

American History Topics: Debate and Diplomacy

This year's theme, *Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences* evokes topics on presidential debates and international affairs. But look again. You may also look in terms of debates involving civil liberties, reform movements, diplomatic missions. It might be tempting to begin research on a current debate and trace in back in history, but we want you to begin in the past. For example, immigration is a hot topic at the moment, instead of focusing on the current situation, look back in history: a website on the Open Door Policy or a documentary on the Chinese Exclusion Act would be good choices. Examine these topics in detail and then finish by connecting those issues to today.

Topics below are divided into the following categories (although topics could easily fit into multiple categories) Wars and Treaties, Government Relations, Social Movements and Reform, Arts, Cultural Diplomacy. Good luck and happy researching!! *Topics with * note an Ohio related topic.*

Topic	Dates	Description	Research
Wars and Treaties			
Treaty of Paris	1763	The French and Indian War began in 1754 and lasted until 1763. Great Britain fought against the France and their Native American allies. The Treaty of Paris was signed February 10, 1763, ending the conflict.	Ohio History Central, Avalon Project
American Revolution	1772-1783	This topic can be broken into many smaller focuses for projects. Students can look at the Committees of Correspondence and how they worked to rally opposition against the British or the debates that were held by the committees over how to proceed. Students could also examine the Continental Congresses or the Olive Branch petition as diplomatic attempts to end the conflict. Another topic related to the Revolution would be the debate that occurred between Loyalists and Patriots in the colonies. Finally, the Treaty of Paris in 1783 would work as a diplomacy topic examining the end of the war and its consequences.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress (American Memory and "The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States")
Pinckney's Treaty	1795	This treaty, negotiated by Thomas Pinckney, established relations between the United States and Spain. It settled boundary rights as well as navigation rights to the Mississippi River. It was ratified on March 7, 1796 by the US Senate after several weeks of debate.	American Memory, Avalon Project
Treaty of Greenville*	1795	This treaty was signed following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, a conflict between the American army led by Anthony Wayne against a Native American force led by Blue Jacket. The treaty was signed on August 3, 1795 after 8 months of negotiation.	Ohio History Central, Ohio Historical Society

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Jay's Treaty	1794	Tensions remained high between the United States and England following the American Revolution. Supreme Court Justice John Jay negotiated a treaty between the countries which was signed on November 19, 1794 which dealt with territory, trade, and shipping. Opposition to the treaty in the USA was strong but it managed to pass the Senate with exactly the 2/3 vote required for passage.	Library of Congress- Primary Documents in American History
Treaty of Ghent	1814	The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain between June 1812- spring 1815. Although the Treaty of Ghent was signed in December 1814 ending the war, the treaty was not ratified until February 1815	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: A Guide to the War of 1812
Fort Laramie Treaty	1851	In the move west, settlers clashed with Native Americans. The US called a conference with some of the tribes and the Fort Laramie Treaty was created. The tribes agreed not to attack settlers to allow the construction of roads and forts. In exchange, the US granted the tribes control of the central plains and pledged to make annual payments to the tribes.	
Treaty of Velasco	1836	Tensions rose in Texas as more settlers began moving into the Mexican territory. In 1835 Mexican forces marched toward San Antonio to force Texans to obey laws. The fighting ended when victorious Texans got Mexican president Santa Anna to sign the treaty granting independence to Texas.	Texas State Library- Texas Treasures
Treaty of Guadalupe	1848	The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo brought an end to the Mexican American War. Negotiated by Nicholas Trist from the State Dept. and General Winfield Scott, it was signed on February 2, 1848. Part of the treaty stated that Mexico would cede its territory in Upper California and New Mexico.	National Archives: Teaching with Documents
Sioux Treaty of 1868	1868	In 1834 the federal government designated the Great Plains as a reservation for Native Americans. In response to the migration of settlers in the 1850s, the government began signing treaties to create definite boundaries for each tribe. Many Native Americans refused to sign these treaties and many, including the Sioux, continued to hunt on their traditional land. This led to clashes with settlers until the Treaty in 1868 which created a temporary halt in warfare.	National Archives: Teaching with Documents
Spanish-American-Cuban War and the Treaty of Paris	1896- 1898	Cubans began fighting for their independence from Spain in 1868. Yellow journalism in the US helped build American sympathy for the rebels. In 1898 the USS Maine, sent to protect American property and lives was sunk which pulled the US into the war. The battle at San Juan Hill helped establish US victory and the US and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Guide to the Spanish American War

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World War I	1914-1919	World War I broke out in 1914 and public opinion was divided over the war. Many Americans did not see the need to become involved. Some like William Jennings Bryan believed war was wrong and the US should be an example for peace. Due to America's strong ties with England and France, others supported helping them through trade. By 1917, US was mobilizing for war to ensure repayment of debts and prevent Germans from threatening US shipping.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: A Guide to World War I Related Materials
Versailles Treaty	1919	WWI ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The Big Four (Woodrow Wilson; US, Georges Clemenceau:France, David Lloyd George: Britain, Vittorio Orlando:Italy) met to create a treaty to establish peace in Europe.	Ohio History Central
World War II	1935-1941	Following WWI and dealing with the Great Depression, left many Americans to cling to the idea of isolationism. They were determined to avoid war. Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts in 1935 to prevent the US from becoming involved in future wars. By 1939 the US moved cautiously away from neutrality by passing the cash and carry policy after heated debate. The following year when Britain ran out of cash, Congress debated and passed the Lend-Lease program. Isolationists in Congress argued bitterly against these acts.	Ohio History Central, TeachingAmericanHistory.org
Japanese internment	1942-1945	Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt passed Executive Order 9066 which allowed the military to evacuate those of Japanese heritage from the West Coast and place them into camps. Many disagreed with this action and believed it violated civil rights. Some challenged the internment in court, with the most famous being the Supreme Court case of <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> .	Ohio History Central, American Memory, National Archives
Decision to drop the atomic bomb*	1945	The Manhattan Project was the code name given to the effort to develop an atomic bomb. The Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg, OH contributed to the effort. President Truman learned about the bomb shortly after taking office. Some scientists had expressed their doubts about using the atomic bomb. Truman discussed options with his advisory committee and debated the use of the bomb.	Ohio History Central, American Memory, National Security Archive: George Washington U.,
The Big 3	1941-1945	The Big 3 refers to the leaders of the Allied countries in World War II: Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin. Students can examine how they worked together throughout the war. Some of the topics to be considered are the Atlantic Charter, Yalta conference, and the Potsdam conference. Truman attended the Potsdam conference after FDR's death.	Ohio History Central, American Memory
United Nations	1945-	At the Yalta conference the Allied leaders agreed to establish the United Nations and in April 1945 representatives of 50 nations met to write the charter. The international organization's goals were to facilitate cooperation among nations and achieve peace.	www.un.org

Topic	Dates	Description	Research
Korean War*	1950-1953	China became communist in 1949 which made the US more determined to contain communism. After WWII, US troops occupied South Korea and Communists formed North Korea. On June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded the South. President Truman decided to take military action. Robert T aft, an Ohio Senator, opposed the measure.	Ohio History Central, Cold War International History Project
Douglas MacArthur v. President Truman	1951	During the Korean War, General Douglas MacArthur wanted to extend the war into China. Truman opposed this measure not wanting to be involved in a massive land war. The two debated the issue throughout the year before action was taken.	Ohio History Central, American Memory
Paris peace talks	1968- 1975	Negotiations began between the US and North Vietnamese on May 10, 1968. The process stalled for 5 months as the sides debated the terms of the peace talks. The negotiations would continue for years.	Ohio History Central, PBS: Return with honor
My Lai Massacre	1969	In 1969 Americans learned about a shocking event during the Vietnam War. A US platoon entered a South Vietnamese village and upon finding no enemies they massacred more than 100 villagers. Troops insisted they were following orders. 25 officers were charged with the massacre.	PBS: Vietnam Online
Panama Canal treaties	1964-1978	The US obtained ownership on the Panama Canal in 1914 which the Panamanians resented. President Johnson began negotiations in 1964 to help ease tensions and those continued throughout President Carter's administration. In 1977 the nations agreed to two treaties about control of the canal. There was strong debate in Congress over the treaties which they had to ratify.	National Archives: Treasures of Congress, Carter Presidential Library
Government Relations			
US Constitution	1787-	Many debates were held by the founders during the Constitutional Convention: The Great Compromise, 3/5 compromise, Bill of Rights. You could also research the debate between the Federalists and anti- Federalists over the ratification of the Constitution.	Ohio History Central, National Archives, Library of Congress "A Century of Lawmaking"
Constitutional Amendments*		Students can examine debates that occurred when ratifying constitutional amendments or take a look at Surpeme Court cases dealing with constitutional issues (specific examples can be found in the topic list).	Ohio History Central, National Archives: Charters of Freedom

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National Bank	1791	Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, proposed the creation of a National Bank to issue paper money and handle tax receipts and government funds. Opponents, like James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, claimed the bank would create an unhealthy alliance between government and business. He also believed that Congress had no authority to authorize the bank because it was not mentioned in the Constitution. It was one debate between a broad v. strict interpretation of the US Constitution	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: American Memory
Marbury v. Madison	1803	This landmark court decision established the concept of judicial review. It gave the court the power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional and helped make the Supreme Court an important branch of the government.	PBS: Supreme Court History
Ohio Statehood Debate	1803	In the early 1800s, settlers in the Northwest territory began debating whether Ohio would become the next state in the USA. Opposing sides argued over the boundaries of the new state as well as who would control it.	Ohio History Central
Louisiana Purchase	1803	The United States purchased the Louisiana territory from France for \$15 million under the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. There was opposition in the US over the treaty, where many argued the purchase was unconstitutional because the Constitution did not include provisions about acquiring territory.	Library of Congress- Primary Documents in American History & A Century of Lawmaking
Monroe Doctrine	1823	Concerned over European countries re-establishing colonies and trade in the territory surrounding the US, President James Monroe, in a message to Congress warned European nations not to interfere with matters in the Western Hemisphere.	Library of Congress: Primary Documents in American History
Missouri Compromise	1820	Debate occurred when settlers in Missouri requested admission to the United States. The debate revolved around whether Missouri would become a slave or free state. Henry Clay helped Congress resolve the matter with a series of agreements called the Missouri Compromise	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Primary Documents in American History
Indian Removal Act	1830	government to negotiate treaties which would force Native Americans to move west. While many supported this act, there was also strong opposition and it passed Congress after a bitter debate. Native Americans also opposed this act and resisted relocation.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Primary Documents in American History
Robert Hayne v. Daniel Webster	1830	One of the great debates in US History. The two senators debated over the issue of tariffs which was in reality a debate over state's rights and the nature of the federal Union.	Senate.gov

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Slavery*		Many debates were held and compromises created over the issue of slavery. Students can easily narrow down this broad topic to look at specific debates/compromises, such as: Wilmont Provisio, Fugitive Slave Act, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott decision, etc. Students could examine the Civil War as a debate over slavery.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Slavery Resource Guide
Lane Seminary Debates*	1834	Lane Theologian Seminary was established in Cincinnati to train Presbyterian ministers. In 1834, the seminary held a series of debates over 18 days about the merits of various solutions to slavery. It was one of the first public discussions of the issue/	Oberlin College Resources, Gilder Lehrman Center
Lincoln-Douglas Debates	1858	Series of debates held between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas for a seat in the Senate. The main issue discussed was slavery. A debate was held in 7 towns across Illinois.	Ohio History Central, Lincoln/Net
Reconstruction	1865-1877	Following the Civil War, leaders began to rebuild the United States. The president, vice-president, and members of Congress all had different ideas on how Reconstruction should be handled. Terms to get you started on these debates include: Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan, Wade-Davis Bill, Presidential Reconstruction, Congressional Reconstruction.	Ohio History Central, PBS American Experience: Reconstruction
Gold bugs v. Silverites*	1896	During the 1896 presidential election, a major issue was the metal that would be the basis for the nation's monetary system. Silverites favored bimetallism and the gold bugs favored the gold standard. The Republican Party was committed to the gold standard and nominated William McKinley. The Democratic Party supported bimetallism and nominated William Jennings Bryan.	Ohio History Central, Vassar College: 1896: The Presidential Campaign
Sherman Anti-Trust Act*	1890	This law, passed in 1890, authorized the federal government to break up any business which prohibited competition. Its author, John Sherman, was from Ohio. This legislation was used to break up monopolies, such as the Standard Oil Company.	Ohio History Central
Immigration*		Immigration is current topic in the news and the debates go a long way back in American History. As immigrants poured into the US it led to the rise of nativism and anti-immigrant groups who demanded restrictions. Students can examine this debate. They may also research a specific immigration policy like the Chinese Exclusion Act.	Ohio History Central, American Memory

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1880 election*	1880	One important issue in the 1880 presidential election was over civil service reform. President Hayes worked for this reform but decided not to run for reelection. This led to a debate at the Republican convention between the Stalwarts (against reform) and the Reformers. The Reformers were split themselves with the Mowwumps wanting civil service reform and the Half-Breeds who wanted reform but remained loyal to the party.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: James Garfield: A Resource Guide
Voting Restrictions and Jim Crow Laws		After the government removed military authority of the South, Southern Democrats reclaimed control of their states and instituted laws to restrict the civil rights of African Americans. Literacy tests and poll taxes were put in place to restrict voting rights and governments passed laws to separate white and blacks in society. Many of these laws were challenged in court. The case of <i>United States v. Reese</i> challenged the voting restrictions while <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> fought segregation laws.	Ohio History Central, PBS: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow
19th amendment*	1840s- 1920s	Winning suffrage was a goal of women reformers since the Seneca Falls convention. In 1890 suffragists united to form the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Women challenged voting restrictions in court and pushed for a constitutional amendment. Another organization, the National Women's Party was formed in 1914. Suffragists worked until 1920 when the 19th amendment was passed, providing women suffrage.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Votes for Women
Debate over the annexation of the Philippines*	1898-1899	The end of the Spanish American war set of a great debate in US history. The US gained the Spanish colony from the Treaty of Paris. Imperialism sentiment in the US was strong and they argued America should expand its empire. Many were against the annexation for a variety of reasons- political, moral and social. Ohio native, William McKinley was president during the debate.	Ohio History Central, History Matters
Open Door Policy	1900-1940s	By 1899 European countries, Japan, and Russia had established settlements in China. American leaders feared they would lose access to ports and so US Secretary of State, John Hay, issued the Open Door Notes that called for open access to China's ports. Hay had moved to Ohio in 1875 and remained there until being appointed Secretary of State by President Hayes.	Ohio History Central
Theodore Roosevelt and the Russo-Japanese War	1904-1905	Japan and Russia began fighting over Korea in 1904 when the Japanese attacked the Russian Pacific fleet. The campaign was costly and the Japanese asked President Roosevelt to mediate the conflict. Delegates convened in Portsmouth, NH to negotiate an end to the war.	Ohio History Central, Library of Congress: Meeting of Frontiers

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"Big Stick" Diplomacy, Dollar Diplomacy, Missionary Diplomacy	1900-1920s	Presidents have used different diplomatic methods to deal with foreign policy. President Theodore Roosevelt used "big stick" diplomacy which stated the US had the right to intervene in Latin America. The Taft administration used dollar diplomacy by guaranteeing loans to foreign countries by American businessmen. President Wilson used "missionary diplomacy" believing the US had a moral responsibility to deny recognition to Latin American countries that had oppressive or undemocratic governments.	Library of Congress: Resource Guides: Presidents of the United States.
Espionage and Sedition Act, <i>Schneck v. United States</i>	1917, 1919	In June 1917, Congress passed the Espionage and Sedition Acts which stated a person could be fined or imprisoned for interfering with the draft, obstructing the sale of war bonds, or saying anything disloyal, profane, or abusive about the government or the war effort. Socialists and labor leaders were targeted and Charles Schneck was arrested for distributing leaflets in opposition to the draft. The case was taken to the Supreme Court saying it was a violation of free speech	Digital History
League of Nations	1919	President Wilson proposed the creation of the League of Nations. It would be a forum for nations to discuss and settle problems without war. The League was created and it led to a debate in the United States. Many in the US felt the League threatened US foreign policy.	Ohio History Central, League of Nations: Indiana University
Immigration Act of 1924	1924	The 1924 Immigration Act set quotas which limited the number of immigrants from particular countries. Strong debates were held in Congress over the Act.	US Immigration Legislation Online
Election of 1932	1932	The United States fell into the Great Depression in 1929. The presidential election in 1932 was between incumbent Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The men had differing opinions on how to handle the depression. Hoover believed the government should help guide relief efforts but not through federal bureaucracy. As governor of NY had pushed through a series of measures to deal with unemployment and poverty	Ohio History Central, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library
New Deal*	1933	Franklin Roosevelt formulated a program designed to alleviate problems of the Great Depression, called the New Deal. 15 pieces of legislation were passed in the first 100 days which expanded the role of the federal government. There were many who were critical of this program and said it gave the government too much power. The Supreme Court struck down some New Deal programs, declaring them unconstitutional. FDR proposed an act of Congress to allow him to add justices to the court which sparked controversy. Some of the strongest critics were Al Smith and John W. Davis. The American Liberty League also opposed New Deal measures.	Ohio History Central, New Deal Network

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Containment policy/ Truman Doctrine	1946-1947	After WWII, the world was left with 2 remaining superpowers: the USA and USSR. The two countries had competing ideologies which led to the Cold War. In 1946, American George Kennan proposed the containment policy to block Soviet attempts at spreading its influence. In 1947 President Truman asked Congress for aid to Greece and Turkey to prevent Soviet influence. He also states the US should assist people around the world who were resisting takeovers. This became known as the Truman Doctrine and was criticized by many.	Ohio History Central, Truman Presidential Library
Marshall Plan	1947	Europe was devastated after WWII. US Secretary of State, George C. Marshall proposed a plan to provide assistance to European nations. Congress debated the plan for several months before it was passed.	National Archives, Truman Presidential Library
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	1949	Western Europe was fearful of Soviet aggression, especially after the Berlin blockade was established. 10 nations joined together to form NATO where they promised an attack against one was an attack against all. Senator Robert Taft from Ohio spoke out against the treaty fearing it would lead to an arms race between nations.	www.nato.int, www.state.gov
1948 election	1948	Truman was nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate in 1948. The party platform included a strong civil rights plank. Southern delegates, known as Dixiecrats, walked out of the convention and formed their own party nominating Strom Thurgood as their presidential candidate	Ohio History Central, American Presidency Project
HUAC/Hollywood 10/Joseph McCarthy	1940-1950s	The fear of communism spread across the United States throughout the 1950s. Agencies were created to investigate Communist influence in the country. The most famous was the House Committee on Un-American Activities. HUAC called 43 members of the Hollywood film industry to testify. 10 witnesses refused to testify believing the committee was unconstitutional. Joseph McCarthy, a senator from Wisconsin, became an infamous anti-Communist activist. Many disagree with McCarthy's methods to root out communists.	Ohio History Central, National Park Service: House Un-American Activities Committee
John F. Kennedy v. Richard Nixon	1960	The 1960 presidential election was between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. A milestone in the campaign was the first televised debate between presidential candidates. Over 70 million people watched on television and TV soon replaced radio and newspapers as the most important form of communication in campaigns.	Ohio History Central, Museum of Broadcast Communications, Gilder-Lehrman: The Great Debate
Cuban Missile Crisis	1962	Cuban leader Fidel Castro, a proclaimed communist, welcomed Soviet aid to the country. The USSR began sending weapons, including nuclear missiles to Cuba. President Kennedy issued a warning and then met with advisors and debated on how to proceed.	Ohio History Central, Cold War International History Project

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Great Society	1964-1967	President Johnson vision of American became known as the Great Society. Many laws were passed to combat poverty, promote education, protect consumers, improve cities, etc. Students can examine of these pieces of legislation, what was the problem or debate that led to the law and its consequences.	Ohio History Central, Lyndon B. Johnson Library & Museum: Archives
Brown v. Board of Education	1954	This Supreme Court case challenged the ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson in regards to segregation in public education. The landmark decision made by the court led to debate across the South.	Ohio History Central, National Park Service: Brown v. Board of Education
Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act*	1964, 1965	These were key pieces of legislation to the Civil Rights Movement and both created strong debate in Congress. Students can research arguments for and against an act and the legacy of the legislation. Ohio representative, William McCulloch was instrumental in crafting the laws.	Ohio History Central, American Memory
<i>Roe v. Wade</i>	1973	This court case was a controversial decision by the Supreme Court on the issue of abortion. The decision began a national debate that continues today.	
Equal Rights Amendment*	1972-1982	The Equal Rights Amendment was proposed by Alice Paul in 1923 and became stuck in Congress. In 1972 it made its way out and to the state for ratification. Strong debates were held throughout the county over the constitutional amendment	Ohio History Central,
Nixon visits China	1972	The US had not recognized the Chinese government since 1949. Nixon reversed that policy and in 1972 went to visit China as a way to ease relations between the countries.	Ohio History Central, PBS: Nixon's China Game
SALT Treaties	1972	President Nixon traveled to the Soviet Union in 1972 to meet with Leonid Brezhnev. The series of meetings became known as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Nixon and Brezhnev signed the SALT I treaty agreeing to limit their arms production.	State.gov, Nixon Presidential Library
Carter and the Energy Crisis	1977	In the 1970s the US faced an energy crisis and President Carter urged Americans to cut their consumption of oil and gas and presented Congress with over 100 proposals for energy conservation. There were many critics of the president's energy policy and they attempted to resist the proposals.	Ohio History Central

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Camp David Accords	1974	President Carter won a diplomatic victory by helping negotiate a treaty between Egypt and Israel. He invited Anwar el-Sadat (Egyptian president) and Menachem Begin (Israeli prime minister) to Camp David and after 13 days of negotiations the sides reached two agreements	Carter Presidential Library, PBS Newshour: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Iran Hostage Crisis	1979-1981	In 1979 revolution broke out in Iran and Muslim religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini led the rebels in overthrowing the shah (Iranian leader) and establishing a religious state. When President Carter allowed the shah into the US, the rebels seized the US embassy and took 52 Americans hostage. Diplomatic efforts continued for over a year before the hostages were released.	Carter Presidential Library, PBS: Jimmy Carter
Dayton Peace Accords*	1995	At Wright-Patterson Airforce base in Dayton, Ohio leaders from Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia met to discuss ending the violence between their countries. The agreement known as the Dayton Peace Accord established relative peace in the region	Ohio History Central
Social Movements and Reforms			
Great Awakening	1730s	The Great Awakening was a period of religious change and debate in the colonies in the 1730s and 1740s. Preachers like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield questioned the role of religion and the preacher. There were many critics of the Great Awakening who questioned the emotionalism and condemned the challenge to clerical authority.	National Humanities Center (TeacherServe), Library of Congress "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic"
School Reform	1830s	Before the 1830s, there was no uniform educational policy in the US. In the 1830s Americans began demanding tax supported schools. In Pennsylvania, opposition arose from the wealthy members in society who saw no real to support a school system their children did not attend. Opposition also came from German immigrant groups who were concerned their children would forget German language and culture. People like Horace Mann supported the common school movement arguing education	America.gov
Abolition Movement*	1780s-1860s	Students can research the debate over slavery, examining both sides of the debate. The topic can be narrowed down to look at specific arguments of certain abolitionists or examine a group such as the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society. You could also research debate over laws relating to slavery such as the Fugitive Slave Law or an uprising over slavery, for example Nat Turner's Rebellion.	Ohio History Central
Temperance Movement*	1800s-1920s	The temperance movement's goal was to limit or outlaw the consumption and production of alcohol. It began in the early nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth century. Many temperance groups formed in Ohio to speak out against alcohol. In 1893, advocates in Ohio formed the Anti-Saloon League which became one of the most prominent prohibition organizations in the US.	Ohio History Central

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Seneca Falls convention	1848	Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY. Students can examine the debate over women's rights by researching this convention and its legacy.	Ohio History Central, Smithsonian Institute
Labor Unions*		American History. They can research the workers strikes in Lowell, MA or the debate over labor unions such as the National Trades' Union in 1834. This became a common theme in American History as factories spread across the country. There are many strikes and unions that students can explore, in Ohio, one could research the Great Hocking Valley Coal Strike in 1884 or the Little Steel Strike of 1937, and many others throughout the country. Students can examine the creation of labor unions such as the	Ohio History Central
Grange*	1867	In the late 1800s farmers faced falling crop prices, high mortgages, and excessive railroad costs. In order to push for reforms, farmers had to organize. One organization called the Grange was created in 1867. By the 1870s the Grange spent most of its time fighting railroads, teaching members how to organize, and sponsoring state legislation for railroad regulation. It gave rise to other farmer organizations such as Farmer's Alliance. Take a look at the Granger laws and the Supreme Court case <i>Munn v. Illinois</i> .	Ohio History Central, American Memory
Social Gospel Movement*	late 19th- early 20th century	As more people moved into urban areas, problems in the cities mounted. Social reformers worked to improve urban life. An early reform program, called the Social Gospel Movement preached salvation through service to the poor. One of the Social Gospel ministers was Washington Gladden from Columbus Ohio. The movement inspired other reformers and led to the creation of settlement houses like Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago.	Ohio History Central, American Memory
Progressive Movement*	early 1900s	In the early 1900s reformers worked to deal with problems that were contributing to social upheaval. Together these reform movements are referred to as the Progressive Movement. Reformers worked to improve personal behavior (Prohibition), protect social welfare (Settlement houses), reform government (17th amendment), and protect workers (Child Labor laws). Any of these topics and many more can be used to examine the debates in society at the turn of the century.	Ohio History Central
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*	1909-	The NAACP was founded in 1909 and worked to end segregation, achieve equal rights under the law, and end racial violence. The NAACP was very active in Ohio since the beginning of the organization. The NAACP challenged laws in court and worked to enact legislation against lynching.	Ohio History Central, www.naacp.org

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Red Scare	1920s	Following WWI, an anti-communist movement, the first Red Scare, spread across the United States. The government attempted to root out communists, leading to violations of civil liberties.	Ohio History Central, Newman Library: CUNY: Red Scare
Scopes Trial	1925	A debate arose in Dayton, TN between fundamentalists and scientists over the issue of evolution. Tennessee passed the nation's first law that made it a crime to teach evolution. The ACLU promised to defend teachers who would challenge the law. John Scopes accepted. The Scopes trial was a fight over evolution drawing Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan into the debate.	Ohio History Central, Scopes Trial: University of Missouri
The 1920s Woman	1920s	In the 1920s women continued to assert their independence and demand more freedoms. The flapper style which arose in the 20s challenged the ideal of women in society. Opportunities for women in the workforce expanded in the 20s as well. In 1921 Margaret Sanger founded the American Birth Control League and in 1923 the Equal Rights Amendment is proposed.	Ohio History Central, American Women Through Time: 1920s: Middle Tennessee State University
Civil Rights organizations	1940s-1960s	Many organizations were developed to fight for racial equality: Congress for Racial Equality, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Students can examine how these organizations created debates in society about civil rights. They can also examine how these organizations worked together or the conflicts among them during the struggle for equality.	Ohio History Central, PBS: American Experience: Eyes on the Prize
Peace Corps	1961-	The Peace Corps began in 1961 as a program of volunteer assistance to developing nations. Since its creation nearly 200,000 people have volunteered for the program.	www.peacecorps.gov
Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides, Freedom Summer, Sit ins	1950s-1960s	Throughout the 1950s and 60s African American continued to struggle for equal rights. Students can examine one of the civil rights movement campaigns and examine the debates held in society over them as well as their successes, failures, and consequences.	Ohio History Central, PBS: Eyes on the Prize

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Malcolm X v. Martin Luther King Jr.	1960s	Both were strong leaders during the Civil Rights Movement but they had different beliefs. Students can examine their differences as well as look at similarities between the men.	Ohio History Central, American Memory, Malcolm X Project: Columbia University
Anti-War movement*	1960s- 1970s	in 1965 the first American troops were sent to Vietnam. As the war escalated, an anti-war movement grew in the US. Groups like the Students for a Democratic Society and the Free Speech Movement formed to speak out against the war. BY 1967, members of Congress and the president's cabinet were questioning the war.	Ohio History Central, Vietnam War Collections: University of Washington
Kent State shootings*	1970	Students at Kent State University in Ohio were protesting the war which led to the burning of the ROTC building. On May 4, the National Guard who had been called in fired on the students killing 4 people. This led to more protests across the county. Charges were brought against 25 protesters and 8 guardsmen.	Ohio History Central, Kent State University: May 4 Collection
Farm Worker Movement	1960s	During the 1960s, the numbers of Latinos increased in the US. They faced long hours of work with little pay and few benefits. Cesar Chavez helped to unionize workers to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee to work for improvements.	PBS: Fight in the Fields
American Indian Movement	1960s	Native Americans joned together in the 1960s to demand improvements in conditions. They wanted greater opportunity to control and govern their lives. The AIM began in 1968 and confronted the government as they sought reform.	Framing Red Power: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
National Organization for Women	1966-	The women's movement of the 1960s began based on the belief that women should have economic, political, and social equality. In 1966, several women created NOW to pursue women's goals.	Ohio History Central, Documents from the Women's Liberation Movement: Duke University
The Arts			

Topic	Dates	Description	Research
Transcendentalism	1830s	Movement that included writers and intellectuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. It began as a protest against the state of culture and society. It emphasized the dignity of the individual and fought for humanitarian reforms such as the abolition of slavery and improvements in prison conditions.	PBS: Profiles: Artists, Movements, Ideas
Thomas Eakins	1886, 1889	Thomas Eakins was a realist painter during the 19th century. He began teaching at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 1876 but was forced to resign 10 years later when he presented a nude male model to a mixed class (males and females). In 1889, his painting "Gross Clinic" caused controversy for its realist depiction of surgery.	Thomas Cowperthwait Eakins - The complete works
International Exhibit of Modern Art	1913	Also known as the Armory Show, this exhibition challenged Americans's idea of art. Planned by the Association of American Painters and Sculptors, it aimed at introducing the country to the movement in modern art.	University of Virginia: American Studies Program- Look under features
Birth of a Nation	1915	Directed D.W. Griffith, this silent film sparked controversy in 1915. The film is set during the Civil War and was adapted from a KK propaganda piece. The NAACP began protesting the film and the controversy led to debate among the National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures.	George Mason University: Center for History and New Media
Harlem Renaissance	1920s	A literary and artistic movement that celebrated African American culture. Writers challenged society and expressed the trials they faced being black in a white world. Claude McKay urged African Americans to resist prejudice and discrimination.	Library of Congress: A Guide to Harlem Renaissance Resources
Rock n Roll*	1950s-	A new music form developed out of rhythm and blues in the 1950s. It came to be known as rock n' roll and it appealed to teenagers. Adults condemned the music and believed it would lead to teenage delinquency and immorality. In some cities rock n' roll music was banned.	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,
Television and film censorship*	1950s-	Since the beginning of film there was debate over the morals displayed in the films. BY 1909 NY created a censorship board for movies and other states, including Ohio followed in 1913. With the invention of the television the Federal Communications Commission began to regulate that industry. Many challenged the censorship laws, especially in the film industry. a court case that originated in Ohio, Mutual Film	Museum of Broadcast Communications, Library of Virginia
Art Workers Coalition	1969-1971	The Art Workers Coalition was a collection of artists, filmmakers, writers, critics and museum staff who joined together in NYC to work toward reforms in art museums. One goal was a more inclusive exhibition policy- incorporating more works from women and artists of color.	www.joaap.org

Topic	Dates	Description	Research
Banned Books*		The American Library Association produces a list of books that have been banned in an effort to promote free speech. Students can examine one of the challenges that arose from this list. Cases of banned books in Ohio can be found, including the court case of <i>Minarcini v. Strongsville</i> challenging the banning of <i>Catch 22</i> and <i>Cat's Cradle</i> . Many books throughout American history have been banned: <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> , <i>Howl</i> , etc.	American Library Association
Cultural Diplomacy			
Phyllis Wheatly	1753 - 1784	Wheatly was an American poet and slave who traveled to Great Britain in 1773 on a book tour. Slavery had officially been outlawed in Great Britain the year before but was still permitted in its colonies around the world, most notably, the United States. Wheatly served as a representative for her people - African American slaves - adding fuel to the abolitionist fire. Upon returning to the United States she wrote letters and poems to the leaders of the fledgling nation on behalf of the enslaved.	Massachusetts Historical Society, Library of Congress
World's Fairs		Students could research world's fairs in general or pick a specific world's fair and research how that fair represented a form of cultural diplomacy. Some examples of particularly interesting world's fairs include: 1851 Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations (London) 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition (Chicago) 1904 World's Fair: The Louisiana Purchase Exposition (St. Louis, Missouri) 1937 Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne (Paris)	Amusing America, San Francisco Public Library, Centuries of Progress: American World's Fairs 1853-1982, Chicago Historical Society, Celebrating the Louisiana Purchase: The 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis Public Library
Statue of Liberty	1886 (dedicated)	The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France to celebrate the United States' commitment to democracy. This act of giving can be seen as a form of diplomacy. In addition, the statue has come to symbolize a gateway to our nation.	Service, The Statue of Liberty: From Enlightening the World to Inviting the World
Diego Rivera	1886 - 1957	Rivera was a muralist from Mexico who was commissioned to paint public murals in the United States in the 1930s and 40s. His work celebrated the working class and often carried socialist undertones. His work shared aspects of Mexican culture and art traditions as well as political issues with the United States, greatly influencing US artists.	Diego Rivera Web Museum, Yale's Diego Rivera
Olympics	1896-	The modern Olympic games are a revival of an ancient Greek tradition. The games bring together countries from almost all nations. The games have been used as a diplomatic tool. For example, South Africa was excluded from the 1964 games for their policy of apartheid.	Olympic.org

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Nobel Prizes	1900	These international awards are handed out annually for cultural and scientific advances. The prizes were established through the will of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite.	nobelprize.org
The Rhodes Scholar Program	Est. 1902	Academic exchange can be a form of cultural diplomacy. In addition, the Rhodes Scholarship program teaches public service and diplomacy. Students could evaluate the program or choose a specific Rhodes scholar and examine how the program has impacted their public career.	The Rhodes Trust, Rhodes House
World Cup	1920s-	Sports have been used as a way to promote relations about nations. In the 1920s, French football (soccer) administrators began working on a tournament to bring together the top soccer teams in the world. The tournament has become the largest sporting event in the world.	FIFA World Cup: The History of the World Cup
American Ballet Caravan	1936 (formed) 1941 (toured)	The small experimental company was formed by School of American Ballet director Kirstein in 1936. The group performed ballets with American themes and toured South America in order to demonstrate the United States' commitment to the fine arts during a time when the US was considered to be concerned solely with pop culture.	School of American Ballet, History, New York City Ballet, Kirstein 100: A Tribute Online Exhibition
International Visitor Leadership Program	1940	This US Department of State program is an effort to build understanding between the US and participating nations. Nelson Rockefeller was appointed the Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Affairs for the American Republics in 1940 and began the exchange program with persons from Latin America.	US Department of State
Advancing American Art	1946	Advancing American Art was an exhibition organized in 1946 by J. LeRoy Davidson and Richard Heindel of the State Department to promote American art. A collection of paintings purchased by the State Department were to travel in segments to Latin America and Europe for a five-year tour. Despite being well received in Prague, criticism in the U.S. from conservatives about the mostly abstract paintings being "un-American" led to the withdrawal of funding for the remainder of the tour, the recall of the paintings	Jules Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

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Jazz Diplomacy	1954-1968	During the Cold War jazz musicians like Dizzy Gillespie toured political hot-spots in an effort to enhance the image of American democracy.	University of the Pacific, Holt-Atherton Special Collections
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	Est. 1965	The NEA was developed as a way to create an artistic and cultural identity in the United States during the Cold War. However, there has been great debate over the role of the NEA and the use of public funding to promote certain art forms and artists. Students could research the nature of this debate and the role of the NEA in cultural diplomacy.	National Endowment for the Arts, Roger L. Stevens Presents, Library of Congress