

Teacher Guide

20th Century Turning Points in United States History

For Grades 7-College

Programs Produced by
Centre Communications, Inc. for
Ambrose Video Publishing, Inc.

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Published and Distributed by...

Ambrose Video Publishing
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New York, NY 10036

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<http://www.ambrosevideo.com>

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The DVD version is English Subtitled

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20TH CENTURY TURNING POINTS IN U.S. HISTORY

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20th Century Turning Points in U.S. History

Grades 7-College

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF SERIES

20th Century Turning Points in U.S. History is an eight-part series designed to provide a clear overview of the people and events that distinguished the 20th century at specific points in time that were significant pivotal points in history. Rare archival footage and photographs, authentic recordings, and other primary source documents bring history to life, while stunning graphics and engaging narration lend context and clarity to the subject. The series has been developed specifically for classroom use. It is organized around established standards and thoughtfully divided into chapters, with each volume functioning as either a full-length program or as focused support for specific study areas.

At the end of the 19th century, Thorstein Veblen in "The Theory of the Middle Class" coined the phrase that would describe America's impact on the 20th Century: "Conspicuous Consumption." Over the previous 300 years, this rough edged, raw-boned home to hungry millions had turned fledgling colonies into a powerful nation that was ready to step onto the world's stage as a major economic and political power. For the next 100 years, the United States would dominate the twentieth century--diplomatically, economically and militarily--like no other nation since the British Empire in the 19th century. This rise from ne'er-do-well backwater to leadership would come from the hope of immigrants, from the desires of a burgeoning middle class, and from the vision of progressive leaders.

But to become a world super power, the country had to go through birthing pains that had shattered many other countries over the centuries. In the 20th century, the young nation overcame racism, inequality and sexism. Along the way its rising tide lifted artisans, laborers and the poor, gave voice to the oppressed and made the wealthy wealthier. America was a country of dichotomies that somehow worked together to make a stronger whole.

By the beginning of the 20th century, America had established its borders and now its raw energy swept inward to create a society more powerful than any ever imagined. To the outside world it presented a coarse image of Rough Riders and nouveau riche. Within existed a swirling mass of humanity, fighting, growling, and clawing its way upward in a massive social Darwinist experiment. From this crucible would arise greatness and infamy, wealth and poverty, freedom and restraint, all paired like twins and defining the country in an openness that no other nation in the world has ever possessed.

LINKS TO CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The design for this series was guided by the National Center for History in the Schools, United States History curriculum Eras 7 – 10 Standards for grades 5-12, and the California Public School Standards for Historical Content, Grade 8 - Standard 8.12, and Grade 11, Standards 11.2-11.11.

MATERIALS IN THE PROGRAM

Teacher's Guide -This Teacher's Guide has been prepared to aid the teacher in utilizing materials contained within this program. In addition to this introductory material, the guide contains

the following:

- Suggested Instructional Notes
- Student Learning Goals
- Points for Teachers – Interesting points teachers may want to share or explore further
- Related Segments from other Turning Points include from this and other Turning Points Series (See Ambrose for information on 18th and 19th Century series of Turning Points in U.S. History)
- Internet Resources
- Test Questions on Blackline Masters A for duplication and handout to students.
- Timeline of Events on Blackline Masters B for duplication and handout to students.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

It is suggested that you preview the program and read the related Student Goals and Teacher Points. By doing so, you will become familiar with the materials and be better prepared to adapt the program to the needs of your class. You will probably find it best to follow the programs in the order in which they are presented in this Teacher's Guide, but this is not necessary. It is also suggested that the program presentation take place before the entire class and under your direction. As you review the instructional program outlined in the Teacher's Guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your students. After viewing the programs you may wish to copy the **Test Questions on Blackline Masters 1A, 2A, etc.** and distribute to your class to measure their comprehension of the events. **The Blackline Masters B are Timelines** of the segment and how it fits into the century. You may copy these to handout to students for notes and reference.