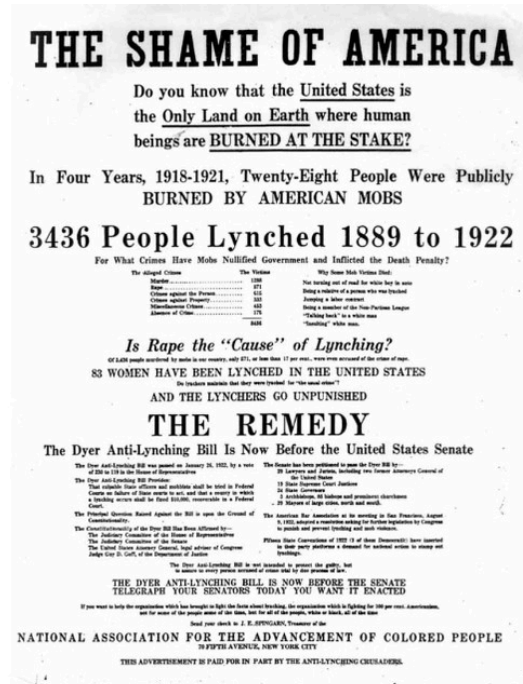


7 Ways that Studying US History 1877 to Modern Times History Shapes the Way You Think About How the United States Handles Domestic and Foreign Affairs.

1. Racial prejudices have always influenced important legislations.
THE NEW SOUTH & LYNCHING



NAACP Anti-Lynching Advertisement in New York Times: 1922

https://www.flickr.com/photos/washington_area_spark/8448489441

After Union Troops pulled out of the South and thus marking the end of reconstruction things for newly freed African Americans got worse, much worse. Lynching became common, a form of vigilante justice in which a mob of White men attacked African American males who were often falsely accused of crimes against white women. These men were often tortured and then hung. White men often defended these lynching by saying that black men were raping white women, when the reality was white men were raping black women ([The New South 1/22/2020](#)). Because these grotesque acts of crime were so common people turned to the government for help, thus the Anti-Lynching Bill was introduced in 1918 that intended to make lynching a federal crime. However, this bill was killed by white southern Democrats. The death of this bill was best characterized by the political cartoon *Anti-Lynching Cartoon on the Costigan-Wagner Bill* in which the Anti-Lynching Bill was anthropomorphized and subsequently lynched by the Southern Senatorial Block ([Pittsburgh Press, 1935](#)). This political cartoon ironically demonstrated the necessity of the bill and just where lynching was most prevalent during the time period. Race plays a role in legislation today when discussing the topic of Civil War statues. During the 1950s many statues of confederate figures were put up in historically black communities in an attempt to oppress the people living there. As seen in Memphis, Tennessee the status of Nathan Bedford Forrest posed a controversial topic as black communities wanted it either taken down or to have the

whole history posted. While Memphis unanimously voted to remove the statue, Tennessee later passed legislation to protect all Confederate Statues. To circumvent this, Memphis posted the whole history of Nathtan Bedford Forrest that detailed his role in the slave trade and his role in the Ku Klux Klan. ([Whose History? The Reckoning over Confederate Monuments and the Racial Terror of Lynching Episode 4 of America Divided Season Two](#)). Race has been a topic in politics since the founding of our nation. Whether it was outright about racial differences or about topics that represented the larger issue of race, it is evident that race plays a huge role in the United State government.

2. The United States is responsible for the cultural genocide of the Native American.

NATIVE AMERICANS & THE WEST



John N. Choate/Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections
<https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-08-14/we-ve-been-there-native-americans-remember-their-own-family-separations>

As the United States grew, so did the notion of Manifest Destiny; the notion that God intended American settlers to move west and inhabit the lands that were originally occupied by the indigenous people. This created conflict as settlers often claimed land that was already in use. This conflict led to a series of multiple military campaigns and legislations that often worked in to the disadvantage of Native Americans. For example, as discussed in *The Place of Global Competition and Gender Redefinition* by Maria Montoya, the Native Americans often forced off of their lands like that in the Maxwell Land Grant, which further created conflict as the Native Americans wanted to use the land in one way that was consistent with the tradition while the American settlers believed that the land should have been cultivated and settled one ([Montoya The Place of Global Competition and Gender Redefinition pg.53](#)). This conflict eventually led the United States government to conclude that Native Americans should be forced to integrate into traditional white culture. They achieved this by sending children of Native Americans to Boarding Schools where they would be forced to abandon their old culture and conform to American culture. In these boarding schools only English was spoken as their native language was forbidden, the children must conform to traditional gender roles, and the children must be taught in the Christian faith ([U.S Bureau of Indian](#)

Affairs Rules for Indian Boarding Schools 1890). Furthermore, in order to be treated like American citizens, the United States government required that the Native Americans “adopted the habits of civilized life,” which would mean abandoning their former way of life (**Crash Course #24: Westward Expansion**). This further attributed to the erasure of the Native American culture as the United States government required Native Americans to convert in order to possibly have a chance in saving their land from being taken from them due to the Dawes Act of 1887. These actions by the United States government led to what essentially became a cultural genocide of the Native American in which the goal was to “kill the Indian but save the man”. By killing off the buffalo, taking their land, and forcing them onto reservations the United States gave Native Americans little to no choice and led to the decimation of the Native American culture.

3. The United States often showed little to no compassion for inhabitants of territories that they took control of.

IMPERIALISM & WWI



Stephen Kinzer Filipino Casualties on the First Day of War <https://libcom.org/history/us-conquest-philippines-1898-1902>

This photo depicts the Filipino casualties that occurred on the first day of the Philippine-American war. This war was the result of the conflict between the United States’ desire for imperial control over the Philippines and the desire of the Philippine natives for freedom as they had just gained freedom from the Spanish. During the time of American Imperialism many natives of the Philippines suffered. During the Philippine-American war at least 100,000 Philippine natives were either sent to concentration camps, were tortured, raped, or killed (**Crash Course #28: American Imperialism**). The United States wanted to seize control of the Philippines because it would allow the country to gain access to China for trade and it would serve as a tactical place to put a Naval base. Furthermore, during talks over what to do with the country, not a single Filipino representative was recognized in treaty negotiations and their name played minimal roles in Spanish and U.S. discussions (**Kramer, Racial Imperialism:**

America's Takeover of the Philippines, 114). This shows that the Philippine natives were looked over and treated as subhuman. The belief that the natives were seen as less than human can be seen in the letters that American soldiers sent home that detailed how they all wanted to kill Philippine natives, referring to them in derogatory terms. One soldier wrote that “no cruelty is too severe for these brainless monkeys...” which further supports that the American soldiers saw these natives as less than human (**Document Set B: American Soldiers' Letters Home, 1982**). This further supports that the United States had little to no compassion for the inhabitants of the territories that they sought to control under imperial rule. By partaking in numerous war crimes and refusing to recognize the inhabitants of the Philippines as actual living beings the United States demonstrated that they did not care for those who were intended to be under their rule, instead they just wanted the resources that the territory itself had to offer.

4. There were many different ideas on how to best achieve civil rights for African Americans.

THE BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT



Library of Congress New York World-Telegram & Sun Photograph Collection Ronald Martin, Robert Patterson and Mark Martin at their protest at the lunch counter at a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, N.C., in 1960.

<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/01/feb-1-1960-black-students-and-the-greensboro-sit-in/>

The 1960s was the time of social progress. This included the civil rights movement for African Americans. Because race was such a controversial subject in government, progress up until this point had been painfully slow. This led to different ideas being created that concerned the best way to achieve equality for all races. For example, like the picture above people believed that equality would be achieved by the common folk which would then work its way up. This was commonly referred to as the bottom-up Method. This method was used in Moton High School which students refused to go to class to protest the overcrowded and inferior facilities that were provided to them by Prince Edward County, Virginia. By starting from the bottom and taking the problem all the way up to the Supreme court, the *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* case played an integral role in the ruling of *Brown vs. the Board of Education* which effectively ended segregation of schools (**Moton**). However, some individuals believed that the most effective way to change is from the top-down. This meant that the

president would serve as the spearhead for the way to race equality. This was seen when Lyndon B. Johnson took an affirmative stance and supported the civil rights movement. By stating as the president that he firmly believes in the civil rights movement, the American people are then also more likely to support the civil rights movement, so as to not go against the president and seem “Unamerican” which at the time would make one seem suspect of being a communist (**The Liberal Hour: Top Down Determination (pg.364) G. Gavin Mackenzie**). Finally, some thought that peaceful protests were an ineffective method of making change. In an article written by Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, it was stated that peaceful protests were a thing of the past and now was the time for more violent demonstrates to be had. They said that by doing this, society would be able to see their anger and feel the same fear that they do when the white mobs and white night-riders come their way (**Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, from Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America(1967)**). The United States saw many methods used when trying to achieve equality, some were effective while others were not, however, it was the collective effort that made the civil rights movement take great strides in achieving racial equality and those efforts can still be seen today.

5. The United States tried to influence other nations to slow the spread of communism.

THE COLD WAR



<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/794319494498484226>

After World War Two the United States entered into the Cold War which consisted of indirect fighting between the United States and the USSR and other petty acts and threats. After World War Two, The United States grew to fear other countries becoming communist due to the fact that the more countries that turned to communism the less amount of countries that would buy from the United States, thus hurting their economy. Thus the United States created the Marshall Plan, a plan that was made in response to economic chaos in Europe nations money to help rebuild their nations on the condition the they continued to purchase goods from the United States (**Crash Course #37: The Cold War**). Because of this, nations like France and Italy, where communist ideals were

spreading, was able to rebuild and by the 1950s they had overcome their economic hardships and were able to become a consumer-based economy. However, this plan was not designed to be against the USSR or communism as a whole. As stated by George Marshall it was not directed against any specific country or doctrine, rather it was against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos (**George Marshall, Marshall Plan (1947)**). This plan was also coupled with the Truman Doctrine, which was designed specifically to fight against communism. In this plan the United State would give nations money if and only if they were fighting against communism (**The Cold War 3/9/2020**). If a nation did not join in the fight against communism, that country would not receive any aid from the United States. It is because through these plans that the United States tried to influence other nations to remain a capitalist nation rather than communistic. Had they not, the power-vacuum left by world war two would have allowed nations like France and Italy to become Communist and therefore, American businesses would suffer.

6. The United States was responsible for numerous atrocities during the Vietnam War.

VIETNAM



Ron Haeberle March 16, 1968

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/mylai-massacre-evidence/> photo 20/22

Pictured above are victims of the My Lai massacre that occurred on March 16, 1968. On this day American soldiers came to the village of My Lai as a search and destroy mission for Viet Cong soldiers. When they failed to find any, American soldiers began raping and murdering innocent women, children, and elderly, all unarmed citizens and set their homes ablaze (**The Year that Transformed the Nation**). This is just one of many war crimes committed by the United States army during the Vietnam war. In a speech delivered by John Kerry it was shown that many soldiers had personally raped, tortured, and ravaged the country of Korea (**A Vietnam Veteran Opposes the War 1971, John Kerry**). He continues to list other war crimes the he and other soldiers had committed during their time in Vietnam. Finally, The United States engaged in what is called chemical warfare. Because the American soldiers had a hard time locating the Viet Cong

soldiers, they used various chemicals like Agent Orange to eliminate the foliage cover and destroy crops for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. Because of these actions, farmers in Vietnam today suffer because of the trace amounts left over from the Vietnam war ([Week 11: Vietnam \(with recorded audio lecture\)](#)). The crimes that the United States army committed during the Vietnam war greatly increased anti-war sentiment and helped attribute to the decision to pull troops out in 1973. However, the effects of these war crimes still resonate in Vietnam, making it one of the poorest countries in modern times.

7. The United States is often influenced private companies when making new policies for domestic affairs.

Mass Incarceration



"Alter for Stolen Lives" Elizabeth Brossa October 22, 2013

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/elizabethbw/10445146505/in/album-72157636877087316/>

The United States is now facing a time of Mass Incarceration. This is in part due to the war on drugs and the goal of politicians to seem harder on criminals. Furthermore, many states passed "three strikes" laws in which people who have convicted three felonies in their life time would go to prison for life; by 2008 at least 2.3 million Americans were in a prison ([Crash Course #45: The Clinton Years, or the 1990s](#)). This is in part due to many states having contracts with companies like Correction Corporation of American in which CCA will run the prison for the state so long as the State pays them. Because of this many States want to ensure that their prisons are full as much as possible (13th). This demonstrates how private businesses can influence legislations. Because these prisons are run by private companies, these companies are able to make a profit off of the prison system. This in turn leads to them joining organization like the American Legislation Exchange Committee to influence bills that are introduced in congress. This is seen in laws like the "three strikes" law. ALEC played an integral role in getting that bill on the floor. During his interview, Bryan Stevenson stated that those in the prison business are desperately trying to make sure that the prison population does not drop, because if it does then they are losing a profit ([Bryan Stevenson 13th 2016](#)). This means that while companies may say they want prison reform, they instead want to

move their investment elsewhere and capitalize on that too. Because of this, it is evident to see how the United States government is heavily influenced by private companies in their decisions of passing legislations.