

This activity should help you with thinking about the **IMPACT** of key events in the USA unit. This is particularly useful for Q2 and Q3 on the USA exam paper (these specifically focus on impact and change) but will be generally helpful across all questions. You could continue this activity for other events you have covered in this unit.

Event	Date	Key details	Impact	
			Change	Lack of change
Wall Street Crash	October 1929	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panic selling 19th October, 3.5 million shares bought and sold. • Thursday 24th October became known as "Black Thursday" as 13 million shares were traded and share prices collapsed. • Thousands of investors lost millions of dollars and were ruined. • This led to mass unemployment and the Great Depression. 		
Depression	1930s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of 1929, 2.5 million were unemployed. By 1933 almost one-third of the workforce was unemployed. • Many farmers were bankrupted, • Many became homeless and ended up in Hoovervilles (shanty towns). 		
New Deal	1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims of the New Deal were RELIEF, RECOVERY and REFORM. • All banks were closed for 10 days and Roosevelt used the radio to promote his plans in 'fireside chats'. • Government organisations were set up and were nicknamed the Alphabet Agencies, e.g. the AAA (aimed at helping farming) and the EBA (to support banks and restore confidence in the banking system). 		
World War Two	1939-1945 (USA join 1941)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt created the War Production Board (WPB) to increase US war production. • By 1944 the US was producing almost half the weapons in the world. Aircraft production and shipbuilding increased x 10. • The US post war economy boomed. The car industry and house building both surged. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military spending post WWII (Cold War related) continued. 		
Brown vs. Topeka	1953/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was the first case to challenge segregation in schools. • Linda Brown's parents wanted her to go to the local school, rather than a school for black children some distance away. • The case took 18 months but did state that 'separate but equal' had no place in the education system. 		
Little Rock High School	1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Rock High school allowed 9 black students to enrol in 1957. They were blocked from entering the school by the state governor and the national guardsmen. • Eisenhower sent 1000 federal troops to protect escort the black students. • The governor of Arkansas closed all schools in the next year to prevent integration in schools. 		
Montgomery Bus Boycott	1955/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompted by Rosa Parks' refusal to give her seat up to a white person on the bus (1st December 1955). Leaflets were sent out encouraging people to boycott the buses in Montgomery. • In Feb 1956 MLK, Rosa Parks and others were arrested for organising an illegal boycott. • It lasted for 381 days. 		
Civil Rights Act	1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It banned segregation in hotels, motels, restaurants, lunch counters and theatres. • Black students given access to all public places that received government funding, e.g. schools. • The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was established to implement the law. 		
Voting Rights Act	1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ended literacy tests as a condition of registering to vote. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of 1965 250,000 black Americans were registered to vote, and by 1968 this had been added to by 750,000. 		
Watergate Scandal	1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREEP (Committee to re-elect the President) was set up in 1972. 5 of their members broke into the Watergate offices of the Democrat party and planted bugging (listening / recording) devices. The scandal was uncovered by journalists and Nixon strongly denied his own and his advisor's involvement. • Congress decided to impeach Nixon, but he resigned to avoid being put on trial in this way. 		
Truman Doctrine	1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US became committed to the policy of containment (of communism) and more involved in European affairs. • The Marshall Plan offered aid to weaker countries in Europe in return for a promise to buy US goods and allow US investment in the industries. This was expected to boost these economies so there was less need for turning to communism. • Containment was based on the domino theory – the idea that if one country fell to communism, this would trigger the fall of neighbouring countries. 		
Berlin Crisis	1948/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th June 1948 – Stalin cut off road, rail and canal traffic to Berlin from the western zones. This was an attempt to cut off / starve out the Allies from West Berlin. • Truman started an airlift of resources into West Berlin on 28th June. This continued until 12th May 1949. During this period a total of 275,000 flights landed, with an average of 4,000 tonnes of supplies delivered each day. • The crisis greatly increased east-west tension. NATO was established in 1949 and Truman saw the crisis as a 		

		great victory for the US and confirmation that his policy of containment worked.		
Cuban Missile Crisis	1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US had missiles based in Turkey and Italy, which greatly worried the USSR. In Sept 1962 they started to build missiles on Cuba. • A series of secret negotiations took place between President Kennedy and Khrushchev (known as brinkmanship = pushing an issue to the brink of war to encourage your opponent to back down). • Ultimately, a deal was made where the US would remove their missiles from Turkey (if it was kept secret) and the USSR would remove the Cuban missiles. 		
Vietnam	1954-74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over neighbouring countries falling to communism led to the US becoming involved in Vietnam. • 1965-8 US bombing of Vietnam. Also used chemical warfare, Search and Destroy, etc. • US overwhelmed by guerrilla tactics of the Viet Cong. • Very unpopular in the USA. 		