): ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers, required Germany to accept sole responsibility for causing the war, disarm, make territorial concessions, and pay reparations
- **League of Nations** (1919-1946): an inter-government organization founded to uphold Rights of Man, prevent war through collective security, and settle disputes between countries through diplomacy (replaced by United Nations)

### **Society**

- Boy Scouts of America (1910): the largest youth organization in the US, founded to train responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance
- RMS *Titanic* (1912): the ocean liner strikes an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sinks on its maiden voyage
- Spanish flu (1918-1920): the influenza pandemic spreads to nearly every part of the world, hastened by the massive troop movement during the WWI and their unsanitary conditions, kills 50-100 mil. people worldwide

#### **Wilsonianism**

- an Idealist school of thought personified in American diplomatic history by Woodrow Wilson
- believes that a state should make its internal political philosophy the goal of its foreign policy (e.g. ending poverty at home should be coupled with tackling poverty abroad)
- emphasizes the idea of American Exceptionalism, the belief that the US occupy a special niche among developed nations in terms of its national credo, historical evolution, political and religious institutions, and unique origins

#### **Temperance Movement**

- Women's Christian Temperance Union (1880): succeeded in implementing strong legislation mandating that all students receive anti-alcohol education, made a major contribution to establishing the National Prohibition (1919)
- Flying Squadron of America (1914-1915): a temperance organization touring the country with their campaign

### **Culture**

- the Ballroom decade, many fashionable restaurants are equipped with dance floors
- rising popularity of jazz music
- first crossword puzzle appears

### **Film**

- **Hollywood** District in Los Angeles, California, replaces the East Coast as the centre of the film industry
- *Oliver Twist* (1912) released as the US first feature film
- CHARLIE CHAPLIN débuts his trademark moustached, baggy-pants 'little tramp' character (1914)

- the four **WARNER BROTHERS** open their first West Coast studio (1918)

## Photography

- **ALFRED STIEGLITZ**: promoter and later husband of the painter Georgia O'Keeffe
- **EDWARD STEICHEN**: photographer, painter, and art curator, author of the photography 'The Pond-Moonlight' (1904)

## Visual Arts

- **Armory Show** (1913, New York City): a massive group exhibition of innovative contemporaneous artists from Europe and the US, a seminal event in the history of the modern art
- **291 Art Gallery**: an avant-garde gallery established by the photographer **ALFRED STIEGLITZ** in New York City
- **MARCEL DUCHAMP**: a Dadaist, Surrealist, and Cubist painter, author of 'Nude Descending a Staircase' (1912)
- **NORMAN ROCKWELL**: a painter and illustrator, art editor for the Boy Scout magazine *Boy's Life* between 1913-1916
- **GEORGIA O'KEEFFE**: a modernist painter of flowers, rocks, and landscapes with sexual innuendos
- **MAURICE PRENDERGAST**: an impressionist painter
- **HORACE PIPPIN**: a realist painter of African-American life scenes
- The **Ashcan School** (or, Gritty City Art): a loose group of urban realism painters, including **GEORGE LUKS** ('Hester Street'), **JOHN SLOAN** ('The Wake of the Ferry'), or **EDWARD HOPPER**

## Architecture

- **Beaux-Arts**: an opulent neoclassical style
- New York City public buildings: Woolworth Building (1913, architect Cass Gilbert), Grand Central Terminal (rebuilt 1913), New York Public Library (established 1895)
- **FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**: Midway Gardens in Chicago, Illinois (1913, demolished)

## Literature

- popular culture: **EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**'s *Tarzan of the Apes* (1912)
- WWI subject: **ERNEST HEMINGWAY**'s *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)
- movements: Vorticism, Imagism (**EZRA POUND**, **H.D.**, **MARIANNE MOORE**)
- milestone publications: **EDITH WHARTON**'s *Ethan Frome* (1911), **GERTRUDE STEIN**'s *Tender Buttons* (1914), **T. S. ELIOT**'s *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917), **WILLA CATHER**'s *My Ántonia* (1918), **SHERWOOD ANDERSON**'s *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)

## **The Roaring 1920s**

### Events and Policies

- WARREN G. HARDING (1865-1923, in office 1921-1923, 29<sup>th</sup> President)
- CALVIN COOLIDGE (1872-1933, in office 1923-1929, 30<sup>th</sup> President)

### **The Lost Generation**

- Europe reconstructs after WWI, US engages in no important affairs, both Europe and US experience disillusion
- some American intellectuals and writers leave for Europe and try to find new values to replace the lost old ones
- other Americans at home seek to re-establish the old values of patriotism, religion, family values, success in life

### **Nativism**

- = heightened nationalism, xenophobia, in America opposition to immigration, especially war immigrants
- JOHNSON-REED Act, or, the Immigration Act (1924): limited the quote of immigrants to 2% of the number of people of the given nationality who were already living in the US in 1890
- First **Red Scare**: the Russian Revolution (1917) removed the Tsarist autocracy and established the Soviet Union, awoke in the US a fear of communism
- SACCO and VANZETTI: two Italian-born anarchists tried for robbery and murder, sentenced to death, and electrocuted
- Ku Klux Klan (since 1865): in 1920s began opposing immigrants, 'hyphenated Americans' (Woodrow Wilson's term), mainly German-Americans

### **Fundamentalism**

- a militant Protestantism against Darwinian theory and for a literal interpretation of the Bible
- WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN: spokesman for Fundamentalism, supporter of Anti-Evolution Laws prohibiting teaching the theory, the laws were passed in several states, especially in Tennessee
- **Scopes Monkey Trial**: JOHN SCOPES taught the evolution in Tennessee, was persecuted by Bryant, lost the case, but his defender CLARENCE DARREN ridiculed the idea of Fundamentalism

### **Prohibition**

- the **Volstead Act** (1919, in effect 1920-1933): prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcohol for consumption
- alcohol consumption did not stop, rather contributed to organized crime and corruption in law enforcement
- speakeasies: bars selling spirits during Prohibition (*The Cotton Club*, a bar with jazz, dancing, and drinking)
- AL CAPONE: a crime syndicate leader dedicated to smuggling and bootlegging of liquor, gambling, and prostitution
- new morals: a carpe diem stance to life after the WWI, connected with the Prohibition, also with Freud's theories
- the **flapper**: an emancipated woman with short hair, in short skirts, smoking, drinking, driving, flying, etc.

### Culture

- fashion: elegant slim dresses with lowered waists and hats for women
- leisure activities: **vaudeville**, entertainments with dancing, music listening, and drinking
- sports: BABE RUTH, a baseball player
- Miss America: started in 1921, the first winner was MARGARET GORMAN

### **Music**

- the **Jazz Age**: jazz arrives from the South to big cities and becomes the prominent genre
- BESSIE SMITH: an African-American blues and jazz singer
- King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band: a group led by the jazz cornet player JOE KING OLIVER, including LOUIS ARMSTRONG
- DUKE ELLINGTON: an African-American jazz pianist, composer, and bandleader
- GEORGE GERSHWIN: a pianist and composer of Russian descent, author of *Rhapsody in Blue* for piano and jazz band
- dances: Charleston, Foxtrot, Black Bottom; **dance marathons**
- 'I'm Just Wild about Harry': a popular song for the first African-American Broadway musical
- FRED AND ADELE ASTAIRE: a brother and sister dancing couple
- JOSEPHINE BAKER: an African-American dancer, singer, and actress, the first world famous black dancer

### **Film**

- RUDOLPH VALENTINO: an Italian silent film actor, sex symbol, and pop icon, star of *The Sheik* (1921)
- CLARA BOW: a silent film actress, star of *Wings* (1927, the winner of the first Oscar awarded)

- GLORIA SWANSON: a silent film actress, later played a silent film star in the talkies era in *Sunset Boulevard* (1950)
- LON CHANEY (*The Phantom of the Opera*, 1925), JOHN BARRYMORE (*Don Juan*, 1926), LIONEL BARRYMORE, JOAN CRAWFORD, GRETA GARBO
- **slapstick** actors: HAROLD LLOYD (*Safety Last*, 1923), CHARLIE CHAPLIN, BUSTER KEATON, LAUREL and HARDY
- *The Jazz Singer* (1927): the first feature-length sound film, a musical film starring MAY McAVOY and AL JOLSON
- later films about 1920s: *The Public Enemy* (1931, on Prohibition); *The Roaring Twenties* (1939, on Prohibition); *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (HORACE MCCOY's novel from 1935, Sydney Pollack's film from 1969, on a dancing marathon); *Inherit the Wind* (play from 1955, film from 1960, on Scopes Trial)

## Architecture

- **Art Deco** (1925-1939): a decorative and glamorous mixture neoclassical, modernist, and art nouveau elements
- skyscrapers: Chicago Tribune Tower, Wrigley Building in Chicago, Illinois, resemble Victorian Gothic revival
- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan; Ennis House, Hollyhock House in Los Angeles, California

## Visual Arts

### Modernism

- GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: painter of flowers, rocks, and landscapes with sexual innuendos
- MORGAN RUSSELL: pioneer of **Synchronism**, an abstract style attempting to make painting reproduce the sound
- STANTON MACDONALD-WRIGHT: painter of Synchronism
- MAN RAY: painter, experimental film maker, photographer, author of collages and installations of found objects
- LEE MILLER: Man Ray's lover and assistant, a fashion model, photographer, author of photojournalism from WWII

### Realism

- THOMAS HART BENTON: murals, rural landscapes
- EDWARD HOPPER: common life pictures
- GRANT WOOD: the rural Midwest
- HORACE PIPPIN: African-American life scenes
- N. C. WYETH: illustrations

## Literature

- **Lost Generation**: GERTRUDE STEIN, FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD, ERNEST HEMINGWAY, MALCOLM COWLEY
- Harlem Renaissance: LANGSTON HUGHES, CLAUDE McKAY, ZORA NEAL HURSTON, COUNTÉE CULLEN
- Southern Renaissance: WILLIAM FAULKNER, ERSKINE CALDWELL, JOHN DOS PASSOS
- **crime** fiction: DASHIELL HAMMETT, RAYMOND CHANDLER
- milestone publications: T. S. ELIOT's *The Waste Land* (1922), FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD's *The Great Gatsby* (1925), ERNEST HEMINGWAY's *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), WILLIAM FAULKNER's *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)

## The Dark 1930s

### Events and Policies

#### **The Great Depression (1929-1939)**

- the 1920s were an era of prosperity, the US grew rich after the WWI, there was high demand for consumer goods
- overproduction of consumer goods: there were more products and the prices were accessible for anyone to buy
- overproduction in agriculture: demand and prices declined, farmers had to produce more to earn the same money
- money policies: the government made buying on credit available for low interest, personal debts were increasing
- margin investing: the stock market enabled buying stock on credit, to pay 10% in cash was enough to buy

#### **The Wall Street Crash (1929)**

- the **Black Tuesday of 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 1929**, the most devastating stock market crash with long-lasting consequences
- stock prices dropped per 17%, investors panicked and attempted to sell their stock, the result was further decline
- people rushed to draw their savings from banks, the banks did not have cash enough, the result was their bankrupt
- business collapsed, there was mass unemployment of 25%, the results were poverty, homelessness, and migration

#### **Migration to California**

- Great Plains (Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico): areas heavily exploited for agriculture
- Dust Bowl: the region of the Great Plains most devastated by draught, soil erosion, and dust storms
- **hoboes**: tramps travelling on foot or freight trains and trying to get jobs at farms
- **Okies**: a derogative term for migrants from Oklahoma or elsewhere, called by the Californians 'poor white trash'

#### **Herbert Hoover (1874-1964, in office 1929-1933, 31<sup>st</sup> President)**

- laissez faire: the government did not wish to intervene after the Crash, believing the market will help itself
- humanitarianism: Hoover later loaned, though not gave up, some money to local charities
- **Hooverville**: a popular name for shanty towns built by the homeless during the Depression, not inhabited by poor immigrants but by ordinary Americans reduced to poverty

#### **Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945, in office 1933-1945, 32<sup>nd</sup> President)**

- the longest serving President, gave the nation the promise of hope: 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.'
- brain trust: Roosevelt gathered around himself a group of advisers, specialists in given fields
- the New Deal (1933-1938): an umbrella term for various government projects for relief, recovery, and reform
- **JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES**: his beliefs that government should stimulate economy influenced the New Deal

#### **The First New Deal**

- lasted for one hundred days, aimed at immediate relief
- banks help: reopened healthy banks, provided government loans for banks
- employment support: authorized new public buildings, employed people at their construction (Hoover Dam at Arizona-Nevada border; Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California)
- Agricultural Adjustment Act (1933): raised product prices, reduced field acreage to restore the original landscape
- **Civilian Conservation Corps** (1933-1942): a uniformed brigade employing young men aged between 18 and 25 at protecting natural sources (National Parks) and providing for them accommodation in camps

#### **The Second New Deal**

- Works Progress Administration (1935): offered jobs in community services to anyone in need, including women
- Social Security Act (1935): introduced the first US welfare system for children, the unemployed, the old, etc.
- **Federal Project Number One** (1935): a series of programmes supporting the arts and providing employment for writers, musicians, theatre actors, visual artists, etc.
- Federal Writers Project: a subprogramme employing writers to produce guidebooks and also encouraging tourism (RICHARD WRIGHT, RALPH ELLISON, ZORA NEALE HURSTON, SAUL BELLOW, JOHN CHEEVER)

### Culture

- fashion: 45-degree cuts, ankle-length skirts
- leisure activities: music, films, crime novels, board games (Monopoly), gambling

### Sports

- horse racing
- baseball: JOE DiMAGGIO, LOU GEHRIG
- Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York (1932)

## Music

- supported by the Federal Music Project, a part of the New Deal

### Big Bands

- **swing** music developed from jazz, gained immediate popularity, was played by many white musicians
- DUKE ELLINGTON and his band
- BENNY GOODMAN (white): clarinettist, songwriter, bandleader
- GLENN MILLER (white): trombonist, composer, bandleader
- TOMMY DORSEY (white): trombonist, trumpet player, bandleader

### Songs

- JOHNNY MERCER: songwriter, lyricists, singer
- WOODY GUTHRIE: folk singer and songwriter, hired to entertain young men in the working camps, author of 'Ain't God No Home' or 'This Land is Your Land' (a song in response to Irving Berlin's 'God Bless America', almost became a national anthem instead of the 'Star-Spangled Banner' in 1931)
- KATE SMITH: singer, most famous for her rendering of 'God Bless America'

### Musicals

- Broadway musicals and musical films became popular
- *Top Hat* (1935): a musical film, with the dancing couple FRED ASTAIRE and GINGER ROGERS, music by IRVING BERLIN
- *Porgy and Bess* (1935): an opera from African-American life, with music by GEORGE GERSHWIN ('Summertime')

## Pictorial Arts

- supported by Federal Arts Project

### Abstract Expressionism

- JACKSON POLLOCK, WILLEM DE KOONING

### Regionalism/Scene Painting

- GRANT WOOD: Iowa regionalism, author of 'American Gothic' (1930)
- THOMAS HART BENTON: Midwest regionalism, social realism, author of mural series *America Today* (1930-1931)
- JOHN STEUART CURRY: Kansas regionalism, painter and muralist, author of 'Tragic Prelude' depicting John Brown and the conflict of Bleeding Kansas (1938 - 1940)

### Social Realism

- DIEGO RIVERA (Frieda Kahlo's husband): a Mexican painter and muralist, author of mural series *Detroit Industry* (1932-1933) at the Detroit Institute of Arts, also author of 'Man at the Crossroads' (1933) at the Rockefeller Centre (the mural was removed because it contained a depiction of Lenin)
- BEN SHAHN: a Lithuanian-American painter and muralist, author of the *Sacco and Vanzetti* series
- ISAAC SOYER: a Russia-born painter, focused on working class life scenes, author of 'Laundress'
- EDWARD HOPPER: painter, author of the 'New York Movie Theatre'
- DOROTHEA LANGE: photographer, author of 'Migrant Mother'

## Architecture

- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: Fallingwater (1935), a house incorporated into the landscape, off Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- New York **Art Deco**: Chrysler Building (1930), Empire State Building (1931), Rockefeller Centre (1939)
- Mount Rushmore, near Keystone, South Dakota: granite sculptures of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln

## Film

- EDWARD G. ROBINSON: gangster actor
- JAMES CAGNEY: dancer, tough guy actor, sex symbol
- BÉLA LUGOSI: horror film actor, incorporated the title character in *Dracula* (1931)
- BORIS KARLOFF: horror film actor, incorporated the title monster in *Frankenstein* (1931)



- MARX BROTHERS: a team of sibling vaudeville comedians and film actors
- W. C. FIELDS: a comedian assuming the persona of a misanthrope
- MAE WEST: actress and sex symbol, famous for her bawdy double entendres
- CARY GRANT: incorporated charismatic heroes of noble character
- CLARK GABLE: a sex icon, frequent film partner of Joan Crawford
- VIVIEN LEIGH: a British actress, incorporated Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* (1939)
- ORSON WELLES: actor and director
- other actresses: JEAN HARLOW, GRETA GARBO, JOAN CRAWFORD
- other actors: JAMES STEWART, CHARLIE CHAPLIN
- other films: *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)

## **The Furious 1940s**

### **Events and Policies**

- FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1882-1945, in office 1933-1945, 32<sup>nd</sup> President)
- HARRY S. TRUMAN (1884-1972, in office 1945-1953, 33<sup>rd</sup> President)
- duration of the Great Depression in the US, its equivalent termed the Economic Crisis in Europe

### **Outbreak of WWII** (1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1939)

- the Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invade Poland, the conquered territory it split between the two countries
- the US prepare for a war of defence, do not intend to enter the war because of the ongoing Depression, the WWI experience, and unwillingness to interfere in foreign affairs
- Japan experiences depression, attempts to rebuild the nation to become the richest country, attacks neighbouring countries (British, French, and Dutch colonies in the Pacific)

### **Attack on Pearl Harbor** (7<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941)

- the US send a fleet to the Pacific to protect Hawaii, Japan attacks the fleet unexpectedly at Pearl Harbor (island Oahu), the Americans suffer huge losses
- described by President Roosevelt in his speech as 'a date which will live in infamy'
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941 the US declare war on Japan, then Germany and Italy declare war on the US and vice versa
- battles in Europe were led by General DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, Pacific battles by General DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
- the **Pacific Theatre** of Operations: naval battles, island hopping invasion, Battle of Midway, Battle of Iwo Jima

### **Invasion of Normandy** (6<sup>th</sup> June 1944)

- the American troops started in Algeria and Morocco to cross to Italy, France, and Spain
- on D-Day in the Operation Overlord the allies liberated French towns and continued to reach Berlin
- German surrendered on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, the V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day)
- the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1945 respectively, Japan surrendered on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 1945, the V-J Day (the Victory over Japan Day)

### **Yalta Conference** (4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1945)

- the wartime meeting between the heads of the US, GB, and the USSR, i.e. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, WINSTON CHURCHILL, and JOSEPH STALIN
- negotiated the sphere of influence, founded the **United Nations** to replace the original League of Nations founded as a result of the Treaty of Versailles after the WWI
- the US declare the end of isolationism to become the example of democracy, the carrier of the torch of freedom
- the post-war Germany is provisionally divided into British, Russian, American, and French zones
- the US planned a unification of Germany, the Soviets did not want it to be self-sufficient and held the American attempts of unification for an act of aggression

### **Cold War** (1947-1991)

- the US and the USSR were allies during the WWII, their relationship crumbled, became enemies at the end
- had different ideas about the post-war shape of Europe and about capitalism v. communism
- the iron curtain (Winston Churchill's term) divides the supporters of imperialism and supporters of totalitarianism
- the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA, 1947): a civilian intelligence agency gathering political, military, and economic information for security purposes
- **Marshall Plan** (1947): named for the US Secretary of State, GEORGE MARSHALL, the primary plan for the economic reconstruction of Europe, refused by Czechoslovakia, followed by the creation of the Eastern Bloc
- **Truman Doctrine** (1947): named for the US President HARRY S. TRUMAN, a set of principles of US foreign policy which promise support to any nation threatened by the USSR and the communist regime
- **Berlin Blockade** (1948-1949): Stalin refused the Marshall Plan and blocked the Russian section of Berlin, the allies resolved the situation by plane delivery
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (1949): a military alliance, a collective defence system against the USSR
- Warsaw Pact (1955): the reaction of the USSR to the creation of NATO

### **Society**

- home front propaganda: to support the morals, draw soldiers, raise money for warfare, or prevent wasting material
- new workforce: married women could not previously work, now while men are in the war, women must work
- **Rosie the Riveter**: women employed for hard labour, including black women, were called the rosies
- juvenile delinquency: teenagers rise as a new social group produced by the WWII, children grew up alone while fathers were at war and mothers at work, could be independent due to earnings from part-time jobs, rise of gang life
- Relocation Camps: Japanese-American became suspicious, their civil rights were suspended (signed by Roosevelt in 1942), their property was confiscated, were removed from the West Coast to guarded internment camps
- **G.I. Bill**, or, Servicemen's Readjustment Act (1944): provided college or vocational education for homecoming war veterans, important especially for ethnic minorities
- **Levittown**: named for its creator WILLIAM LEWITT, a community town planned in advance, first with only two types of houses available, anticipated today's modern American suburbs, connected to the post-war baby boom

## Culture

### Music

- propaganda songs, big bands
- emergence of **rhythm and blues** (predecessor of R'n'B): combines jazz, blues, and gospel, mixes white and black music, originally used to refer to any black music
- FRANK SINATRA: a pop and jazz singer
- BING CROSBY: a pop and jazz singer ('White Christmas')
- WYNONIE HARRIS: a blues, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll ('Rocking Tonight')

### Film

- the golden era of Hollywood, film industry was used for moral and propagandistic purposes
- romantic comedies with narrow plots and expectable happy endings
- **film noir** with a combination of a detective story and a thriller
- *The Maltese Falcon* (1941): a film noir starring HUMPHREY BOGART, based on the novel by Dashiell Hammett
- *Casablanca* (1942): a romantic film starring Humphrey Bogart and INGRID BERGMAN
- *To Have and Have Not* (1944): a thriller romance starring Humphrey Bogart and LAUREN BACALL, based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway, the script was co-authored by William Faulkner, then also a Hollywood scriptwriter
- *The Big Sleep* (1946): a film noir with Humphrey Bogart as the detective and Lauren Bacall as the femme fatale
- *Gilda* (1946): a black-and-white film noir starring RITA HAYWORTH
- *The Third Man* (1949): a British film noir, based on the novel by Graham Greene
- actors: HUMPHREY BOGART, CARY GRANT, SPENCER TRACY, JAMES STEWART
- actresses: INGRID BERGMAN, RITA HAYWORTH, KATHARINE HEPBURN, BETTY GRABLE, JUDY GARLAND

### Literature

- JOSEPH HELLER's *Catch-22* (1961): an anti-war satirical novel, set in the later stages of WWII
- JAMES JONES's *The Thin Red Line* (1962): WWII fiction, set in the Battle of Mount Austen in the Pacific Theatre
- KURT VONNEGUT's *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969): WWII fiction, set in the Battle of the Bulge (1944-1945)

## The Fake 1950s

### Events and Policies

- HARRY S. TRUMAN (1884-1972, in office 1945-1953, 33<sup>rd</sup> President)
- DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (1890-1969, in office 1953-1961, 34<sup>th</sup> President)

### **Cold War (1947-1991)**

- a clash between the two world powers, the US and the USSR, all the operations were covert, not openly declared
- the war was fought by the CIA and KGB information agencies and on the level of technological development
- the USSR was supported by the Warsaw Pact (1955-1991) countries in Europe, by South Asia, and Latin America
- the US tried to free the countries from communism, while the USSR tried to spread the communist ideology
- **Space Race**: the USSR launched Sputnik I (1957) as the first Earth-orbiting artificial satellite and sent Laika in Sputnik 2 (1957) as the first animal to the space, later the US launched their own first satellite Explorer I (1958)
- **Nuclear Arms Race**: the US developed and used the first nuclear weapon during the WWII (1945), later the USSR tested their own first atomic bomb (1949), the result was propaganda for anti-nuclear shelter building

### **Korean War (1950-1953)**

- Korea was divided along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel into the North supervised by the USSR and the South supervised by US
- the North attacked the South in an attempt to reunite the region and gained much of the southern area
- President Truman intervened into the Korean civil war, not as a US representative, but as a member of the UNO
- General **DOUGLAS MACARTHUR** gained most of the northern area, planning to make it 'the showcase of democracy'
- MAO TSE-TUNG, the leader of the People's Republic of China (1947), intervened and pushed the US back to South
- the fighting lasted but several months, the negotiations took several years

### **Cuban Revolution (1959)**

- Cuba was under the influence of the US since the Spanish-American War (1898), was being exploited by the US
- the revolution led by FIDEL CASTRO and the Argentinian CHE GUEVARA overthrew the US supported puppet dictator General FULGENCIO BATISTA, established a communist government, nationalized industry, started social reforms, etc.

### Society

#### **McCarthyism, or, the Second Red Scare**

- named for the Republican Senator JOSEPH MCCARTHY who fuelled the fears of widespread Communist subversion
- the nation was scared that communists were spying on everybody and planning to overthrow the US government
- the then very powerful CIA was looking for and overthrowing governments too friendly to the USSR (Guatemala)
- **House Un-American Activities Committee (1938-1975)**: originally for detecting Nazi propaganda, now focused on the central issue of national security, ordered to spy on high politicians suspected from communist sympathies
- many artists and former communists accused of supporting communism: RICHARD WRIGHT, ARTHUR MILLER, etc.
- many Jewish intellectuals, formerly communists disillusioned after the WWII, were accused: e.g. LILLIAN HELLMAN
- the Jewish American communist couple **ETHEL** and **JULIUS ROSENBERG** were accused of conspiracy to commit espionage on the atomic bomb for the interest of the USSR, found guilty by the jury, and both electrocuted in 1953

#### **Civil Rights Movement**

- was not established in the 1950s, but only now became more successful in achieving its aims and more public
- Jim Crow Laws (1876-1965): introduced the segregation of whites and blacks who were to be 'separate but equal'
- NAACP (1909): National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, promoted education of the blacks and black culture, was not politically very successful
- THURGOOD MARSHALL (1908-1993): a lawyer who legally challenged the segregation laws, fought in the area of schools, later became the first African-American to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge
- **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)**: abolished the segregation in schools but left the responsibility to correct the situation on the individual schools, many of them adopted the label of private academies to avoid it
- Little Rock Nine (1957): Little Rock, Arkansas, was the first high school to enrol nine black students, the city governor disapproved and sent troops to prevent the students from entry, then US army was sent to guard the nine
- **ROSA PARKS (1913-2005)**: the first black woman who refused to give up her seat in a Montgomery (Alabama) bus to a white man (1955), was arrested for it, but it started a wave of non-violent protests, especially the Bus Boycott

## Culture

- the consumer era: the nation was scared by the threats of communism and nuclear war, but it was very prosperous
- the family: propagated as a powerful unit, women were not yet emancipated and still remained housewives
- teen movement: the young were growing up in prosperity but under threats, they started to rebel for the first time
- the **Beat** Generation: propagated drugs, sex, and Eastern religions, rebelled against the Western society
- the men's magazine *Playboy* was founded by HUGH HEFNER (1953)
- the first fashion doll Barbie was created by RUTH HANDLER and manufactured by Mattel (1959)

## Music

- the birth of **rock'n'roll** music, first played by jazz musicians, many of them black
- CHARLIE PARKER: a black jazz saxophonist and composer
- THELONIOUS MONK: a black jazz pianist and composer
- MILES DAVIS: a black jazz trumpeter and composer
- CHUCK BERRY: a black guitarist, singer, and songwriter, considered the father of R'n'R
- FATS DOMINO: a black R'n'R pianist, singer, and songwriter
- LITTLE RICHARD: a black R'n'R singer, songwriter, and pianist
- JERRY LEE LEWIS: a white R'n'R and country singer, songwriter, and pianist
- JOHNNY CASH: a white R'n'R and country singer, songwriter, and actor
- BOBBY DARIN: a white R'n'R and big band singer and songwriter
- ELVIS PRESLEY: singer and actor, called the King of Rock'n'Roll

## Film

- big Hollywood productions era, especially historical films
- *Cinderella* (1950): an animated Walt Disney film
- *Sunset Boulevard* (1950): a film noir starring GLORIA SWANSON
- *All About Eve* (1950): a drama film starring BETTE DAVIS
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951): a film based on Tennessee William's play, starring MARLON BRANDO
- *High Noon* (1952): a western film starring GARY COOPER and GRACE KELLY
- *A Summer Place* (1959): a drama film starring SANDRA DEE and TROY DONAHUE
- *Some Like It Hot* (1959): a comedy film starring MARILYN MONROE
- *MASH*: originally a novel by Richard Hooker (1968), then a film (1970), and then a long-running TV series (1972-1983) concerned with a fictional Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in the Korean War
- **MARLON BRANDO**: the star of *The Wild One* (1953), popularized motorcycles and leather jackets as a rebel image
- **JAMES DEAN**: the star of *Rebel without a Cause* (1955), popularized white T-shirts and jeans as a part of the image

## Television

- the best era for TV, still black and white
- for the first time the US and Europe began to cooperate in broadcasting
- newly introduced sitcoms (*I Love Lucy*), musical programmes written for TV, children's programmes (the child actress SHIRLEY TEMPLE), quiz shows, talk shows (*Tonight*), broadcast journalism (the journalist WALTER CRONKITE)

## Pictorial Arts

- abstract expressionism: JACKSON POLLOCK, WILLEM DE Kooning
- colour field painting: MARK ROTHKO
- **pop art**: ANDY WARHOL, author of the painting 'Campbell's Soup' (1968), the founder of the pop art movement, concerned with consumer culture and its products from the point of view of art

## Literature

- ARTHUR MILLER's play *The Crucible* (1953): uses the historical Salem Witch Trials as a metaphor for McCarthyism
- LILLIAN HELLMAN's *Scoundrel Time* (1976): on the communist hunt that the author experienced herself
- the Beats: ALLEN GINSBERG's poem *Howl* (1956), JACK KEROUAC's novel *On the Road* (1957), WILLIAM BURROUGHS's novel *Naked Lunch* (1959)
- JEROME DAVID SALINGER's *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951), RALPH ELLISON's *Invisible Man* (1952), TENNESSEE

WILLIAMS'S *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), VLADIMIR NABOKOV'S *Lolita* (1955), SAUL BELLOW'S *Seize the Day* (1956)

## **The Rebellious 1960s**

### Events and Policies

- DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (1890-1969, in office 1953-1961, 34<sup>th</sup> President)
- JOHN F. KENNEDY (1917-1963, in office 1961-1963, 35<sup>th</sup> President): his were the first televised elections, also his assassination on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1963 by LEE HARVEY OSWALD was televised, his inaugural address contained his famous urge 'Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.'
- LYNDON B. JOHNSON (1908-1973, in office 1963-1969, 36<sup>th</sup> President)
- RICHARD NIXON (1913-1994, in office 1969-1974, 37<sup>th</sup> President)

### **Cold War Operations** (1947-1991)

- JFK increased spending on the space programme, as a result Apollo 11 landed on the Moon (1969) and NEIL ARMSTRONG became the first person to the planet ('That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.')
- spending on arms increased, the US Army Special Forces, known as Green Berets, engaged in covert operations

### **Bay of Pigs Invasion** (1961)

- Fidel Castro exported products to the USSR, President Eisenhower reacted by putting economic embargo on Cuba
- US-trained Cuban exiles supported by the US government unsuccessfully attempted to overthrow Castro's regime

### **Cuban Missile Crisis** (1962)

- Castro asked the USSR for military help, JFK reacted by blockading all shipping to Cuba, including civil ships
- the USSR removed all the missiles from Cuba in exchange for the promise that the US will not invade Cuba

### **Vietnam War** (1959-1975)

- Vietnam remained a part of French Indochina after the WWII, the French were defeated by the communist China under Ho Chi Minh (1954) and Vietnam was divided into the communist North and the officially democratic South where the US acted as military advisers
- the North attacked the South (1959), in the ensuing civil war the poor people of the South joined the North Vietnamese communists, Viet Cong, because the South had an unpopular ruler
- **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** (1964): President Johnson announced the measures to undertake as a reaction against the alleged attack of North Vietnam on US ships
- the Vietnam War was never formally declared by the US, it started with air bombing and sending out US troops
- the US forces were on search-and-destroy missions, looking for Viet Cong but killing also many civilians in the process, also caused ecological devastation by using napalm as a herbicide
- the first televised war, sometimes even live, the nation disapproved of the drafting of young men and protested
- **Tet Offensive** (1968): a Viet Cong action, ended with the strategic and psychological victory of the North, the US recognized that they cannot win in Vietnam, but the withdrawing and negotiating took five more years
- President Nixon's National Security Advisor HENRY KISSINGER played a major role in ending the Vietnam War
- in 1973 peace agreement was closed, in 1975 the war ended with the victory of the North which gained the South

### Society

#### **Civil Rights Movement**

- **MARTIN LUTHER KING** (1929-1968, assassinated): a clergyman, Civil Rights leader, admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, advocate of non-violent resistance and civil disobedience
- the Nashville (Tennessee) **sit-ins** (1960): one of a series of large-scale protest sit-ins, directed against lunch counters refusing to serve black people, the demonstrators kept on sitting peacefully at the counters till closing time
- Children's Crusade (Birmingham, Alabama; 1963): a protest march of school students who protested against the arrest of Martin Luther King who was jailed in Birmingham
- **March on Washington** for Jobs and Freedom (1963): a protest march attended by ¼ million people, Martin Luther King delivered his most famous speech 'I Have a Dream' during the march at the Lincoln Memorial
- Civil Rights Act (1964): the result of the March on Washington, outlawed racial segregation
- **MALCOLM X** (b. Malcolm Little, but dropped the white man's name; 1925-1965, assassinated): a Muslim minister, Civil Rights leader, frustrated with the limits of non-violent protests, argued for a return to the African heritage
- Black Panther Party (1966-1976): a section of the military party **Black Power** Movement, followed Malcolm X

## Culture

- the rebellious tradition of the Beatnik generation in 1950s was followed by the hippies in 1960s
- **Summer of Love** (1967): an unprecedented gathering of people in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco, California, a cultural and political rebellion, an experiment in communal living, sharing of resources, and free love
- **Woodstock Festival** (1969): an unprecedented three-day music festival near Woodstock, New York, featured Janis Joplin, The Who, Jefferson Airplane, Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix, Carlos Santana, etc.
- TIMOTHY LEARY (1920-1996): a psychologist, advocate of psychedelic drug research by the means of controlled experiments, a proponent of the therapeutic and spiritual benefits of LSD, an icon of counter-culture, a drug guru
- **Merry Pranksters** (1964): a group of people formed around the writer KEN KESSEY, travelled the US from San Francisco to New York in a psychedelic painted bus, included also the beatniks NEAL CASSADY, ALLEN GINSBERG, etc.

## Music

- musicals: *Hair* (1967)
- rock'n'roll: ELVIS PRESLEY
- black music: ARETHA FRANKLIN, JAMES BROWN
- folk music: PETER, PAUL, & MARY; SIMON & GARFUNKEL (authors of music for *The Graduate* film of 1967)
- **psychedelic rock**: THE DOORS (singer JIM MORRISON), THE VELVET UNDERGROUND (singer and fashion model NICO, singer and guitarist LOU REED), THE BEACH BOYS, JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
- electro-acoustic music experimentation: the influential avant-garde composer and pianist JOHN CAGE
- others: JANIS JOPLIN, JIMI HENDRIX, SCOTT MCKENZIE (singer of 'San Francisco'), THE WHO, THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS

## Film

### Vietnam Films

- *The Deer Hunter* (1978)
- *Apocalypse Now* (1979): loosely based on Joseph Conrad's novel *Heart of Darkness*
- *Platoon* (1986): director Oliver Stone
- *Full Metal Jacket* (1987): director Stanley Kubrick

### Other Films

- *Psycho* (1960): director ALFRED HITCHCOCK
- *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961): starring AUDREY HEPBURN, based on the novella by Truman Capote
- *To Kill a Mocking Bird* (1962)
- *My Fair Lady* (1964): starring Audrey Hepburn
- *Dr. Strangelove* (1964): director STANLEY KUBRICK, a political black comedy
- *Doctor Zhivago* (1965): based on the novel by Boris Pasternak
- *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967)
- *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968): director Stanley Kubrick
- *Rosemary's Baby* (1968): a horror
- *Barbarella* (1968): an erotic sci-fi starring JANE FONDA
- *Planet of the Apes* (1968)
- *Easy Rider* (1969): a road movie
- *Midnight Cowboy* (1969): starring JOHN VOIGHT, with explicitly sexual scenes
- *The Wild Bunch* (1969): a western
- *James Bond* series

## Television

- sitcoms: *Bewitched*, *The Twilight Zone*, etc.

## Architecture

- WALTER GROPIUS: Pan Am Building (1963), now MetLife Building, New York City
- CHARLES LUCKMAN: NASA Manned Spacecraft Centre (1963), Houston, Texas
- FRANK GEHRY: Walt Disney Concert Hall (2003), Los Angeles, California; Dancing House (1996), Prague



## Pictorial Arts

- kinetic abstraction: ALEXANDER CALDER
- abstract expressionism: HELEN FRANKENTHALER
- **pop art**: ANDY WARHOL, 'Campbell's Soup' (1968)
- assemblage art: ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG
- geometric abstraction: FRANK STELLA, RICHARD ANUSZKIEWICZ, ALEXANDER LIBERMAN
- environmental art: ROBERT SMITHSON, *Spiral Jetty* (1970)

## Literature

- TRUMAN CAPOTE: representative of Southern Gothic, author of *In Cold Blood* (1967), a non-fiction novel about an actual case of mass murder, a forerunner of New Journalism
- TOM WOLFE: founder of the New Journalism movement in 1960s-1970s, author of *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* (1968), a journalistic work on the trip of Merry Pranksters

## **The Disillusioned 1970s**

### Events and Policies

- RICHARD NIXON (1913-1994, in office 1969-1974, 37<sup>th</sup> President): based his presidential election campaign on the promise to end the Vietnam War against which there were growing protests
- GERALD FORD (1913-2006, in office 1974-1977, 38<sup>th</sup> President)
- JIMMY CARTER (b. 1924, in office 1977-1981, 39<sup>th</sup> President)

### **Economic Crisis**

- the prices went up, especially gas and electricity prices, the unemployment rate was rising
- after Nixon's resignation the power of Congress grew rapidly due to weak presidents
- Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (1973): signed the **Helsinki Accords** (1975) as an important step for ending of the Cold War which ruined economy so that there were no more resources for defence

### **Middle East Conflicts**

- Arab-Israeli Conflict: the American support for Israel lead to the OPEC fuel embargo against the US (1973-1974)
- Iranian Revolution (1979): the overthrow of Pahlavi's monarchy and establishment of a republic under Khomeini
- Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989): the USSR invaded Afghanistan to support the Marxist government against the mujahideen resistance supported by resources from US and other states in the context of the Cold War
- **Carter Doctrine** (1980): declared by President Carter in his State of the Union Address as a reaction to the USSR invasion of Afghanistan, the US will use force if necessary to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf

### Society

#### **Riots and Violence**

- frequent anti-war riots, anti-government moods, and general disillusionment springing from the ongoing war, rising economic crisis, and assassinations of political and moral leaders
- Martin Luther King: assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968, an escaped convict was charged for the murder
- Robert F. Kennedy: assassinated during his presidential election campaign in Los Angeles, California in 1968 by a young Palestinian who was convicted and sentenced to a life imprisonment
- Kent State University, Ohio: during a war protest on the campus the National Guard shot four students to death
- Jackson State University, Mississippi: during a riot on the campus the State Police shot two students to death

#### **Watergate Scandal (1972-1974)**

- in 1972 five men were arrested for breaking into the headquarters of Democrats in Watergate, Washington D.C.
- the two-year investigation was conducted by FBI, Senate Watergate Committee, and House Judiciary Committee
- **CARL BERNSTEIN** and **BOB WOODWARD**, *The Washington Post* investigative journalists, helped to reveal the scandal
- in 1974 President Nixon resigned when it was proved that he actively tried to conceal that the burglary was ordered by Republicans as one of a whole series of illegal activities authorized and carried out by Nixon's staff

#### **Second Wave of Feminism**

- in 1920 women won the right to vote, in 1970s feminists fought against patriarchal structures and male leadership
- BETTY FRIEDAN's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) became popular among middle class women who, like the author, felt unfulfilled as housewives and sought to achieve something more
- **National Organization for Women** (founded in 1966): the largest feminist organization in US, tried to introduce laws banning sexual discrimination, worked to make universities and employers more open to accepting women
- Women's Liberation: a radical feminist movement, organized demonstrations (with banners like 'Welcome to the Miss America Cattle Auction'), burned implements of female torture (bras, curlers, and housewife magazines)
- Consciousness Raising Groups: women organized informal gatherings and discussion groups in their homes
- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): first brought to Congress in the 1920s, since then many times, but never passed
- New Conservatism: promoted family, religion, nationalism, rejected female liberation, abortion, homosexuality
- **Roe v. Wade** (1973): a Texas woman sued the state for not being allowed abortion, won, and made abortion legal

#### **Gay Liberation Movement**

- the movement started in 1960s, became organized only in 1970s when first individuals came out, homosexuality was outlawed in many states
- **Stonewall Riots** (1969): an all-night long demonstration of gays and lesbians after the police raided the Stonewall

## Inn in Greenwich Village, New York City

- Gay Pride Day (1970): the first anniversary of Stonewall was commemorated by a now annually organized march
- HARVEY MILK (1930-1978): a political activist, the first openly gay man elected to a public office in San Francisco

## Culture

### Music

- after the death of Elvis Presley (1977) and the end of the Beatles (1970) rock'n'roll loses its dominant position
- **disco**: BEE GEES, JOHN TRAVOLTA, JACKSON FIVE, STEVIE WONDER, DONNA SUMMER
- soft pop: CARPENTERS, EAGLES
- hard rock: BLACK SABBATH, LED ZEPPELIN, KISS
- punk: RAMONES, PATTI SMITH, BLONDIE
- punk rock: SEX PISTOLS, THE CLASH (both British)
- GIL SCOTT-HERON: a soul and blues singer and political poet ('Watergate Blues')
- BOB MARLEY: a Jamaican reggae singer and songwriter ('Could You Be Loved')
- KENNY ROGERS: a country singer
- PHILIP GLASS: a minimalist music composer, author of music based on repetitive structures

### Film

- experiences a great comeback after the 1960s television era
- disaster: *The Poseidon Adventure* (1969), *Earthquake* (1974), *The Towering Inferno* (1974), *Airport 1975* (1974)
- musical: *Saturday Night Fever* (1977), *Grease* (1978), *Hair* (1979)
- Vietnam: *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Coming Home* (1978), *The Deer Hunter* (1978), *Apocalypse Now* (1979)
- *The Godfather* (1972), *The Exorcist* (1973), *Jaws* (1975), *Rocky* (1976), *Star Wars* (1977), *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979)

### Television

- talk shows on controversial issues
- live broadcast, especially from Vietnam and Senate hearings on the Watergate affair
- miniseries: *Roots*, *Happy Days*, *Sesame Street*

### Architecture

- skyscrapers: Transamerica Pyramid (1972, architect WILLIAM PEREIRA) in San Francisco, California; Pennzoil Place (1975, architect PHILIP JOHNSON) in Houston, Texas
- **arcology**, a combination of art and ecology: PAOLO SOLERI's *Arcosanti* project in Arizona (under construction since 1970); FRANK GEHRY's residence in Santa Monica, California (1978); I. M. PEI's Dallas City Hall, Texas (1978)
- **earth art**: WALTER DE MARIA's *The Lightning Field* in New Mexico (1978), MICHAEL HEIZER's *City* in Nevada (under construction since 1972), CHRISTO's *Running Fence* in California (1976, removed by the author)

### Pictorial Arts

- **illusionism**, gives the impression of a three-dimensional object rather than a painting: RICHARD HAAS's murals
- photorealism, or, **hyper-realism**, gives the impression of a photography: RICHARD ESTES's paintings
- installations: JUDY CHICAGO's *The Dinner Party* (1979)
- pop art: ANDY WARHOL's 'Campbell's Soup' (1968)
- realism: ANDREW WYETH's *Helga Paintings* (1971-1985)

### Literature

- novelists: TONY MORRISON's *The Bluest Eye* (1970), JOHN UPDIKE's *Rabbit Redux* (1971), JOYCE CAROL OATES's *Wonderland* (1971), KURT VONNEGUT's *Breakfast of Champions* (1973)
- playwrights: DAVID MAMET's *American Buffalo* (1975), SAM SHEPARD's *Buried Child* (1978), NEIL SIMON

## **The Consuming 1980s**

### Events and Policies

- RONALD REAGAN (1911-2004, in office 1981-1989, 40<sup>th</sup> President)
- GEORGE H. W. BUSH (b. 1924, in office 1989-1993, 41<sup>st</sup> President)

### **Cold War Operations** (1947-1991)

- Reagan broke the Helsinki Accords (1975) and revived the Cold War patriotism and anti-communist feelings
- escalated investment into defence system, especially in a space-based defence system, dubbed Star Wars (1983)
- the US boycotted the Moscow Summer Olympics (1980), the USSR the Los Angeles Summer Olympics (1984)
- the General Secretary of the Communist Party MIKHAIL GORBACHEV opened the USSR to a more capitalistic way of life, negotiated to end the Cold War and so 'deprived America of an enemy'
- the Eastern Bloc dissolved, the Berlin Wall fell (1989), and the USSR collapsed (1991)

### **Middle East Conflicts**

- Iranian Revolution (1979): the overthrow of PAHLAVI's monarchy and establishment of a republic under KHOMEINI
- Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989): the USSR invaded Afghanistan to support the Marxist government against the mujahideen resistance supported by resources from US and other states in the context of the Cold War
- Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988): based on border disputes, successively both Iraq and Iran were supported by the US

### **Reaganomics**

- **supply-side** economics: support for people producing goods and services, including reduction of income taxes
- reduced public spending on health care, social security, education, etc., reduced government control on economy
- increased defence budget, raised national debts and turned the US from the biggest creditor to the biggest debtor
- the policies were designed to help the country out of the economic depression, which they eventually did
- the most prosperous branches: the Wall Street stock exchange, real estate (DONALD TRUMP becomes an epitome of a real estate success), business services (lawyers), defence contracting, hi-tech business

### Society

- **yuppies** (Young Urban Professionals): a new class showing off its wealth by buying designer products and paying exaggerated attention to their looks and bodies
- drug problem: the result of the attitude to drugs in 1960s, cocaine becomes popular among yuppies, crack appears
- mostly black/Hispanic/Italian family gangs import drugs mostly from South America, traffic them by using children dealers, and fight violently over the trafficking area, especially in Los Angeles
- NANCY REAGAN launches Just Say No campaign against drug demand, rehab centres for addicts are established
- AIDS appears (1981), is perceived as a disease of homosexuals, spreads quickly but is ignored by the government
- **ACT UP** (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, 1987): founded by LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community) in East Village, New York, to fight the epidemics with non-violent civil disobedience, organizing happenings and demonstrations, and asking for information on the disease which lacked ('silence = death')
- Earth Day held for the first time in 1970, the environmental problems began in 1970s and deepened in 1980s when natural resources were exploited by Reaganomics

### Culture

- fashion: tight cuts, sneakers, designer clothes, imitating the style of celebrities (Madonna)
- life style: free time activities, children's sport classes, home computers, video games (Pac-Man, Mario Bros)
- hobbies: collectibles, Rubik's cubes, Barbie dolls, ninja turtles, etc.

### **Music**

- **MTV** launched, digital compact disc introduced, a wave of learning dances arrived (lambada, break dance)
- Madonna, Michael Jackson, and other MTV stars become popular due to their music clips
- **New Wave**: an experimental anti-pop punk rock (DEPECHE MODE, EURYTHMICS, both British; METALLICA, BON JOVI)
- rap, hip hop: originated twenty years earlier, but only in 1980s became popular (MILLI VANILLI, VANILLA ICE, MC HAMMER, LL COOL J, PUBLIC ENEMY, RUN-D.M.C.)
- the first Live Aid concert (1985) organized to raise funds for famine relief in Ethiopia

## Film

### Films

- dominated by the themes of success and money
- *The Blues Brothers* (1980): musical comedy
- *The Gods Must Be Crazy* (1980): comedy, romance
- *The Blue Lagoon* (1980): adventure, romance
- *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984): action comedy, starring Eddie Murphy
- *The River* (1984): starring Mel Gibson
- *Top Gun* (1986): action, starring Tom Cruise
- *Fatal Attraction* (1987): thriller, starring Michael Douglass
- *Dirty Dancing* (1987): romance
- *Lethal Weapon* (1987): action, starring Mel Gibson
- *The Untouchables* (1987): crime drama, starring Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, and Robert De Niro
- *Working Girl* (1988): starring Melanie Griffith, Harrison Ford, and Sigourney Weaver
- *Rain Man* (1988): comedy drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise
- *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989): starring Morgan Freeman
- *Dirty Harry* series: crime thriller, starring Clint Eastwood

### Directors

- DAVID LYNCH: *The Elephant Man* (1980), *Dune* (1984, science fiction), *Blue Velvet* (1986, mystery)
- STEVEN SPIELBERG: *E.T.* (1982), *Back to the Future* (1985)
- SYDNEY POLLACK: *Tootsie* (1982, comedy), *Out of Africa* (1985)
- OLIVER STONE: *Scarface* (1983, crime drama), *Platoon* (1986, Vietnam War)
- STANLEY KUBRICK: *The Shining* (1980, horror)
- MARTIN SCORSESE: *The Colour of Money* (1984)
- RIDLEY SCOTT: *Legend* (1985, fantasy)
- WOODY ALLEN: *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986, comedy drama)
- COEN BROTHERS: *Raising Arizona* (1987)

## Television

- **talks shows:** *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (since 1986)
- anti-family series: *Married with Children*, *Roseanne*
- other series: *Dynasty*, *Dallas*, *Star Trek*, *Knight Rider*

## Architecture

- Trump Tower in New York City (1983, architect DER SCUTT)
- High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia (1983, architect RICHARD MEIER)
- Menil Collection in Houston, Texas (1987, architect RENZO PIANO)
- Sunshine Skyway Bridge crossing Tampa Bay, Florida (1987)

## Pictorial Arts

- JASPER JOHNS: painter and printmaker, representative of pop art and abstract expressionism (author of 'Flag' 1955)
- ROY LICHTENSTEIN: a painter and sculptor, representative of pop art, inspired by comics
- KEITH HARING: representative of pop art and graffiti art
- MARISOL: sculptor, influenced by pop art and abstract expressionism

## Literature

- BRET EASTON ELLIS's *American Psycho* (1991): a psychological thriller and satirical novel on yuppies
- JAY MCINERNEY's *Bright Lights, Big City* (1984): on a character with unadventurous day life and yuppie night life

## The Electronic 1990s

### Events and Policies

- GEORGE H. W. BUSH (b. 1924, in office 1989-1993, 41<sup>st</sup> President)
- BILL CLINTON (b. 1946, in office 1993-2001, 42<sup>nd</sup> President)

#### **Gulf War (1990-1991)**

- Iraq under SADDAM HUSSEIN invades Kuwait, a former province of Iraq, to get hold of the Persian Gulf oil fields
- Operation Desert Shield: the US army transported to the border of Saudi Arabia to defend it if Hussein attacks it
- Operation **Desert Storm**: Hussein did not respond to the UN demand to withdraw and to economic sanctions, the US Congress authorized the offensive operation, bombing of Kuwait and Baghdad and a field operation, succeeded
- the US forces remained in Saudi Arabia, the launching pad for the operations, regarded as occupants by Saudis
- the war was supported by public opinion, was broadcast live, there were relatively small casualties
- dubbed Nintendo War, became the basis for a number of computer games

#### **Balkan Wars (1991-2001)**

- after the fall of communism in the area a civil war broke out over ethnic and religious rivalry
- Bush ignored the conflict, Clinton engaged the US as peace-keepers but later ordered bombing on Bosnia (1995)
- **Dayton Agreement** (1995) purported to bring peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed by the Serbian President SLOBODAN MILOŠEVIĆ who promised to create a multiethnic state
- Albanians started a guerilla war against Serbians in Kosovo, a part of Serbia before the dissolution of Yugoslavia, NATO authorized an air strike in Kosovo (1995) and US joined the forces

#### **Somali Civil War (1991-present)**

- Battle of Mogadishu (1993): an unsuccessful US raid aiming to capture Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid

### Society

- European Union established in 1993
- **World Trade Organization** (WTO) established in 1995 to supervise and organize international trade
- a massive anti-globalization demonstration occurred during the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999

#### **Bombings and Shootings**

- World Trade Centre, 1993: an Al-Qaeda bomb exploded in the underground garages, the first terrorist attack from outside the US and the first attack on the WTC
- Waco Massacre, 1993: FBI raided a farm of sectarians on the basis of unfounded suspicions, killed 76 civilians
- Oklahoma City, 1995: a bomb by disaffected US army veteran TIMOTHY McVEIGH killed 168 in a federal building
- Atlanta Summer Olympics, 1996: a bomb laid by a recidivist in the Centennial Olympic Park killed 1 person
- Columbine High School Massacre, 1999: two Colorado students killed 1 teacher, 12 students, and themselves

### Culture

- mainstream population starts using information technology
- introduction of web, email, e-commerce, etc.

### Music

- introduction of CD burners, downloading and sharing music online
- **grunge**: an alternative rock genre inspired by hardcore punk and heavy metal (NIRVANA, SOUNDGARDEN, PEARL JAM)
- gangsta rap: a new hip hop genre reflecting the violent city lifestyle (ICE-T, BEASTIE BOYS, N.W.A.)
- industrial metal: inspired by industrial rock, noise rock, or trash metal (NINE INCH NAILS, MINISTRY, GODFLESH)
- boy bands

### Film

- Oscar films: *Dances with Wolves* (1990), *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), *Unforgiven* (1992), *Schindler's List* (1993), *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Braveheart* (1995), *The English Patient* (1996), *Titanic* (1997), *Shakespeare in Love* (1998), *American Beauty* (1999)
- cult films: *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *Pulp Fiction* (1994), *Scream* (1996)

- topical: *Black Hawk Down* (2001), on the Battle of Mogadishu

## Television

- TV series: *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Baywatch*, *Friends*, *Cheers!*, *X-Files*, *Twin Peaks*

## Literature

- postmodernism: JOHN CHEEVER ('The Swimmer', 1964), PHILIP ROTH (*Zuckerman* novels, 1979-1985), DON DELILLO (*White Noise*, 1985), TONI MORRISON (*Beloved*, 1987), TIM O'BRIEN (*The Things They Carried*, 1990), CORMAC MCCARTHY (*No Country for Old Men*, 2005), THOMAS PYNCHON, JOYCE CAROL OATES, RAYMOND CARVER, PAUL AUSTER  
- after 9/11 writing: ART SPIEGELMAN'S *In the Shadow of No Towers* (2004), JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER'S *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2005), JOHN UPDIKE'S *Terrorist* (2006), DON DELILLO'S *Falling Man* (2007)