America was invented, unlike China or Russia, which had centuries of existence. America was greatly influenced by its geography, timing and character. – George Friedman, 2020

"The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no other democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one." Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1840), part 2, p. 36:

Welcome “Zoomers”

- Thanks for logging in
- I appreciate this opportunity provided by the Senior Learners. For those of you not members, I encourage you to explore joining and taking other courses.
- I appreciate the assistance of Dan Buerke, a volunteer at Senior Learners who is co-hosting this session and can assist with any technical difficulties during the session and Phil Davis, also a volunteer who has provided the leadership and training for implementing and training in Zoom
- Hope you enjoy these 4 lectures on America and gain a better understanding of the underlying forces that molded its past, polarize it’s present and will shape its future.
- If you did not receive the email notes, email me and I will send to you. These presentations can also be viewed and downloaded from my website coffeynotes.com. The handouts are in the PowerPoint notes format, which show both what appears on the screen and other background hidden below.
- I have drawn upon the several references footnoted, but my inspiration was the writings and book by George Friedman – *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
- Most of you have been enrolled in one of my previous classes, but for you newcomers, I’ve put a brief bio below.
- Joe Coffey holds a PhD in Economics, has taught at the University of California Berkeley, Virginia Tech, NC State, and Purdue, and held executive positions related to agriculture in industry and government. For over a decade, he has made presentations for the Senior Learning Institute, Citrus Hills and 6 cruise lines.
Understanding America

- **American Exceptionalism** – From colony to most powerful and prosperous country in 250 years
- But today undergoing discord and relative decline and alarming Covid-19 pandemic
- Central questions
  1. How was America able to make the spectacular rise?
  2. Why all the present discord and relative decline?
- Lecture Topics
  I. Apr 22: American Exceptionalism
  II. April 29: Economic and Political Cycles in America
  III. May 6: Understanding discord and relative decline
  IV. May 13: Pandemic prognosis and prospects

Understanding America: exceptional character, underlying driving forces, and prospects amidst Covid-19 Pandemic

- Over the past 250 years, the U.S. has risen from a small colony to the most powerful and prosperous country in the world – credited to “American Exceptionalism”. But today, we are undergoing discord and relative decline – now exacerbated by the alarming Covid-19 pandemic. This raises two puzzling questions: How was America able to make such a spectacular rise? And, if in fact America is exceptional, why all the present discord and relative decline? These lectures will review the history of America’s cycles of success and failure and conclude by surveying assessments of potential geopolitical impacts of Covid-19 on America’s prospects.
  I. Apr 22: American Exceptionalism
  II. April 29: Economic and Political Cycles in America
  III. May 6: Understanding America’s discord and relative decline
  IV. May 13: Pandemic prognosis and American prospects
What is American exceptionalism?

- Varying ideas of American exceptionalism
  - Inherently different - "first new nation" based on liberty, equality, individual responsibility, republicanism, democracy and market economics
  - Mission to transform world: Lincoln - duty to ensure "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."
  - History and mission give it a superiority over other nations

- Historical expressions of exceptionalism
  - Lacked any feudal traditions
  - Puritan John Winthrop - America was "City upon a Hill"
  - Jefferson - a radical break world's great "Empire of Liberty"

• Ideas of American exceptionalism
  - American history is inherently different - "the first new nation" and uniquely American ideology, "Americanism", based on liberty, equality before the law, individual responsibility, republicanism, representative democracy and laissez-faire economics.
  - U.S. has a unique mission to transform the world - As Lincoln said at Gettysburg - a duty to ensure, "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."
  - America’s history and mission give it a superiority over other nations.

• Historical expressions of exceptionalism
  - In 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville, "The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one."
  - Colonial America lacked any feudal traditions, such as established churches, landed estates and a hereditary nobility.
  - Political conflicts in American history remained within the tight boundaries of a liberal consensus
  - Puritan leader John Winthrop: America was "City upon a Hill"— model for rest of world
  - Thomas Paine's Common Sense - America was not just an extension of Europe but a new land, a country of nearly unlimited potential and opportunity that had outgrown the British mother country.
  - Jefferson sought a radical break from the traditional European emphasis on "reason of state" (which could justify any action) and envisaged America becoming the world's great "Empire of Liberty"—that is, the model for democracy and republicanism
  - American exceptionalism plank of Republican Platform since 2012.

Source: American exceptionalism, From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Is America Exceptional?

- Yes! And increasingly exceptional over time
- Patriotism, individualism, religiosity and enterprise
- Faith in power of individuals to shape their destinies through exercise of freedom
- Belief in success determined by own efforts - ethos of individualism
- Cherish “negative” liberty - freedom from government restraint
- Rather than “positive” liberty - government provides resources

Source: Peter H. Schuck and James Q. Wilson, p628, in Peter Schuck and (Editor), Understanding America: The Anatomy of an Exceptional Nation, Public Affairs, 2009
Friedman’s Thesis: It’s underlying forces not politicians

- Impersonal forces – geography, politics, economics, etc. – govern world leaders not the other way around
- Should focus on underlying structural changes in government’s relationship to society and productivity growth
- The way U.S. was invented gave it a rare ability to shift rapidly and transform itself to a dominant world force
- Our polarized times are tremors of the crisis of 2020s

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Understanding America: 10 main points

1. Unprecedented rise from colony to superpower
2. Luck of timing (beginning of Industrial Revolution) and British being diverted by French during Revolution
3. America - invented nation where none existed and uniquely propelled by capitalism and governed by democracy
4. Advance punctuated by major cycles
5. On balance, but made unforgiveable mistakes - Slavery and genocide of Indians

Understanding America: 10 main points

1. America has made an unprecedented rise from an isolated colony huddled near shores of Atlantic to global superpower
2. Due to luck of timing (beginning of Industrial Revolution), vast resources, and British being diverted by French during Revolution
3. But America is an invented and innovative nation – invented nation where none existed and invented form uniquely propelled by capitalism and governed by democracy
4. Spectacular long-term advance has been punctuated by major socioeconomic and institutional cycles
5. While, on balance, America has been exceptional, has also made some unforgiveable mistakes such as slavery of Blacks and genocide of Indians
Understanding America: 10 Main points

6. Polarization is not new:
   - Jefferson’s (rural and small gov’t) vs. Hamilton’s (urban and stronger central gov’t)
   - Civil War of North vs. South

7. Current division:
   - Middle-America (blue collar manufacturing)
   - Coastal America (education & technology)

8. Although challenges—history suggests this too will pass and have innovations driving a cyclical upswing

9. Innovations: reorienting government and primary elections, cutting college costs, adjusting to aging...

10. America still is #1, but must keep innovating

Understanding America: 10 main points

6. Today’s polarization is not new, we were polarized by Jeffersonian (rural and small government) vs Hamiltonian (urban and stronger central government), and most tragic Civil War of North vs. South

7. Current division of Middle-America (blue collar manufacturing) vs Coastal America (Intellectual and higher income) is driven by technology

8. Although, today plagued by Covid-19, partisan division, sudden economic decline, deglobalization, China’s assertiveness ..., American history suggests that this time too will pass, and have recovery and cyclical upswing to a higher level and overcome the headwinds we’re now facing

9. Innovations that may bring about this upswing include reorienting federal government, changing primary election system, reducing college costs, and adjusting to aging population

10. America still is #1 in world in military strength, power and influence, and economic size, but as in past, must keep innovating to maintain its pivotal position
American government was invented

- Created where none had existed
- Novel - sprung from minds of founders, had no past
- Designed to restrain government – a balance of power
- Each American ought to be free to succeed or fail in what they wish
- Countries such as France and Japan deeply are tied to their past whereas America is rooted in an invention

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Founders envisioned U.S. as a new era of greatness

- Revolution not against England alone, also against Europe viewed as oppressive and unequal
- Changed Locke’s “right to life, liberty, and property” to “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”
- Liberty - precondition to pursuit of one’s own happiness
- Happiness - emotional engine powering U.S.
- Only U.S. makes pursuit of happiness a fundamental right

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
The Story of Ordinary Americans - Modernization

- Expansion enabled Americans who began as a “people of plenty” to become even more so
- Became more “American”: insistently independent but still sociable, striving, & sentimental
- Modernization story: material conditions, social arrangements, and cultural ideas changed radically to a “modern” society—large, complex, and impersonal
- “Voluntaristic culture” - encourages self-improvement and equality to join or leave a group without coercion

Source: Claude S. Fischer, Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character, 2010
Capitalized on favorable geography

- Favorable geography:
  - Vast plain between Rockies and Appalachians
  - Rivers flow from mountains through plains to New Orleans
  - Rich in farmland
- Expanded, settled and capitalized on geography
- Creating explosive development

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020

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**Vast farmland and navigable rivers**

- Americans have been ambitious in expanding, settling and capitalizing on American geography
- This allowed for explosive development
- Most striking features of America:
  - Vast plain between Rockies and Appalachians
  - Rivers flow from mountains through plains to New Orleans
  - Rich in farmland
- In contrast, Spanish came to Americas to steal not to settle; focused on South America’s gold and silver

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Two ethics on (1,000 by 1,000 miles) million sq. mi. Great Plains

- East had ample rainfall; West needed irrigation
- East forests needed clearing; West mostly rangeland
- East family farming; West ranching & grazing
- Because of geography, West supported fewer people than East
- Two different ethics emerged:
  - In East communities; in West more solitary
  - Politically, East needed collaboration but less necessary in West

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Geopolitical differences of **North** & **South** laid foundation for Civil War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>North</strong></th>
<th><strong>South</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rocky hilly soil</td>
<td>Large plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold – short seasons</td>
<td>Warm – long seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family farming, craftsman, bankers ...</td>
<td>Plantations needing cheap labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic industrial</td>
<td>Cotton &amp; tobacco exports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposed British imports</td>
<td>Traded with Great Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller colonies – more interchange</td>
<td>Larger, sparser, limited interchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free, Unionists, industrial</td>
<td>Slave, Confederate, agrarian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Geographical differences of North & South laid foundation for Civil War**

- **North**: rocky soil, hilly, long winters, suited for family farms, craftsmen, merchants and bankers, more densely populated, smaller colonies and more interchange
- **South**: large plantations needed cheap labor, sold cotton and tobacco primarily to England not to North, larger and sparsely populated, limited interchange
- These distinctions defined much American history: slave and free, Confederate and Unionists, industrial and agrarian

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Jefferson - Mississippi River engine of expansion and Louisiana crucial to becoming powerful

Took advantage of Napoleon’s need for cash and made Louisiana Purchase for $15 mil. – doubled America’s size

Louisiana Purchase - Western settlers would challenge power of Eastern bankers and plantation owners

Source: George Friedman, The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond, Doubleday, 2020

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**Louisiana Purchase: Crucial to U.S. becoming a world power**

- Jefferson foresaw Mississippi River as engine of expansion and Louisiana as crucial to becoming world’s most powerful nation
- Took advantage of Napoleon’s need for cash and made Louisiana Purchase for $15 mil. – doubled America’s size
- Louisiana Purchase also created what Western settlers would use to challenge power of Eastern bankers and plantation owners

Source: George Friedman, The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond, Doubleday, 2020
Defeating Mexico and securing the West

- Santa Anna defeated Texans at Alamo in 1836 but Sam Houston defeated Mexicans at San Jacinto, TX
- Texas became a state in 1845 and New Orleans safe
- Defeat of Mexico integrated Southwest to Pacific and completed America
- Americans had a novel approach to colonization:
  - Spanish conquerors did not search for farmland, they searched for gold and silver
  - French focused on furs the trappers brought in
  - British were content with cotton and tobacco imports

Source: George Friedman, The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond, Doubleday, 2020
Territorial evolution of U.S.

- 1st on July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence of 13 British colonies
- Recognized by Great Britain in Treaty of Paris of 1783, ending Revolutionary War
- Doubled the size of the colonies to stretch west past Proclamation Line to Mississippi River
- Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the territory
- Disputed southeastern border with Spanish Florida acquired in 1821
- Oregon Country gave access to Pacific, though shared initially with UK
- Annexation of Republic of Texas in 1845 led to Mexican–American War
- After victory, US obtained northern half of Mexico's territory, including California.
- Expansion beyond North America began in 1856 with Guano Islands in Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea
- Pacific expansion - overthrow Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893 and annexation in 1898.
- Alaska, last major acquisition in North America purchased from Russia in 1867
- In 1898 Spanish–American War, US gained Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, and occupied Cuba for several years.
- Last major international change was acquisition in 1904, and return to Panama in 1979, the Panama Canal Zone

American Frontier shaped and defined American civilization

- American frontier - westward expansion until 1900
- Frederick Jackson Turner’s (1861–1932) “Frontier Thesis”
  - “Perennial rebirth, fluidity of American life, expansion westward furnished the forces dominating American character”
  - Transformed Europeans into a new people, the Americans, whose values focused on equality, democracy, and optimism, as well as individualism, self-reliance, and even violence

American Frontier shaped and defined American civilization

- American frontier - forward wave of westward expansion until about 1900
- Frederick Jackson Turner’s (1861–1932) “Frontier Thesis”
  - Defining process of American civilization and formation of a composite nationality
  - This perennial rebirth, fluidity of American life, this expansion westward...furnish[es] the forces dominating American character”
  - It’s a story of the creation and defense of communities, use of the land, development of markets, and formation of states
  - It’s a tale of conquest, but also of survival, persistence, and merging of peoples and cultures that gave birth and continuing life to America
  - Availability of free land attracted pioneering Americans
  - Transformed Europeans into a new people, the Americans, whose values focused on equality, democracy, and optimism, as well as individualism, self-reliance, and even violence

Source: Frederick Jackson Turner, From Wikipedia
Waves of immigrants from many countries, scattered, made America’s technicolor map

Waves of immigrants came from many countries and settled in different regions – hence technicolor map

Largest ancestry groups in US, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Ancestry</th>
<th>Population (mil.)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>African American</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>American</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scottish</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Scotch-Irish</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Russian</td>
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<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>West Indian (non-</td>
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<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiple, diverse and contradictory cultures (cowboy, inventor & warrior)

- **Cowboy**: Struggle between cultures:
  - Gary Cooper (courage) and Grace Kelly (Christian gentleness)
- **Inventor**: Thomas Edison created a business to turn electricity into wealth
- **Warrior**: A warrior culture - sacrifice and duty
  - U.S. born in Revolution: 1% died - 2nd highest of war
  - Now 25 million in Armed Forces or veterans and include their families – total 100 million -1/3 of U.S.
  - U.S. in war 40-90%, 100% in 21st century!

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020

**Multiple, diverse and contradictory cultures (cowboy, inventor, and warrior)**

- **Cowboy**: *High Noon* is about struggle between two strands of American character- Gary Cooper (courage) and Grace Kelly (Christian gentleness)
- **Inventor**: Thomas Edison created a business to turn those applications of electricity into wealth
- **Warrior**: America is a warrior culture - sacrifice and duty.
  - U.S. born in Revolution: 1% died- highest of any other war.
  - Now 25 million in Armed Forces or veterans and include their families – total 100 million -1/3 of U.S.
  - U.S. has been in war much of the time, 100% in 21st century!

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Contradictions drive rapidly evolving cycles

- Scientist, cowboy and warrior plus businessman are part of a single culture that has contradiction but also reconciliation
- Contradictions within Americans drive rapidly evolving cycles of history of rise and fall
- Diversity and contradictions greater than among Europeans and Asians millennia of history and culture
- America must be invented repeatedly
- Government invented, use of continent invented, and nation invented

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Regional cultural differences and create tensions

- North vs. South – different economies and principles
- Immigrants in West - hostile to Eastern English who looked down upon them
- Sensibilities were deep and caused disunity
- Today’s coasts driven by technology + finance have a common self-worth and contempt for those who differ
- Industrial Midwest, once booming heartland, has a sense of rage at their de-industrialization

Source: George Friedman, *The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*, Doubleday, 2020
Exceptional, but monstrous slavery & savagery

- U.S. not only had 4 mil. Slaves, but defined Africans subhuman - 3/5 of a white
- Indians savaged, tricked, discriminated, herded
  - Killed by European diseases, tribal warfare, settlers
  - Not granted citizenship until 1924
  - Today, 5 mil. Native Americans, 78% not in reservations

America was exceptional, but enslaved Africans and savaged the Indians

- Monstrous that U.S. not only carried out the practice of slavery but defined Africans as subhuman-3/5 of a white
- Declaration of Independence was meant to be a beacon to the world, but slavery dimmed that beacon
- Deaths of Indians was complex- perhaps 90% of some died of diseases brought to the Americas by the Europeans
- The Indians were savaged in three ways:
  - By diseases introduced by the Europeans
  - By the Comanche Empire which also terrorized European settlers
  - And by the Europeans who took advantage of the D is stabilization of the Plains Indians in order to herd them into reservations
- Indians often made alliances with Europeans and then the Americans
- Americans took advantage of all this killing more Indians, conquering their lands, and then signing treaties with them but violated almost all of them
- Americans guilty of confronting the Indian nations and then systematically betraying them into total dispossession

Source: George Friedman, The Storm Before the Calm: America’s Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond, Doubleday, 2020
The Invention and Character of America

Summary & Conclusions

- *Exceptional* rise from colony to superpower
- Lucky timing (beginning of Industrial Revolution) and British being diverted by French during Revolution
- Favorable geography, but most importantly, to inventing an innovative nation
- While, on balance, *exceptional*, made unforgiveable mistakes - slavery and genocide
- *Exceptional* long-term advance has been punctuated by major socioeconomic and institutional cycles

April 29: Economic and Political Cycles in America

The Invention and Character of America

Summary & Conclusions

- America has made an exceptional rise from an isolated colony to global superpower
- Due to luck of timing (beginning of Industrial Revolution), vast resources, and British being diverted by French during the Revolution
- But most importantly, to inventing an innovative nation
- Exceptional long-term advance has been punctuated by major socioeconomic and institutional cycles
- While, on balance, America has been exceptional, has unforgiveable mistakes - slavery and genocide
### I. Timeline of American History (1775-1865)

- **1775-83** - Revolutionary War (25,000 military killed, 1.0% of population)
- **1783-1828** - 1st Socio-Econ. Cycle, Washington Cycle (Westward expansion)
- **1787-1865** - 1st Institutional Cycle (Established federal gov’t)
- **1793** - Cotton gin invented
- **1803** - France sells Louisiana territories to U.S. for $15 mil.
- **1804** - Lewis and Clark expedition to find a route to Pacific Ocean
- **1812** - War of 1812, U.S. defeated in threat to annex British Canada to stop Indian raids
- **1817** - NY Stock Exchange founded
- **1819** - U.S. acquired Florida from Spain and Panic of 1819
- **1823** – Monroe Doctrine proclaimed
- **1828-76** - 2nd Socio-Econ Cycle - Jackson Cycle, West expansion completed
- **1831** – Cyrus McCormick invents the mechanical reaper
- **1836** - Morse code
- **1837** - Steel plow by John Deere
- **1848** - Mexican War ended; U.S. purchased vast territory in West
- **1849** – California Gold Rush begins
- **1861-65** - American Civil War (750,000 military killed, 2.4% of population)
- **1865** - Civil War ends; Lincoln assassinated; prohibition of slavery

Periodization is one of the historian’s major tool. Note 4 I have included, I have highlighted Friedman’s 2 types of cycles in green and red. On left is one Wikipedia uses and on right a brief one I created to reflect geopolitical periods.
II. Timeline of American History (1865 -1945)

- **1865-1945 - 2nd Institutional Cycle (Federal gov't sovereignty)**
- 1867 - U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia
- 1869 - First Transcontinental Railroad completed
- 1870 - Rockefeller founds Standard Oil Co.
- 1873-79 - U.S. longest depression (34% decline) and bust of post-Civil War bubble
- **1876-1929 - 3rd Socio-Econ(Hayes) Cycle - U.S. largest industrial power**
- 1877-1895 - Gilded Age era of rapid economic growth
- 1877 - Bell Telephone Co. founded
- 1879 – Thomas Edison invented electric light bulb
- 1892 – General Electric founded
- 1903 - U.S. acquired Panama Canal Zone; Wright brothers first flight
- 1908 – Ford Model T appears on market & GM founded
- 1911 - IBM founded
- 1913 – Federal Reserve Bank Act and Income Tax 16th Amendment enacted
- 1917-18 - World War I (116,516 military killed, 0.1% U.S. population)
- 1918-1920 - Spanish Flu, 105 mil. Infected & 675,000 deaths
- 1924 - U.S. immigration quotas enacted
- **1932-80 - 4th Socio-Econ (Roosevelt) Cycle - New Deal, WW II and boom**
- 1935 – Social Security Act – policy change, no income requirements
- 1941-45 – Great Depression ends, WW II (405,399 military deaths, 0.3% U.S. population)

These Depressions were major times of economic decline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Length, depth and causes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1807-10</td>
<td>1807-10 Depression - US embargo and UK and trade restrictions, commodity and securities prices fell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836-38</td>
<td>1836-38 Depression (33% decline) - Bank failures, lack of confidence in currency, tightening of credit, crop failures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839-43</td>
<td>1839-43 Depression (34% decline) - Long and deep depression, deflation and defaults on debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865-67</td>
<td>1865-67 Depression (34% decline) - After Civil War deflation during Reconstruction and international instability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873-79</td>
<td>1873-79 Depression (34% decline) - Longest contraction arising from economic problems in Europe prompting failure of largest bank in US which burst the post-Civil War speculative bubble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882-85</td>
<td>1882-85 Depression (33% decline) - Boom in railroad construction ended hurting iron and steel industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902-04</td>
<td>1902-04 Depression (16% decline) - Came about a year after a 1901 stock crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-12</td>
<td>1910-12 Depression (15% decline) - Mild but lengthy recession and deflation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>1913-14 Depression (26% decline) - Decline not ended until start of WW I, Federal Reserve Act signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-41</td>
<td>1929-41 Great Depression (27% decline) - Banking panic, high unemployment, stock market crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-07</td>
<td>2007-07 Great Recession (Only 5% decline-Not depression) - Mortgage crisis, bust of housing bubble, banks and autos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2020-?? - Now unknown extent of decline sparked by Coronavirus global 2020 pandemic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: List of recessions in the United States, Wikipedia.
Civil War deaths greater than sum of all others. Revolutionary war had 2nd highest percent of deaths relative to total population of 1%.

### Wars ranked by total number of U.S. military deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>War</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Deaths as percentage of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>American Civil War</td>
<td>1861–65</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>2.385% (1860)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>1941–45</td>
<td>405,399</td>
<td>0.307% (1940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>World War I</td>
<td>1917–18</td>
<td>116,516</td>
<td>0.110% (1920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vietnam War</td>
<td>1961–75</td>
<td>58,209</td>
<td>0.032% (1970)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
<td>1950–53</td>
<td>54,246</td>
<td>0.036% (1950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>American Revolutionary War</td>
<td>1775–83</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>1.00% (1780)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>War of 1812</td>
<td>1812–15</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0.207% (1810)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mexican–American War</td>
<td>1846–48</td>
<td>13,283</td>
<td>0.057% (1850)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Philippine–American War</td>
<td>1899–1902</td>
<td>4,196</td>
<td>0.006% (1900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Spanish–American War</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>0.004% (1890)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>War in Afghanistan</td>
<td>2001–present</td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>0.001% (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?50th</td>
<td>Cold War</td>
<td>1947-91</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.000% (1991)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: United States military casualties of war from Wikipedia
Later we will discuss the fact that American was always a rich nation. I’m surprised by some of those that ranked highest, except for UK.
How to Use Zoom for Online Meetings

Ben Stegner

March 26, 2020

If you work from home, you’ve probably heard of Zoom, a meeting tool that has recently exploded in popularity. But you might not be familiar with what Zoom does or how to use it.

What Is a Zoom Meeting?

A Zoom meeting is a virtual gathering of people. Each person joins in using their desktop, laptop, or mobile device. Thanks to (often built-in) webcams and microphones, everyone can chat and have a meeting without being physically together.

How to Join a Zoom Meeting

If someone has invited you to a meeting in Zoom, getting in is simple. They may have sent you an email with a unique meeting URL. If that’s the case, you can click that link to jump right to the meeting page without worrying about a meeting ID.

If not, don’t worry. Just head to the Zoom Join a Meeting page, which you can access by clicking Join a Meeting at the top-right of Zoom’s homepage. Here, you’ll need to input a meeting number. The meeting organizer should have sent you this via email or other means. Input the number and choose Join.

Assuming this is the first time you’ve joined a Zoom meeting, you’ll see a prompt to install the Zoom app, which you should do for best performance. In case it doesn’t load correctly, click Download & Run Zoom here.

Once it installs, choose a display name for your meeting and hit Join Meeting to jump in.

Using Tools and Options in a Zoom Meeting

Now, you’ll need to make sure your audio and video settings are working properly. In the Join Audio box, you can choose Test Speaker and Microphone to make sure everything is set. Then, click Join with Computer Audio to enter the room. Check the box at the bottom to skip this setup in the future.