



Bridging the Gap GCSE to A Level History Project

To help you get ready for Y12 the History department have put together a project for you to complete. This will help to introduce you to key topics that you will study in Y12.

You will study India and the USA in Y12 so this project will be focused on those two units.

In Search of the American Dream: The USA c1917-1996.

There are 5 key themes for this unit. They explore the same time periods, but from a different thematic approach. You are going to have introductory tasks to complete, to help develop your background understanding! These will be mostly focused on our first two themes of the changing political environment, and the quest for civil rights.

Task 1: Political Parties

Research the Republican and Democrat political parties. Find out what principles each party holds, what sorts of policies they would agree with and which party any Presidents you are already familiar with belonged to (E.g. Obama/Trump).

Task 2: The Presidents

Below is a list of Presidents who were in power between 1917-1996. You need to research which party they belonged to and find out at least one interesting piece of Political information about them. (This may be a policy they introduced, political scandal etc).

The US Presidents 1913-1996

- *Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)*
- *Warren G. Harding (1921-1923)*
- *Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)*
- *Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)*

- *Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)*
- *Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)*
- *Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)*
- *John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)*
- *Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)*
- *Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)*
- *Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977)*
- *Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)*
- *Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)*

Task 3: WWI and WWII

You will need to know about American involvement in WWI and WWII. Research to find out who the US was allied with in each war, and the popularity of each war for ordinary Americans. You should also find out what the US policy of 'isolationism' was after WWI, and why they wanted to do this.

Task 4: The Influence of Communism

The development of Communism in the East had a large impact on the USA. You know lots about this from your GCSE unit on the Cold War. For A Level you are going to know a bit more however!

- 1) McCarthyism: Watch this TED talk video on McCarthyism. Note down what McCarthyism was and research what The HUAC was. Then research to find a couple of famous people (it was mostly artists) who were questioned by HUAC.
- 2) The Korean War: Watch this free Korean War Documentary: (1hr 25)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9A0yrwkQAQ>
- 3) The Vietnam War: Watch this free Vietnam War Documentary: (25mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tNTh6KlXXU> Do you think that the USA should have interfered in Vietnam? Use the internet to find out why this war was known as 'the TV war'.

Task 5: The Impact of Slavery on the US

- 1) Find out: Why the US had a civil war between 1861-1865? Who was 'the union' and the 'confederate states'? Why is it controversial to fly the 'confederate' flag today?
- 2) What were Jim Crow Laws? List examples of some of the laws that you find particularly upsetting/petty/unfair etc.

- 3) Find out who the following groups/individuals were, and why they are significant: The KKK, Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks, Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm X, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells, NAACP and Emmett Till.

Relevant Movies

Task: Choose a few of the films below to watch over the Summer. Most/all are available across various streaming platforms and are all great films!

Unit 1: In Search of the American Dream: The USA c1917-1996.

Black Klansmen

12 Years a Slave

The Help

Green Book

Loving

Hidden Figures

Brooklyn

Bridge of Spies

Selma

Lincoln

The Post

The 13th (Netflix)

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

Unit 2: India, c1914-48: The Road to Independence

There are 4 key topics in this depth study. You will become an expert in Indian socio-political history. They explore the 34 years from the outbreak of WW1 to the birth of independent separate states of India and Pakistan.

This topic also gets you to work on primary sources, this is the real practice of being an historian. You are going to have introductory tasks to complete, to help develop your background understanding! These will be mostly focused on some general information and contextual knowledge that will help you when you come to study the course next year.

Task 1: India, the continent and its people

Research India over the years, but don't go into too much depth because remember our course is a depth study of only 34 years. Look at the religious backgrounds and practices that you would find in India. Make sure you have some understanding of the different practices of Hinduism and Islam. Something more recent, have a look at the current situation with the India/Pakistan border. A simple google and scan will suffice here.

Task 2: The Leaders

Below is a list of important figures who were in either in power or significant players in the years of our topic. You need to research which party they belonged to and find out at least one interesting piece of Political information about them. (This may be a policy they introduced, political scandal etc).

- *Gandhi*
- *Jinnah*
- *Nehru (Motilal and Jawaharlal)*
- *Viceroy Irwin*
- *Winston Churchill*
- *Clement Attlee*
- *Viceroy Mountbatten*

Task 3: WWI and WWII

You will need to know about Indian involvement in WWI and WWII (this links nicely with task 3 on your America BTG work, maybe do these at the same time). Research to find out how India was involved with each war, and to what extent they were. Perhaps look at what deployments Indian troops faced. Look at the cost of the wars too, be that in terms of lives lost but also the economic situation.

Relevant Movies

Task: Choose a few of the films below to watch over the Summer. Most/all are available across various streaming platforms.

Unit 2: India, c1914-48: The Road to Independence.

Gandhi

The Viceroy's House

BBC Empire with Jeremy Paxman - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7GOh8qLLwQ>

Looking for Some Additional Reading?

Optional Task: Find one or two books from each topic area to read over the summer. Choose ones you will be interested in. Making some introductory notes on key events/themes/individuals will help you when we start learning about these topics in September.

Hint: Check out your local libraries and the school library to save having to buy them!

*To be clear you are under **no obligation/expectation** to purchase **any** of these books, and will not need to own these for your A Level Studies. The only book you will need is the course textbook, which you will receive relevant information about in due course.*

India

- Ian Copland, *India 1885–1947: The Unmaking of an Empire* (Routledge, 2001).
- Tim Leadbeater, *Britain and India 1845–1947* (Hodder, 2008).
- Rosemary Rees, *Britain and the Nationalist Challenge in India 1900–47* (Pearson, 2010)
- Charles Allen, *Plain Tales From The Raj: Images of British India in the 20th Century* (Abacus, 2000).
- Alex von Tunzelmann, *Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire* (Pocket Books, 2008).
- Stanley Wolpert, *Shameful Flight: The Last Years of the British Empire in India* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

In Search of the American Dream: The USA c1917–1996.

- Hugh Brogan, *The Penguin History of the United States of America* (Penguin, 2001)
- Doug and Susan Willoughby, *The USA 1917–45* (Heinemann, 2000).
- Peter Clements, *Prosperity, Depression and the New Deal Third Edition* (Hodder Education, 2005).
- Derrick Murphy, Kathryn Cooper and Mark Waldron, *The United States 1776–1992* (Collins, 2001).
- Robert J McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2003).
- Simon Hall, *Peace and Freedom: The Civil Rights and Antiwar Movements in 1960s* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006).
- Vivienne Sanders, *Civil Rights in the USA, 1945–1968* (Hodder Education, 2008).
- Robin Bunce and Laura Gallagher, *Pursuing Life and Liberty in the USA 1945–1968* (Pearson, 2009).
- William T Martin Riches, *The Civil Rights Movement, Struggle and Resistance* (Palgrave Macmillan, third edition, 2010).
- Maldwyn A Jones, *The Limits of Liberty* (Oxford University Press, 1995)
- David E Kyvig, *Daily life in the United States, 1920–1939* (Greenwood, 2002).