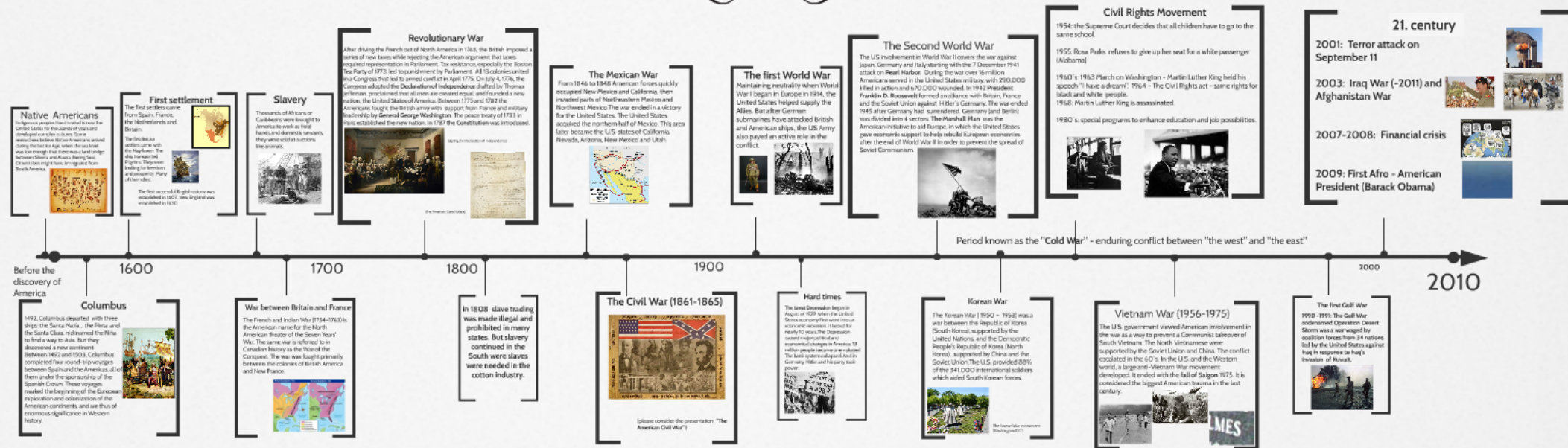
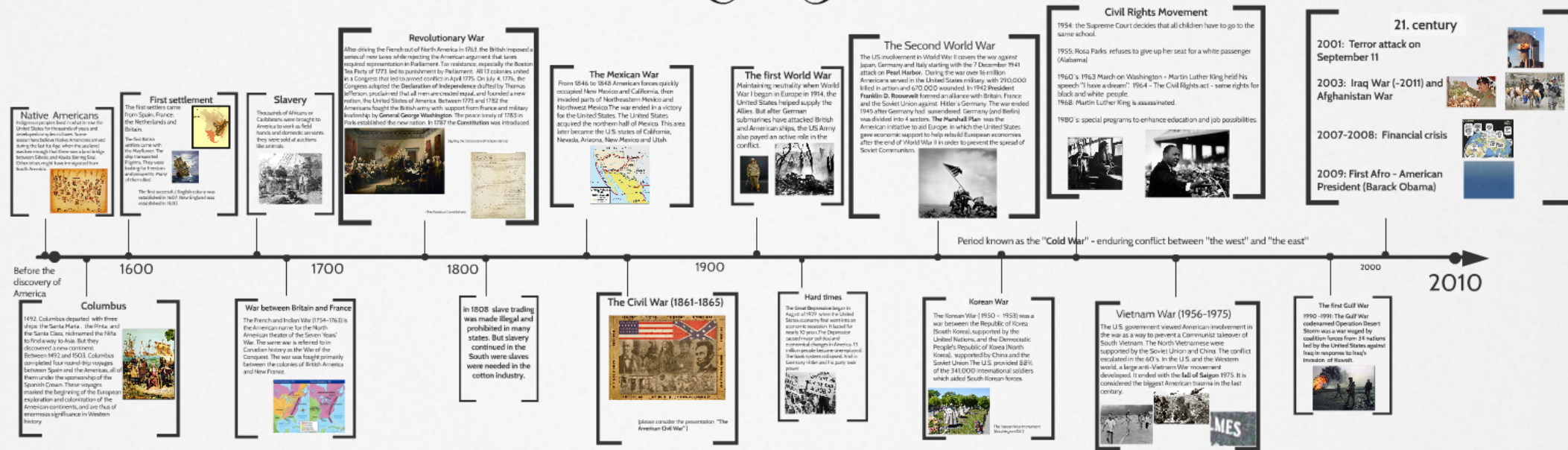


American History



American History



Native Americans

Indigenous peoples lived in what is now the United States for thousands of years and developed complex cultures. Some researchers believe Native Americans arrived during the last Ice Age, when the sea level was low enough that there was a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska (Bering Sea). Other tribes might have immigrated from South America.



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Columbus

1492, Columbus departed with three ships: the *Santa María*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Clara*, nicknamed the *Niña* to find a way to Asia. But they discovered a new continent.

Between 1492 and 1503, Columbus completed four round-trip voyages between Spain and the Americas, all of them under the sponsorship of the Spanish Crown. These voyages marked the beginning of the European exploration and colonization of the American continents, and are thus of enormous significance in Western history.



First settlement

The first settlers came from Spain, France, the Netherlands and Britain.

The first British settlers came with the Mayflower. The ship transported Pilgrims. They were looking for freedom and prosperity. Many of them died.



The first successful English colony was established in 1607. New England was established in 1630.

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Revolutionary War

After driving the French out of North America in 1763, the British imposed a series of new taxes while rejecting the American argument that taxes required representation in Parliament. Tax resistance, especially the Boston Tea Party of 1773, led to punishment by Parliament. All 13 colonies united in a Congress that led to armed conflict in April 1775. On July 4, 1776, the Congress adopted the **Declaration of Independence** drafted by Thomas Jefferson, proclaimed that all men are created equal, and founded a new nation, the United States of America. Between 1775 and 1782 the Americans fought the British army with support from France and military leadership by **General George Washington**. The peace treaty of 1783 in Paris established the new nation. In 1787 the **Constitution** was introduced.



(signing the Declaration of Independence)



(The American Constitution)

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in 1808 slave trading was made illegal and prohibited in many states. But slavery continued in the South where slaves were needed in the cotton industry.