

(index.asp)

[BACK](#) [\(60d.asp\)](#) [HOME](#) [\(/\)](#) [NEXT](#)

ON THE WEB

The Exxon *Valdez* spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound. At the time, it was the largest spill in U.S. history. Learn More...
(https://www.epa.gov/history/epa-history-exxon-valdez-oil-spill)

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People of the Century
(http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,0171,993017,00.html)
Pop quiz! Franklin D. Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, or Mohandas Ghandi — who was *Time* magazines "Person of the (20th) Century?"

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In one year, firearms killed no children in Japan, 19 in Great Britain, 57 in Germany, 109 in France, 153 in Canada, and 5,285 in the United States. Learn More...
(https://www.usmayors.org/2019/08/14/mayors-250-mayors-demand-action-on-gun-violence/)

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The European Union
(https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/guide-for-americans_euintheus.pdf)
The second half of the 20th century saw the formation of a powerful economic and political alliance in Europe — the European Union. Get the scoop on this important organization at this excellent guide featuring pages on the history of the EU, its workings, and more. And when you're all done, take the Euro

e. The End of the American Century



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60e. The End of the American Century

In 1900, the United States was an emerging giant. In the midst of its second industrial revolution, America had just begun to acquire an overseas empire and international influence.

During the first half of the 20th century, the United States proved to be the decisive combatant in two major world wars, earning the right to determine a post war outcome. The Cold War that plagued the world in the last half of the 20th century proved in the end to be an American victory as well.

American scientists had developed nuclear technology, the computer, put human beings on the moon, and were at the vanguard of **IMMUNIZATION** techniques.

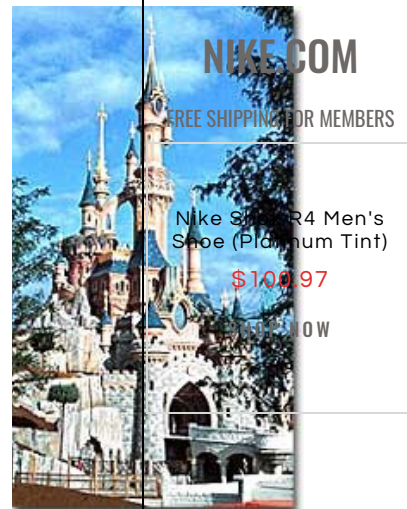
America's postwar economy was the envy of the globe. A consumer-driven middle class built the highest standard of living in the world. American popular culture was everywhere. Levi's jeans, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and Hollywood movies were enjoyed around the world.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the United States was the only remaining military superpower, and the world looked to Washington for leadership at combating aggression in the Persian Gulf, ending ethnic cleansing in places such as Kosovo, and halting nuclear proliferation.

The **NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)** ended economic barriers with Canada and Mexico and promised even more prosperity.



(https://www.ushistory.org/s)



Disneyland Paris was the object of intense resistance by French citizens who feared U.S. cultural influence would undermine French traditions. Despite these concerns, the park still manages to draw over 10 million visitors each year.

quiz — are you a Euro
whiz?? This is a pdf
file.

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The Time 100 most Influential People of the 20th Century

(<http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article?iid=0297572086720017101&cid=0297572086720017101>)
The 20th century is over, but it has left behind a legacy of faces, actions, and quotes. *Time* offers this list of the most influential people of the 20th century. Some are heroes, others villains, but all of them had an impact.

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Why then did so many Americans feel uneasiness and as the 21st century approached? Economic challenges created by the prosperous Pacific Rim and a stronger Union. Despite prosperity, real incomes stagnated for half of American wage earners. Although legal barriers were largely eliminated for American minority groups, equality was but a dream. Women made advances to but still earned less than 75 cents for every dollar earned by American males. Many Americans felt they were working longer hours for less.



The European Union, whose flag is seen above, is an organization of 15 European countries working together to manage political and economic cooperation. From 1999 to 2002, member nations will be adopting the "Euro" as the new, single currency of Europe.

Pessimists depicted America as a civilization in decline. The rise of the divorce rate led to many children being raised in broken homes. Gun violence was a major problem.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS became commonplace. When two students entered **COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL** in Littleton, Colorado in April 1999 with weapons, they murdered thirteen people before taking their own lives. Critics pointed to a media that glorified and promoted violence, permissive gun laws, failing schools, and neglectful parenting.

Environmentalists observed the ominous dwindling of rainforests and global warming trends. Disasters such as the **EXXON VALDEZ** oil spill of 1989 and rising gasoline prices in 2000 illustrated America's embarrassing dependency on fossil fuels and the ecological and economic havoc that resulted.

Will the 21st century also be an American century? Or will the United States be eclipsed by new superpowers like China or the **EUROPEAN UNION**? Only time will reveal the answers.

In the meanwhile, the United States will rely on its history of increasing democracy and respect for human rights, its dynamic diversity, and the innovative character of its people to seek new solutions to whatever problems may arise.

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[BACK](#)

([60d.asp](#))

[HOME](#)

([./](#))

[NEXT](#)

([index.asp](#))

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