26. **Pre-Civil War conflicts over slavery**: What were the causes and effects of the Nat Turner Rebellion?
27. **Dred Scott decision**: What was its impact on the slavery issue?
28. **Civil War**: What were the key issues that caused conflict between North and South? (Remember that there were many sectional differences in addition to slavery.)
29. **Civil War**: What were the strengths and weaknesses of the North and the South, and how did these factors contribute to the outcome of the war? (Especially focus on economic factors.)
30. **Civil War**: Why did Lincoln issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**? How did it influence the decision of European nations not to recognize the Confederacy?
31. **Women in the Civil War**: How did they contribute?
32. **African American soldiers in the Civil War**: How did they contribute? What kind of discrimination did they face in the Union army?
33. **Abraham Lincoln’s assassination**: What did Booth and his co-conspirators hope to achieve? How did Lincoln’s assassination impact the reconstruction of the nation after the Civil War? *Was Mary Surratt actually a part of the conspiracy?*
34. **African Americans after the Civil War**: How were they affected by Reconstruction policies? How were they affected after the return of white supremacy? Discuss social, legal, and economic factors.
35. **New York draft riots during the Civil War**: What were the causes? What were the effects?
36. **Transcontinental railroad**: What was its impact on westward expansion?
37. **Legend vs. reality in the West**: Focus on myths and realities surrounding a particular figure (e.g.: Buffalo Bill, Wyatt Earp, George Custer, etc.)
38. **Native American conflicts in the West**: Specify tribe(s) and conflict. (e.g.: The Battle of the Little Bighorn, Wounded Knee Massacre, etc.); What were the causes and effects?
39. **United States and Native American policy**: What was the impact of the Dawes Act and/or other pieces of legislation? What was the impact of the reservation policy?
40. **Electric power and related inventors**: Analyze the impact of the harnessing of electric power and/or discuss the competition among the inventors who played a role (e.g.: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse)
41. **Inventors/inventions of the 19th Century**: Choose a significant inventor or invention and examine the challenges of developing the item or the impact of the invention on the American society/economy.
42. **Wealthy industrialists in the late 1800s**: “Robber Barons” or “Captains of Industry”?
43. **The Gilded Age**: Discuss the origin of the term and why it is an appropriate metaphor for the United States in the late 1800s.
44. **Labor unions in the 1800s**: What economic, social, and philosophical factors contributed to their formation?
45. **Labor conflicts/strikes in the late 1800s**: What was the federal government’s attitude toward organized labor, and how and when did it change?
46. **Haymarket Riot**: What were the causes and effects?
47. **Pullman Strike**: What were the causes and effects?
48. **Immigration in the late 1800s**: What were the difficulties faced by immigrants, and how did they adjust to life in America?
49. **Immigration in the late 1800s**: Discuss the “melting pot” vs. “salad bowl” metaphors.
50. **Chinese immigrants**: Why did they come to the U.S.? What discrimination did they face? (Chinese Exclusion Act)
51. **The Great Chicago Fire of 1871**: Why was it so severe? What was the impact on the city (especially architecture)?
51. **Urban political machines in the late 1800s**: What were the reasons for their development? Why were they successful? What is their legacy?

52. **The political cartoons of Thomas Nast**: What was their influence on public opinion? How did they contribute to the downfall of Boss Tweed?

53. **Settlement house movement of the late 1800s**: What prompted the development of the movement? What was its impact on urban neighborhoods? Specify area (e.g.: Chicago’s Hull House)

54. **Child labor in the late 1800s/ early 1900s**: What was the impact on society? How were reforms made?

55. **Galveston hurricane of 1900**: What were the effects on the city? How did city government change after the hurricane?

56. **The San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906**: What were the effects on the city, especially on the Chinese residents?

57. **Muckrakers**: What was the impact of this journalism on progressive reforms?

58. **The Springfield Race Riot of 1908**: What were the causes and/or effects?

59. **Imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th Century**: Was it justified? (Focus on one region.)

60. **Yellow journalism**: What was its role in causing the Spanish-American War? (Hearst and Pulitzer)

61. **Spanish-American War**: What were the causes and/or effects?

62. **The automobile**: What was its impact on America’s economy and society?

63. **World War I**: What were the reasons for U.S. involvement?

64. **Anti-German sentiment in the United States during World War I**: What policies were developed as a result? What was the impact on German-Americans?

65. **Black Sox scandal**: What caused the players to participate? Was “Shoeless Joe” Jackson part of the conspiracy?

66. **Women’s suffrage movement**: Who were the founders and what methods did they use? What were their successes and/or failures?

67. **Red Scare of the 1920s**: What were the causes? What was the impact on immigrants and/or radicals? What was the role of A. Mitchell Palmer and/or J. Edgar Hoover?

68. **Sacco-Vanzetti case**: What role did discrimination play in the trial and verdict?

69. **Prohibition**: What were the causes? What was its impact on the development of organized crime?

70. **Harlem Renaissance**: What were the causes? What were the effects?

71. **Mississippi River Flood of 1927**: How did it affect farmers? How did it impact racial issues in the South? What was the government response?

72. **Stock market crash of 1929**: What economic factors caused it?

73. **The Bonus Army**: What prompted this protest? What was the outcome and impact?

74. **Dust Bowl of the 1930s**: What were the causes and/or effects?

75. **Scottsboro Trial**: What was the impact of racism on the outcome?

76. **New Deal**: What was its impact on the arts? What was its impact on farming? (Or choose another area)

77. **Lindbergh kidnapping**: Who kidnapped the Lindbergh baby? Was Bruno Hauptmann wrongfully convicted?

78. **Amelia Earhart**: What happened to Amelia Earhart?

79. **Tuskegee Airmen**: What obstacles did they face? How did they influence the struggle for African American rights?

80. **Pearl Harbor**: Could it have been predicted? Would the U.S. have entered World War II without it?

81. **World War II**: What was the impact of propaganda and its use in the United States?
82. World War II: What was the significance of the Battle of Midway?
83. World War II: What were the reasons for the success of the D-Day invasion?
84. World War II: What contributions were made by Americans on the home front?
85. Japanese Internment: Why did it occur? How did it affect Japanese-Americans?
86. World War II: What were the contributions of women? How did it affect women’s employment?
87. World War II: What were the contributions of African Americans?
88. Manhattan Project: What were the reasons for/methods of secrecy?
89. Bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Was it necessary? Argue one side.
90. *Cold War: How and why did it originate? What were its effects on U.S. foreign policy? How have attitudes toward communism changed since it ended?
91. Truman’s containment policy: How was it implemented by the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the Berlin Airlift?
92. *Korean War: What caused the No Gun Ri massacre, and why was it kept secret?
93. McCarthyism: What were its causes? What were its effects?
94. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg: Were they guilty of spying?
95. *Baby Boom: What was its impact on American society? (1950s-present)
96. Brown v. Board of Education case: What was its impact?
97. Blacks in Baseball: How did it affect/mirror the removal of other barriers for African Americans in society in general?
98. U-2 incident: What was the effect on U.S.-Soviet relations?
99. JFK and the Cuban missile crisis: What were the reasons for the U.S. response? Evaluate the consequences of JFK’s actions.
100. JFK and the Bay of Pigs invasion: Why did the U.S. sponsor it? Why did it fail?
101. JFK: Evaluate his presidency. Was he an effective president, or simply a nostalgic hero?
102. JFK’s assassination: Who was responsible? Were the Warren commission’s findings accurate?
103. Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s: Evaluate the tactics and accomplishments.
104. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom of 1963: What was its impact?
105. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination: Was James Earl Ray responsible?
106. *Social protest in the 1960s: What forms did it take? What was its impact on American society?
107. *Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society: What were its successes? What were its failures? What was the impact of this program on the creation of a welfare system in the United States?
108. Vietnam War: How did the U.S. get involved?
109. My Lai Massacre: What were the causes? Who was responsible?
110. *Vietnam War: What was the role of the anti-war movement in changing American opinions toward the war? How was public policy influenced? (Or, What was the role of the media?)
111. Kent State shootings: What were the contributing factors? Who was responsible?
112. *Vietnam War: Why did the United States lose? Evaluate goals, policies, decisions, and/or the role of geography and the nature of guerrilla warfare to analyze the failure.
113. Vietnam War: What were the social consequences? Analyze the treatment of veterans returning from the war.
114. Agent Orange: Evaluate its use during the Vietnam War and its effects.
115. 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago: What were the reasons for the protests, and why did violence erupt? Evaluate the city’s response and the impact on public opinion.
116. **American Indian Movement (AIM) and the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee**: What motivated the takeover? What was its impact on relations between Native Americans and the government?

117. *Watts riot*: What were the causes? What were the effects on race relations in America?

118. **Iran Hostage situation (1979)**: What were the causes? Evaluate President Carter’s handling of the situation.

119. **Iran-Contra scandal**: Who was really responsible?

120. *Affirmative action in education or the workplace*: Is it still necessary? Why or why not? Be sure to focus the historical implications.

121. *African Americans in the military*: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination?

122. *Women in the military*: What significant contributions did they make? How have they overcome discrimination? Should women serve in combat positions?

123. *Women’s rights*: How have changes in women’s employment affected their role in society? Focus on one time period.

**Oklahoma City Bombing**: What motivated Timothy McVeigh to plan and carry out the attack?


125. **Hurricane Katrina (2005)**: What caused the flooding in New Orleans to be so severe? What was the impact of the government’s response? How has the city/region changed since then? What was the political impact?

126. **Key people in American history**: chose an individual (i.e.: a President, First Lady, leader of a movement, etc.) and discuss that person’s impact on the United States. Get help formulating your thesis so that you do not simply write a report.

- Check with your history teacher if you have an idea for a different topic. It must be approved by both history and English teachers!