The American History Documents Collection

**America Before Columbus**
- ca. 1520: Aztec Portents and Prophecies
- ca. 1600: The Founding of the Iroquois League

**Europe Looks Westward**
- 1492, 1503: Christopher Columbus, the Persistent Vision
- ca. 1518: An Aztec Account of the Spanish Invasion

**The Arrival of the English**
- 1595: Raleigh Probes “the Empire of Guiana”
- 1622: The Puritan Logic of Migration

**The Early Chesapeake**
- 1609: The Virginia Company Charter
- 1623: A Letter from an Indentured Servant in Virginia
- 1676: Nathaniel Bacon’s Manifesto
- 1677: A Royal Commission’s Report on Bacon’s Rebellion

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- November 11, 1620: The Mayflower Compact
- 1630: John Winthrop’s Model of Christian Charity
- 1639: The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- 1655: Roger Williams on Liberty of Conscience

**The Restoration Colonies**
- ca. 1680: Dutchman and Native American Debate Theology
- 1698: A Quaker’s Account of Pennsylvania

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- May 1689: Two Versions of Leisler’s Rebellion

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- 1750: Gottlieb Mittleberger on Indentured Servitude
- 1678: Anne Bradstreet, “To Her Loving Husband”
- 1780, 1791: Two Africans Recall Their Enslavement

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September 17, 1787: Benjamin Franklin’s Final Speech in the Constitutional Convention

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1789: Noah Webster, “The Reforming of Spelling”
1801–1805: Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, the Backwoods Preacher
1785: Excerpts on Education, from Jefferson’s Notes on Virginia

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February 24, 1803: Marbury v. Madison: Chief Justice John Marshall for the Supreme Court
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1804–1806: Selection from Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

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June 14, 1812: James Madison, War Message to Congress
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1815: J.Q. Adams, “Reply to the Appeal of the Massachusetts Federalists”

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1817: John Calhoun on Internal Improvements
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January 16, 1826: Sen. Macon on American Participation in Panama Congress

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May 3, 1842: Thomas Dorr, Speech to the Rhode Island Constitutional Assembly

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July 26, 1831: John Calhoun, Fort Hill Address
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May 27, 1830: Andrew Jackson, Veto of Maysville Road Bill
1830: Andrew Jackson, Second Annual Message
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July 10, 1832: Andrew Jackson, Bank Veto Message
July 11, 1832: Daniel Webster, Reply to Jackson’s Veto Message
February 14, 1837: Chief Justice Taney, Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge

The Emergence of the Second Party System
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The Developing North
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December 7, 1850: Address to the Journeymen Printers of the United States
1850: Lydia H. Sigourney, “Home”
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1839: Theodore D. Weld, from American Slavery As It Is

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1846: Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience”
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1843: Dorothea Dix, “Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts”
1838: Sarah Grimke, “Legal Disabilities of Women”
1848: The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions

**The Crusade Against Slavery**
January 1, 1831: William Lloyd Garrison, Editorial in the *Liberator*, Volume 1
1829: David Walker, Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World
1847: Frederick Douglass, Editorial from *North Star*, vol. 1, no. 1

**Expansion and War**
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March 1, 1836: The Texas Declaration of Independence
May 11, 1846: Polk Asks Congress for War Against Mexico

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May 28, 1896: *Plessy v. Ferguson*

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**The Dispersal of the Tribes**
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**The Rise and Decline of the Western Farmer**
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**Society and Culture in Urbanizing America**
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March 30, 1875: *Minor v. Happersett*

**The Politics of Equilibrium**
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July 1890: The Sherman Anti-Trust Act
May 20, 1895: *Pollack v. The Farmer’s Loan and Trust Co.*
1897: *Smyth v. Ames*

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1893: Benjamin Harrison Proposes to Annex Hawaii
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The Assault on the Parties
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March 26, 1911: Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, New York World

Crusades for Order and Reform
January 1892: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “The Solitude of Self”
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1913: Louis D. Brandeis, “Competition”

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February 7, 1906: William P. Hepburn, Speech in Support of Hepburn Bill
December 3, 1907: T. Roosevelt, Seventh Annual Message to Congress

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August 6, 1912: Theodore Roosevelt, Acceptance Speech

**WOODROW WILSON AND THE NEW FREEDOM**

1913: Woodrow Wilson, The New Freedom

April 8, 1913: Woodrow Wilson, Address to Congress on Tariffs

**THE “BIG STICK”: AMERICA AND THE WORLD, 1901-1917**

1904: Theodore Roosevelt, “Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine

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June 16, 1918: Eugene Debs, Speech in Canton, Ohio

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January 8, 1918: Woodrow Wilson, Address to Congress

November 19, 1919: Senator Borah, Senate Speech on the League of Nations

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1928: Herbert Hoover, “American Individualism”

THE COMING OF THE DEPRESSION
October 29, 1929: Sidney J. Weinberg, “October 29, 1929”
1934: The Brookings Institute, What Caused the Depression

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April–May 1934: Ann Marie Low, from *Dust Bowl Diary*
May 1931: Angelo Herndon, “What Scottsboro Means”

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1931: Herbert Hoover Vetoes a Public Works Bill
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August 27, 1928: Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact

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December 29, 1940: F.D. Roosevelt, Radio Address on “Arsenal of Democracy”
December 8, 1941: F.D. Roosevelt, War Message to Congress
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March 24, 1944: Franklin Roosevelt, Statement on Deportation of Hungarian Jews

**The American People in Wartime**
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1944: Norma Yerger Queen, Letter to Office of War Information
February 1942: Testimony Before House Committee on National Defense Migration

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**The Collapse of the Peace**
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June 5, 1947: George C. Marshall, Commencement Address at Harvard University
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March 18, 1949: Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Radio Address

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July 26, 1948: Harry Truman, Executive Order 9981

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April 19, 1951: Douglas MacArthur, Address to Congress

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September 23, 1950: McCarran Internal Security Act

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February 22, 1955: Eisenhower, Message to Congress on National Highway Program

**A People of Plenty**
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1954: Chief Justice Warren, Decision on *Brown v. Board of Education*
1962: Daisy Bates, from *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*
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December 2, 1954: United States Senate, Censure of Senator McCarthy

Eisenhower, Dulles, and the Cold War
January 15, 1953: J. F. Dulles, Testimony Before Senate Foreign Relations Committee
1954: Geneva Accords
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May 22, 1964: Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech on “Great Society”
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The Battle for Racial Equality
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January 1961: John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address
April 20, 1961: John F. Kennedy, Speech After the Failure at the Bay of Pigs
August 1964: Tonkin Gulf Resolution
April 7, 1965: Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech at Johns Hopkins University
May 5, 1966: J. William Fulbright, Speech

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1966: National Organization for Women (NOW), Statement of Purpose
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November 24, 1969: Richard Nixon, Address to the Nation
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1973: Justice Blackmun, Decision in Roe v. Wade

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**Politics and Diplomacy After Watergate**

July 15, 1976: Jimmy Carter, Acceptance Speech at the Democratic Convention
October 7, 1976: Jimmy Carter, Televised Campaign “Debate” with President Ford
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