

Current Affairs

A Tale of Two Decades

Americans in general felt very optimistic about the country in the beginning of the twentieth century. There was great anticipation over emerging news of many wondrous inventions. The automobile was ready to replace horse carriages. The “flying machine” was about to take shape. The country seemed to be on the verge of a new era of peace, prosperity, and progress. Americans were striving to succeed. Many interesting events happened in this first decade. This timeline shows some of the most important things that happened in 1900’s.

1900	<i>George Eastman makes first portable camera that’s affordable and open to the public.</i>
1901	<i>The electric typewriter is invented. Teddy Roosevelt is elected President.</i>
1902	<i>The U.S. Navy installs the first radio telephone aboard ships.</i>
1903	<i>Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Co. Orville and Wilbur Wright take the first test flight in their plane at Kitty Hawk, NC. The first World Series is held, Boston vs. Pittsburgh.</i>
1904	<i>The first comic book is invented. George M. Cohan, the creator of many patriotic songs and musicals creates his first musical, Little Johnny Jones. The answering machine is invented.</i>
1905	<i>The first Yellow Pages is invented. The Jukebox is invented with 24 songs.</i>
1906	<i>2,500 people die from an earthquake in San Francisco. An animated cartoon is created. Teddy Roosevelt becomes the first president to leave the country.</i>
1907	<i>The Lamiere brothers create still color photography. Pablo Picasso unveils his cubism art, Les Femmes d’Alger (O.J. No. 119).</i>
1908	<i>Henry Ford makes his first Model T for \$850.</i>
1909	<i>A radio S.O.S. saves 1,700 lives after ships collide. First subject on radio talk is about woman’s suffrage. William Taft is elected President.</i>

horizon with the 9/11 terrorist attacks and loss of American jobs from globalization. Americans experienced the biggest collapse of the financial and industrial empires coupled with the diminishing of the American hegemony around the globe. However, Americans also elected their first African-American president in Barack Obama. The timeline below shows some of the most important things that happened in 1900’s.

2000	<i>George W. Bush is elected to his first term as the President in a bitter vote count controversy against Al Gore. NASDAQ peaks at 5134, before beginning a downward descent as the dot-com bubble collapses.</i>
2001	<i>Terrorists attack and demolish the twin towers of the World Trade Center along with other simultaneous attacks on September 11.</i>
2002	<i>The Euro replaces the currencies of 12 of the EU’s 15 members, posing a threat to the American Dollar’s supremacy.</i>
2003	<i>U.S. forces seize control of Baghdad ending the regime of Saddam Hussein during the most controversial and divisive Iraq War.</i>
2004	<i>Spirit Rover lands on Mars. The first of the two Mars exploration rovers, Spirit & Opportunity, seen as the two biggest and two most popular spacecrafts of the decade.</i>
2005	<i>Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans; exposes the decaying infrastructure and its neglect. 1,836 are killed.</i>
2006	<i>Pluto, the only planet discovered by an American was demoted to a dwarf planet.</i>
2007	<i>The US Housing bubble bursts when year on year home prices drop by up to 2 - 15% in areas of the country causing increasing numbers of foreclosures.</i>
2008	<i>A series of bank and insurance company failures triggered a financial crisis that effectively halted global credit markets and required unprecedented government intervention. Barack Obama elected the President of the United States of America. Toyota surpasses General Motors as the world’s largest automobile manufacturer.</i>
2009	<i>China beats the U.S. as the largest automobile producer.</i>

The first decade of the twenty-first century started with the fears of Y2K. However, Y2K behind us, new threats to American physical and economic security appeared on the