**Speeches, Literature & Entertainment**

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| **Era/Unit** | **Cultural Work & Author** | **Significance** |
| *Beginnings & Colonial Society (1492-1753)* | *The Destruction of the Indies* by Bartolomeo de las Casas“City on a Hill” by John Winthrop*The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” by Jonathan EdwardsJohn Peter Zenger’s critique of NY politicians | Spanish monk criticized treatment of indigenous people (Caribbean)Puritan society should be a model of Christian harmony & order (New England)Principles of capitalism: laissez-faire, free trade, supply & demand, “invisible hand”1st Great Awakening: “Old lights vs. new lights”… charismatic, evangelical Protestantism (New England)Sedition/libel trial… Zenger was found not guilty… freedom of the press |
| Revolutionary Era (1754-1783) | Thomas Paine –*Common Sense* & *The American Crisis**Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*Benjamin Franklin – *Poor Richard’s Almanac*St. John de Crevecouer – Letters from an American Farmer | Urged support for the Revolution, appealed to the Enlightenment idea of the social contractLives of slaves; assimilation of Africans into “European-American” societyForecasts for farmers, wordplay, sayings, “first civilized American”Revolutionary war… agrarian democracy |
| Federalist Era (1783-1820) | Federalist Papers – Jay, Hamilton & MadisonWashington’s Farewell Address | Supported ratification of the constitution (stronger central govt)Avoid alliances & political parties |
| Jacksonian Democracy & Age of Reform (1824-1850) | Hudson River School of ArtistsGeorge CatlinGilbert StuartNeoclassical architectureNoah WebsterEdgar Allan PoeWashington IrvingJames Fenimore Cooper – Last of the MohicansEmerson – Self relianceHenry David Thoreau – Civil Disobedience & WaldenNathaniel Hawthorne – Scarlet LetterWalt Whitman – Leaves of GrassHerman Melville – Moby Dick, Billy Budd | Landscapes & natureNative American portraitsPortraits of founding fathersNew spin on Greek and Roman styles (stability, power, democracy, republicanism)DictionaryShort stories, macabre, detective investigations“First American literature”… patriotism… Knickerbocker School – NY cultureDestruction of Native American cultureDuhRefusal to obey unjust laws, nonviolent resistance, independent self reliance, life of contemplation in natureSin & human weakness; New England PuritanismLate Transcendentalist/romanticLate Transcendentalist/obsession |
| Sectionalism & National Economy (1812-1840) | “Era of Good Feelings”Poor white trash | Newspapers praised President MonroeBeginnings of public educational system… literacy rate rising |
| Manifest Destiny & Antebellum Era (1840-1860) | Manifest Destiny – John L SullivanHenry D Thoreau – Civil DisobedienceJohn Gast – American ProgressSojourner Truth – Ain’t I a Woman?, Harriet Beecher Stower – Uncle Tom’s Cabin, David Walker’s Appeal, Frederick Douglass – North Star, William Lloyd Garrison – The Liberator, Impending Crisis of the South – Hinton HelperGeorge Fitzhugh – Sociology of the South“The Frontier Thesis” – Frederick Jackson Turner | White Americans have duty & right to conquer & civilize the westOpposition to Mex War and expansion of slaveryWhite angel “Columbia” conquering the westAbolitionism!!!Slavery is good b/c it civilizes slaves & it’s better than “wage slavery” in industryWest is a land of opportunity; equality in west; west = individualism & toughness |
| Civil War & Reconstruction (1861-1877) | Red Badge of Courage – Stephen CraneThomas Nast political cartoonsWaving the Bloody Shirt | Civil War heroismSupported Republican party; attacked Tammany Hall; cartoons revealed increasingly hostile attitude to blacks even in the northPoliticians urged people to “vote how you shot”… appealing to hatred of north/south |
| The Gilded Age (1877-1900) | Mark Twain – Gilded AgeThomas Nast CartoonsAcres of Diamonds – Russell ConwellCharles Darwin – The Origin of SpeciesFW Taylor – Scientific ManagementHW Grady – The New SouthRagtime musicAndrew Carnegie – The Gospel of WealthVictorian architectureThorstein Veblen – Conspicuous Consumption | Greed & political corruption in post-Civil War AmericaFreedom of the press & criticized political machines like Tammany HallIt is possible for everyone to become richNatural selection… evolution… survival of the fittest… used to justify business competition & monopolies/trustsBusinesses became more efficient (assembly line, etc)… workers were treated like “cogs in a machine” (unskilled labor)The South must industrialize and have harmonious race relationsDance music in black communities… birth of jazzIndustrial leaders have an obligation to raise up society by donating their wealth to philanthropic organizations (universities, libraries, museums, etc.)Wealthy to show off their wealthShow off wealth |
| Rise and Fall of Populism & Decline of Indians (1877-1900) | Chief Joseph – “I Shall Fight No More Forever”A Century of Dishonor – Helen Hunt JacksonBury My Heart at Wounded Knee – Dee Brown (1960s)“Crime of 73”“Cross of Gold” speech – William Jennings Bryan | Manifest Destiny had displaced Indians from their landUS government had broken its treaties with Native AmericansExpressed Native American perspective on theft of Indian land and destruction of Indian culturePanic of 1873 – Congress embraced the gold standard rather than silver… farmers were angrySupported coinage of silver to get farmers out of debt… but Bryan lost the election of 1896 to McKinley |
| The Progressive Movement (1890-1920) | Upton Sinclair – The JungleThe History of the Standard Oil Company – Ida tarbellJacob Riis – How the Other Half LivesThe Ashcan School of Painters The Souls of Black Folk – WEB DuBois | Muckraking – meatpacking industry… Pure Food & Drug Act/FDAMuckraking – oil/Rockefeller… US government filed antitrust lawsuit… Standard Oil was broken apartMuckraking – urban slums… Jane Addams - Hull HouseUrban filth, slums, poverty, dull colors… realismBlack history/culture… “Talented Tenth” |
| Imperialism & WWI (1877-1918) | Josiah Strong – Our CountryAlfred Thayer Mahan – Influence of Sea Power upon HistoryYellow Journalism – Hearst & PulitzerFourteen Points speech – W Wilson | WASPs – White Anglo Saxon Protestant superiorityUS should build strong navy with bases around the worldSensational news stories that encouraged US to go to war with Spain in 1898US should be leader in world affairs; League of Nations; economic cooperation; freedom of the seas; peace |
| Boom & Bust (1920-1941) | Lost Generation writersF Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby, “Jazz Age”Ernest Hemingway – Farewell to Arms, The Sun Also RisesRadio revivalistsFireside ChatsJohn Steinbeck – The Grapes of Wrath & Of Mice and MenHarlem Renaissance | Fitzgerald, Hemingway, EliotWealth & conspicuous consumption… sadness & lonelinessAnti-war (WWI), issues of masculinity and alienationBilly Sunday, Aimee Semple McPherson – spread evangelical Christianity over the radioFDR used radio effectively to communicate with American peopleSuffering of poor people (esp. “Okie” farmers) during the DepressionLangston Hughes, Duke Ellington, James W Johnson… jazz, poetry, literature |
| World War II (1939-1945) | Quarantine Speech – FDRFour Freedoms Speech –FDR | US will cut off trade with nations that violate international lawSpeech, worship, from want, from fear… FDR is targeting Axis Powers |
| Cold War (1945-1990) | Declaration of Conscience speech – Margaret Chase SmithArthur Miller – The CrucibleArthur Miller – Death of a SalesmanThe Man in the Gray Flannel SuitThe Affluent SocietyRock & roll, British Invasion, Catcher in the Rye, Beatniks, Hippies, Woodstock FestivalThe Feminine Mystique – Betty Friedan, Ms. Magazine – Gloria SteinemSilent Spring – Rachel CarsonI Have a Dream – MLKBlack Power – Stokeley Carmichael, Ballot or the Bullet – Malcolm X | McCarthyism threatens – not strengthens – American freedomsAllegory to McCarthyism… Salem Witch TrialsCriticism of materialism & business cultureMen were focused on job/ corporate loyalty at the expense of their families and valuesThe US is wealthy, but money is not spent for the benefit of all citizens… led to LBJ’s Great Society/War on PovertyYouth culture/counterculture in the 1950s-60s… criticized materialism… politically active…. Drug culture…Beginning of feminist movementBeginning of environmental movement… targeted pesticides1963 March on Washington… 1964 Civil Rights Act/1965 Voting Rights ActMilitant African American movement  |
| The US Since Vietnam (1975-present) | Evil Empire speech – Ronald ReaganNew World Order/1000 Points of Light – GHW BushAxis of Evil speech – GW Bush | Reagan targeted USSR, ended Nixon’s policy of détenteCold War is over, US can shape the world in a positive wayIraq, Iran & North Korea are military and terrorist threats… helped pave the way for the 2003 invasion of Iraq |