	POLITICS & POWER	AMERICA IN THE WORLD	CULTURE & SOCIETY	WORK, EXCHANGE, & TECHNOLOGY	MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT
1840	• Mexican War and Wilmot Proviso (1846) increase sectional conflict • Gold rush makes California eligible for statehood—free or slave?	• U.S. confronts Mexico and Britain: annexes Texas (1845), acquires Oregon (1846), fights Mexican War (1846–1848) extending U.S. borders to Pacific	• Ideology of Manifest Destiny prompts U.S. expansionism • Free-Soil Party (1848) advocates white smallholder farm society • Women seek legal rights at Seneca Falls (1848)	• Irish immigrants build northern canal system • Some states default on canal bonds • Walker Tariff (1846) lowers rates, increases foreign imports	• Whites migrate to Oregon and California • Arrival of millions of Germans and Irish causes social conflicts • Wars against Seminole peoples in Florida (1835–1842, 1855–1858)
1850	• Compromise of 1850 • Whig Party disintegrates; Know-Nothing Party attacks immigrants • Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) sparks creation of Republican Party	• President Pierce opens Japan to trade; seeks to expand American territory and slavery into Caribbean by diplomacy and filibustering actions	• Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) attacks slavery • *Dred Scott* decision (1857) opens way to legalize slavery nationwide • Southern secessionists agitate for independence	• Enslaved blacks expand cotton output in South • White settlers expand farm society to trans-Mississippi west • Entrepreneurs promote railroad building and manufacturing in North and Midwest	• Conflict of Hispanics and Anglos in the Southwest • White diseases and brutality kill most California Indians • Comanches and Sioux dominate Great Plains peoples and control trade in horses and buffalo hides
1860	• Eleven southern states secede from Union, sparking Civil War (1861–1865); the Union's triumph preserves a continental nation • Fourteenth Amendment (1868) extends legal and political rights	• U.S. diplomacy and Union army victories in 1863 cause British government to stop sale of ironclad ships to the Confederacy • Secretary of State Seward buys Alaska from Russia (1867) • Burlingame Treaty (1868) protects missionaries in China and limits Chinese immigration	• Confederate States of America (1861–1865) vow to continue slavery • Republicans seek to impose equal rights ideology on South • Black families accept ideal of domesticity	• Republicans enact Whigs' economic policies: Homestead Act (1862), railroad aid, high tariffs, and national banking • Women assume new tasks in war economies	• Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and Thirteenth Amendment (1865) free blacks from slavery • Aided by Freedmen's Bureau, African Americans struggle for freedom, land, and education
1870	• Fifteenth Amendment (1870) extends vote to black men • Compromise of 1877 ends Reconstruction	• Britain pays the U.S. $15.5 million for the depredations of the *Alabama* during the war • Anti-Chinese riots in San Francisco in late 1870s prompt Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)	• Ku Klux Klan attacks Reconstruction governments • Republicans embrace classical liberalism • White elites challenge ideal of universal suffrage and deny women's suffrage	• Sharecropping spreads in South • Ranchers create cattle empire on Great Plains • Depression of 1873 halts railway expansion	• U.S. wars against Plains Indians (Cheyennes, Sioux, Apaches, and Nez Perce) open their lands to white miners, ranchers, and farmers • Dawes Act (1887) seeks Indian assimilation