

ROCKWELL'S TIMELINE OF AMERICAN LIFE

1915—1919

- 1917 U.S. Congress curtails Asian immigration
- 1917 African Americans migrate to the urban North and West from the rural South
- 1917 Russian revolution begins
- 1914–1918 World War I
- 1919 Grand Canyon becomes U.S. National Park

1920—1924

- 1920 Negro National League in baseball forms
- 1920 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants women right to vote
- 1921 U.S. Supreme Court allows unionizing activities
- 1921 Mao Tse-tung helps form Chinese Communist Party
- 1921 Ku Klux Klan increases violent activities in the South; active in North as well
- 1922 U.S.S.R. forms
- 1922 Tutankhamen's tomb discovered in Egypt
- 1922 Insulin first used to treat diabetes
- 1924 Native Americans granted U.S. citizenship
- 1924 *Ziegfeld Follies* opens on Broadway
- 1924 National Origins Act sets quotas on immigration favoring western Europe

1925—1929

- 1925 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters union for African American railway porters founded
- 1925 Chrysler Corporation founded
- 1925 Hitler publishes *Mein Kampf*
- 1925 F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby*
- 1926 Hirohito crowned emperor of Japan
- 1926 Henry Ford announces 40-hour work week
- 1927 Great Mississippi flood affects 700,000 people
- 1928 First Mickey Mouse films shown
- 1928 Amelia Earhart first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic
- 1928 Penicillin discovered
- 1929 Stock Market crashes
- 1929-1939 Great Depression
- 1929 Vatican City becomes a sovereign state within Rome
- 1929 Ambassador Bridge connects Detroit and Canada

1930—1934

- 1933 First radio broadcast of *The Lone Ranger* from Detroit
- 1930 Mahatma Gandhi organizes first act of civil disobedience against British in India
- 1930 Hostess Twinkie invented
- 1930 First NFL game played and won by Detroit Lions
- 1930 Nation of Islam forms in Detroit
- 1931 Construction completed on Empire State Building, New York; tallest in world
- 1931 Yellow River Flood kills one to two million Chinese
- 1932 13.7 million Americans unemployed; more than 5,000 banks close
- 1932 Unemployed march on Dearborn Ford factory; 4 killed
- 1933 Adolf Hitler named German chancellor
- 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt initiates New Deal to stabilize banks and provide jobs

1935—1939

- 1935 Game of *Monopoly* invented
- 1936 *Green Hornet* radio show first heard in Detroit
- 1937 44-day strike at GM in Flint ends, leading to unionization of auto factories
- 1937 Japanese attack Shanghai; China declares war
- 1938 U.S. bans child labor in factories
- 1938 Boxer Joe Louis defeats German Max Schmeling
- 1939 *Superman* comic debuts
- 1939 Hitler calls for extermination of European Jews
- 1939 Spanish Civil War ends; Franco assumes power
- 1939 John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* published
- 1939 Film *Wizard of Oz* premieres; *Gone with the Wind* wins 8 Academy Awards

1940—1944

- 1939-1945 World War II, 70 million dead worldwide
- 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; U.S. enters WWII
- 1941 FDR gives "Four Freedoms" speech
- 1942 U.S. automakers convert plants to build war materials, Detroit becomes the "Arsenal of Democracy;" workers crowd the city
- 1942 U.S. Manhattan Project develops atomic bomb
- 1942 Disney releases animated film *Bambi*
- 1942 U.S. federal judge allows detention of Japanese Americans
- 1943 Race riots sparked on Belle Isle in Detroit
- 1943 *Casablanca* wins best film at the 16th Academy Awards
- 1944 D-Day: 150,000 Allied troops land in Normandy, France
- 1944 Anne Frank's last diary entry; 3 days later she is arrested
- 1944 GI Bill of veterans benefits help fuel postwar economic boom

1945—1949

- 1945 6 million Jews found to have perished under Hitler
- 1945 F. D. R. sworn in to an unprecedented 4th presidential term; dies 4 months later
- 1945 U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan
- 1946 UN general assembly meets for the first time in London, England
- 1946 US baby boom begins, increasing population to 165 million by 1955
- 1947 Jackie Robinson becomes first African American major league baseball player
- 1948 President Truman raises taxes for Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe
- 1948 Israel becomes an independent nation state in Palestine

1950—1954

- 1950–1953 Korean War: US forces defend South Korea from Communist North Korea
- 1950 Senator Joseph McCarthy’s activities prompt anti-Communist Red Scare in US
- 1951 Color television introduced in the U.S.
- 1952 Jonas E. Salk develops the first polio vaccine
- 1953 Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzin Norgay reach summit of Mount Everest
- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* bans segregation in public schools

1955—1959

- 1955 Rosa Parks arrested for not giving her bus seat to a white passenger
- 1956 Interstate Highway Act expands highway construction, suburbs grow
- 1957 U.S.S.R. begins Space Age with launch of the first satellite
- 1957 Musical *West Side Story* debuts on Broadway
- 1957 *Leave it to Beaver* premieres on television
- 1957 Michigan’s Mackinac Straits Bridge dedicated
- 1959 Barbie doll goes on sale; toys marketed as necessary for play

1960—1964

- 1961 Freedom Riders travel attacked for integration of interstate transportation
- 1961 President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps
- 1962 Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* launches environmental movement
- 1962 Watson and Crick awarded Nobel Prize for discovering DNA structure
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1963 John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, TX
- 1964 U.S begins full-scale military intervention in Vietnam