

Year	Event/Link	Description
1954-1968	<u>The Civil Rights Movement including several Supreme Court Decisions and The Civil Rights Act of 1964</u>	The Civil Rights Movement (also known as the American civil rights movement and other terms) in the United States was a decades-long struggle by African Americans to end legalized racial discrimination, disenfranchisement and racial segregation in the United States. In the 1960s, moderates in the movement worked with Congress to achieve the passage of several significant pieces of federal legislation that overturned discriminatory practices and authorized oversight and enforcement by the federal government. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was upheld by the Supreme Court in <i>Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States</i> (1964), expressly banned discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in employment practices; ended unequal application of voter registration requirements; and prohibited racial segregation in schools, at the workplace, and in public accommodations. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 restored and protected voting rights for minorities by authorizing federal oversight of registration and elections in areas with historic under-representation of minorities as voters. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very influential leader and he promoted and exemplified non violent peaceful protests. He was assassinated in 1968.
1955-1973	<u>U.S. Involvement in Vietnam and The Vietnam War</u>	At its core, the Vietnam War for the United States was about its long standing concern about the spread of Communism in Asia, which some believed would have changed the balance of power. U.S. involvement increased over time. The War was broadcast on the evening news and many in society protested against involvement in the 1970s. Many questioned the role of the U.S. in the War and many Vietnam Veterans had a hard time integrating back into civilian society for a variety of reasons. The Vietnam War was the first war where the U.S. was not victorious. Ultimately, estimates of the number of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed vary from 966,000 to 3,812,000. Current, 2017 records, report that the conflict resulted in 58,318 US fatalities

1960	<u>The Introduction of the Birth Control Pill in the U.S. and the Start of the Sexual Revolution</u>	Oral contraceptives, commonly known as birth control pills or just "the pill," were approved by the FDA on June 23, 1960. The pill has revolutionized women's health over the last five decades. The pill also played a key role in the sexual revolution. Today, it's estimated that more than 10 million women use the pill. After the pill's introduction there has been an increase in breast cancer that may be linked to the pill. Social norms changed and there was an increase in sexual encounters between unmarried adults. Divorce rates were dramatically increasing and marriage rates were significantly decreasing in this time period. The number of unmarried Americans aged twenty to twenty-four more than doubled from 4.3 million in 1960 to 9.7 million in 1976.
1960's	<u>Television becomes the Norm in America: A Major Source for News and Entertainment</u>	By the early 1960s, about 90% of American households had a television set, and the roles of television and radio (which was largely saved from obsolescence by the invention of the far more portable transistor radio in the 1950s and the concurrent rise of higher-fidelity FM radio) had changed, so that radio was primarily a medium for music, and scripted programming became wholly the domain of television. Television programming went through many cultural shifts and yet was considered high quality and was exported throughout the world until 2000.
1963-1968	<u>The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Subsequent Assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy</u>	Shortly after noon on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, Texas. The president's body was brought to Love Field and placed on Air Force One. Before the plane took off, a grim-faced Lyndon B. Johnson stood in the tight, crowded compartment and took the oath of office, administered by US District Court Judge Sarah Hughes. The brief ceremony took place at 2:38 p.m. Less than an hour earlier, police had arrested Lee Harvey Oswald, a recently hired employee at the Texas School Book Depository. He was being held for the assassination of President Kennedy and the fatal shooting, shortly afterward, of Patrolman J. D. Tippit on a Dallas street. On Sunday morning, November 24, Oswald was scheduled to be transferred from police headquarters to the county jail. Viewers across America watching the live television coverage suddenly saw a man aim a pistol and fire at point blank range. The assailant was identified as Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner. Oswald died two hours later at Parkland Hospital. At the time of his death, President Kennedy was battling difficult situations including organized crime, the power of the FBI and Cuba and this has led to many conspiracy theories in subsequent years. There were many formal investigations. Point 1B in the link below to the findings of the 1979 House Select Committee on Assassinations states that the committee had found "a high probability that two gunmen fired" at the president. Martin Luther King Jr., an American clergyman and civil rights leader, was fatally shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m. CST. He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he died at 7:05 p.m. He was a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who was known for his use

1965	<u>The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 also known as the Hart- Celler Act</u>	Immigration law changed in 1965. Qualitative and quantitative restrictions were maintained, but national origin preferences that favored the entry of Europeans were dropped. U.S. immigration policy began to favor the entry of foreigners who had U.S. relatives and foreigners requested by U.S. employers. Immigrants entering the United States under the new legislation came increasingly from countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as opposed to Europe. Between 1965 and 2000, the highest number of immigrants (4.3 million) to the U.S. came from Mexico, in addition to some 1.4 million from the Philippines. Korea, the Dominican Republic, India, Cuba and Vietnam were also leading sources of immigrants, each sending between 700,000 and 800,000 over this period.
1968-1980	<u>The Women's Liberation Movement</u>	The women's liberation movement (WLM) was a political alignment of women and feminist intellectualism that emerged in the late 1960s and continued into the 1980s primarily in the industrialized nations of the Western world, which effected great change (political, intellectual, cultural) throughout the world. At that time, women entered the workforce in record numbers, peaking in 1999. Mainstream U.S. society transitioned from one income families to families predominately depend on two incomes and putting children in day care became commonplace. Women now comprise the majority of U.S. workers and earn .85 to the dollar of men, although this is changing among younger workers.
1969	<u>The U.S. Moon Landing of 1969</u>	"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." In a very short time, American ingenuity accomplished a big goal set by President Kennedy. The space program was part of national security and pride and also spawned an industry for new technologies like satellites. The selling of NASA assets in subsequent years has led to a hybrid of government and private industry efforts with companies like SpaceX.
1969	<u>Supreme Court Decision Frazier V. Cupp sets precedence and opens the door for police deception during interrogations</u>	Frazier v. Cupp, 394 U.S. 731 (1969), was a United States Supreme Court case that affirmed the legality of deceptive interrogation tactics. Later case law has interpreted Frazier v. Cupp as the case permitting police deception during interrogations. The language of the ruling did not specifically state which forms of police deception were acceptable, but the ruling provided a precedent for a confession being voluntary even though deceptive tactics were used.

1969	<u>Red Lion Broadcasting Company vs The FCC</u>	The Fairness Doctrine sustained a number of challenges over the years. A lawsuit challenging the doctrine on First Amendment grounds, <i>Red Lion Broadcasting Co., Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission</i> , reached the Supreme Court in 1969. The Court ruled unanimously that while broadcasters have First Amendment speech rights, the fact that the spectrum is owned by the government and merely leased to broadcasters gives the FCC the right to regulate news content. However, First Amendment jurisprudence after <i>Red Lion</i> started to allow more speech rights to broadcasters, and put the constitutionality of the Fairness Doctrine in question.
1969-1980	<u>California passes the No Fault Divorce Law, Other States Follow</u>	California Governor Ronald Reagan signed the first no-fault divorce statute into law. Since then, all states have enacted similar legislation. Despite early applause from lawmakers that these laws would serve couples, they have negatively altered the landscape of marriage and family in the United States and violated the U.S. Constitution. By 1980 the divorce rate had grown to 50% in the United States.
1970s-Present	<u>The Continued Growth of the U.S. and Global Plastics Industries and The Start of the Realizations of the Health and Environmental Consequences with little Federal Standards or Regulations</u>	The Plastics industry took off in the 1940s and played a role in preparing the U.S. for victory in WW2. A major user of petroleum, it continued to grow and more and more products started to use plastic, from automobile parts to fabrics and single term use plastics became commonplace. In Louisiana and Texas the industry continues to expand and there are known health consequences. The disposal of plastic is problematic and plastic waste has been shipped to foreign countries for disposal and has contaminated Oceans. It is a large contributor to global warming. Production of the most common plastic, polyethylene, is on track to jump more than 40 percent by 2028 in the U.S., according to research firm S&P Global Platts. That's 8 million metric tons per year more than in 2018 — roughly the amount, coincidentally, that scientists estimate is annually flowing into the oceans now.
1970	<u>The Postal Reorganization Act</u>	The Postal Reorganization Act by President Richard Nixon on August 12, 1970 replaced the cabinet-level Post Office Department with a new federal agency, the United States Postal Service, and took effect on July 1, 1971. The USPS operates one of the largest civilian vehicle fleets in the world, with an estimated 227,896 vehicles. The mission of the Postal Service is to provide the American public with trusted universal postal service.
1971	<u>President Nixon Declares The War on Cancer, National Cancer Act Passed. \$100 million dedicated to finding a cure for Cancer</u>	The National Cancer Act (P.L. 92–218), "The War on Cancer," gave the NCI unique autonomy at NIH with special budgetary authority. The Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center (CCNSC) increased its efforts to acquire new compounds for testing with the awarding of an acquisition and inventory contract responsible for the collection and documentation of test agents. The Federal Government is now the leading source of funds for medical research in many areas, and in mental health it is the largest in the world.

1971	<u>By Executive Order President Nixon orders a well received Price and Wage Freeze to combat inflation and the U.S. leaves the gold standard</u>	August 15, 1971, in a move widely applauded by the public and a fair number of (but by no means all) economists, President Nixon imposed wage and price controls. The 90 day freeze was unprecedented in peacetime, but such drastic measures were thought necessary. Inflation had been raging, exceeding 6% briefly in 1970 and persisting above 4% in 1971. By the prevailing historical standards, such inflation rates were thought to be completely intolerable. In 1971, the U.S. was also in the process of leaving the gold standard, which was intended to allow the value of the U.S. dollar to fall. Compounding the situation were such events as Fed Chairman Arthur Burns and the Committee on Interest and Dividends (part of the controls apparatus) strenuously opposing banks attempting to raise the U.S. prime rate from 6% to 6.25% in February 1973. Inflation rates were below 4% at the start of 1973, but reached 9% by the start of 1974, which would have made the real prime rate a negative 3%. At the same time, interest rates were going up in foreign countries, putting enormous pressure on the dollar.
1972	<u>The introduction of Pong: The Start of the Video Game Industry</u>	Pong was the start of video game industry which grew to be an industry larger than the movie and music industry combined. Video games later moved to home game boxes in 1972-1974 with over 800 offerings. The game box portion of the industry is now highly consolidated with 4 offerings. In some cases grew progressively more violent and this has been tied to violent behavior in some people. Video games have also been known to be addictive and can stifle the propensity for imagination, creativity, and physical exercise. A segment of the industry gravitated to home computers and later tablets and cell phones. 2018 was a record-breaking year for the video and computer game industry, with total video game sales exceeding \$43.4 billion. Over 164 million adults in the United States play video games and three-quarters of all Americans have at least one gamer in their household. As the leading form of entertainment today, video games are an integral part of American culture.
1972	<u>First Woman CEO of a Fortune 500 Company; 64 Female CEOs in a Half-Century</u>	First Woman CEO of a Fortune 500 Company; Catherine Graham becomes CEO of The Washington Post
1973-1979	<u>The Foreign induced/OPEC Gas Shortages of the 1970s</u>	During two separate oil crises in the 1970s, Americans from coast to coast faced persistent gas shortages as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, flexed its muscles and disrupted oil supplies. In 1973 and again in 1979, drivers frequently faced around-the-block lines when they tried to fill up. Rationing occurred in some states. When the second crisis hit in 1979-80, President Carter described combating it as the "moral equivalent of war" .

1973	<u>Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision on Abortion</u>	On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court handed down its historic decision in Roe v. Wade, overturning a Texas interpretation of abortion law and making abortion legal in the United States. It was a turning point in women's reproductive rights and has remained a hot-button issue within United States politics ever since. A significant percentage of voters are essentially a one issue voter and voting for pro life candidates is an encouraged priority if not a mandate of the Catholic church.
1970-1990	<u>The Rise of the HMO; Passage of the 1973 HMO Act</u>	The history of the health maintenance organization (HMO) movement can be traced to early 1970. There was unrest on the health care front: rapidly escalating costs in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; complaints of insufficient access to medical care because of maldistribution of medical providers and health care facilities; and accusations that medical care in the United States was inferior and inefficiently administered. 1 In 1970, responding to calls for national health insurance and skyrocketing health care costs, the Nixon administration began exploring other ways to achieve more efficient, less costly medical care. The Nixon administration endorsed HMOs as the new national health strategy in 1971 and pressed Congress to enact laws to encourage HMO development through planning grants and loans. Passage of the HMO Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-222) provided the initial stimulus for growth of HMOs in the mid- and late 1970s.
1974	<u>President Richard Nixon Resigns from Office Amidst Impeachment Due to Watergate Scandal</u>	Richard Nixon's resignation speech was an address made on August 8, 1974, by President of the United States Richard Nixon to the American public. According to his address, Nixon said he was resigning because "I have concluded that because of the Watergate matter I might not have the support of the Congress that I would consider necessary to back the very difficult decisions and carry out the duties of this office in the way the interests of the nation would require". Nixon also stated his hope that, by resigning, "I will have hastened the start of that process of healing which is so desperately needed in America." Nixon went on to advise succeeding Presidents and he answered personally correspondence from the American Public sent to him.
1975	<u>FCC Newspaper and Broadcast Cross Ownership Rule of 1975 Passed</u>	In 1975 The FCC passed the newspaper and broadcast cross-ownership rule which prohibited the ownership of a daily newspaper and any full powered broadcast station that serviced the same community.
1970's and 1980's	<u>Fuel Efficient Japanese Autos Make Traction in the United States</u>	Growth in imports of more fuel efficient and higher quality cars from Japan start being imported to the U.S. encroaching on the dominance of the U.S. auto industry which was known for large, gas guzzling cars.

1975	<u>The Start of Index Funds and their Agnostic Power, starting a progression whereby stock market analysts and investors no longer pay attention to the fundamentals of companies. Many investors no longer vote a proxy.</u>	Bogle started the First Index Investment Trust on December 31, 1975. At the time, it was heavily derided by competitors as being "un-American" and the fund itself was seen as "Bogle's folly". In the first five years of Bogle's company, it made 17 million dollars. With over \$16 Trillion in Assets, Black Rock, Vanguard, and State Street comprise over 80% of the Index Fund Market. Few shareholders vote a proxy, leaving a block of power for the funds, yet the funds do not pursue investigating company fundamentals or moral or social behavior.
1976	<u>Introduction of the VHS VCR : The start of video taping programs and the home video industry</u>	First VCR to use VHS introduced by JVC in Japan. This gave rise to the video rental industry which was characterized by many local shops. It also impacted the movie industry with a new aftermarket and in some cases movies going directly into the rental market. Netflix with mail order rental and then the advent of streaming put an end to this industry with the exception of automated Red Box rentals. This also changed the Porn industry bringing it into American homes. It is now estimated that 5-8% of Americans suffer from porn addiction.
1978	<u>The Airline Deregulation Act of 1978</u>	The Airline Deregulation Act is a 1978 United States federal law that deregulated the airline industry in the United States, removing the federal government control over such areas as fares, routes, and market entry of new airlines. It introduced a free market in the commercial airline industry and led to a great increase in the number of flights, a decrease in fares, an increase in the number of passengers and miles flown, and a consolidation of carriers.[citation needed] The Civil Aeronautics Board's powers of regulation were phased out, but the regulatory powers of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) were not diminished over all aspects of aviation safety.
1978	<u>Marquette National Bank of Minneapolis v First of Omaha Service Corp. Supreme Court Decision giving rise to big bank credit cards and the end of state usury laws</u>	Marquette Nat. Bank of Minneapolis v. First of Omaha Service Corp., 439 U.S. 299 (1978), is a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision holding that state anti-usury laws regulating interest rates cannot be enforced against nationally chartered banks based in other states. Justice William Brennan wrote that it was clearly the intent of Congress when it passed the National Banking Act that nationally chartered banks would be subject only to federal regulation by the Comptroller of Currency and the laws of the state in which they were chartered, and that only Congress or the appropriate state legislature could pass the laws regulating them. The case has been called one of the most important of the late 20th century, since it freed nationally chartered banks to offer credit cards to anyone in the U.S. they deemed qualified, and more specifically because it allowed them to export credit card interest rates to states with stricter regulations, opening up a race between states in an effort to attract lending institutions to set up shop in their states and offer a wider variety of consumer credit products. Over the next decade, the states accelerated a process that had already begun of repealing or loosening their anti-usury laws, allowing state-chartered banks to compete more equally with national ones. As a result, the use of credit cards has vastly increased, and the mortgage industry soon followed suit.

1978	<u>1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act</u>	Efforts to deregulate the nation's electricity market began with the 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, which allowed private investments in the power generation sector. But the enactment of PURPA, as it was known, was only a small beginning, as the Public Utilities Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA), which broke up the trusts that had owned utilities in the 1920s and gave companies local monopolies and a guaranteed, if small, profit in exchange for serving the entire community, continued to govern the electricity market.
1978	<u>Congress passes the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) in 1978 in response to increasing concerns from governors in the 1970s.</u>	Under the act, foreign owners who acquire, sell or gain interest in U.S. agricultural land must file disclosure paperwork, known as the FSA-153 form, with the USDA's Farm Service Agency.
1978-Present	<u>The Revenue Act of 1978 and The Creation and Rise of the 401K; Changing the Way Americans Save for Retirement</u>	Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1978, including a provision — Section 401(k) — that gave employees a tax-free way to defer compensation from bonuses or stock options. The law went into effect on January 1, 1980. An unintended consequence was that it became many American's primary retirement plan and subjected them to the ups and downs of the stock market and it made a lot of money for Wall Street with fees. Now few corporations offer pensions to their rank and file.
1979-1981	<u>The Iranian Hostage Crisis</u>	The Iran hostage crisis was a diplomatic standoff between the United States and Iran. Fifty-two American diplomats and citizens were held hostage for 444 days from November 4, 1979, to January 20, 1981, after a group of Iranian college students belonging to the Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line, who supported the Iranian Revolution, took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The crisis reached a climax after diplomatic negotiations failed to win the release of the hostages. Carter ordered the U.S. military to attempt a rescue mission — Operation Eagle Claw — using warships that included the USS Nimitz and USS Coral Sea, which were patrolling the waters near Iran. The failed attempt on April 24, 1980 resulted in the death of one Iranian civilian, and the accidental deaths of eight American servicemen after one of the helicopters crashed into a transport aircraft. United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance resigned his position following the failure. For many Americans, the crisis called into question American strength and vulnerability.
1979	<u>1979 Chrysler Bailout</u>	The problems that Chrysler faced came to the forefront in 1979. There were a number of factors that all worked together simultaneously to put the company on the verge of bankruptcy. All of these factors forced the company to heavily lobby both Congress and the White House for a \$1.5 billion loan to stay in business and protect millions of jobs. Chrysler received a bailout again in 1989 and in 2014 was acquired by Fiat, an Italian Automaker. It is important to note that the initial bailout was initiated by Chrysler and it was an arduous process and the CEO of Chrysler at the time was required to step down.

1979	<u>Introduction of Sony Walkman: Music on the Go</u>	Sony Walkman Introduced Changed the listening habits of people by letting them listen to music on the move.
1980	<u>Introduction of Calvin Klein Jeans and Mass Licensing in Fashion</u>	Calvin Klein was one of the first high fashion designers to bring product to the masses through licensing agreements, quality products, and advertising campaigns. Other designers followed suit at about this time, including Halston with JC Penney, Liz Claiborne, Ralph Lauren and Gloria Vanderbilt. At this time consumers were presented with many reasonably priced, high quality clothing options. This industry has in many ways digressed to one of cheaply produced and highly discounted clothes with celebrities with no clothing experience providing the branding power of their name to foreign manufactured goods.
1980	<u>Congress Grants China Most Favored Nation Status Despite China's Not Meeting Requirements</u>	On January 24, 1980, Congress granted most-favored-nation trading status to the Communist regime, cutting tariffs on Chinese goods to the same rate offered to America's friends and allies. MFN status had been reserved for countries with free-market economies and basic political and civil rights, including the right to emigrate. In 1980, China met none of these criteria.
1980	<u>Professor Ted Levitt of the Harvard Business School Gives a Widely Circulated Interview on Globalism</u>	Levitt argued that American Marketers should not see the world as several distinct markets for their goods but rather one global market. Levitt believed that tastes would converge and lower prices would be welcome coupled with aggressive marketing.
1980	<u>Congress Passes the Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act</u>	In 1980, Congress passed the Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act, which served to deregulate financial institutions that accept deposits while strengthening the Federal Reserve's control over monetary policy.
1980s	<u>The Off the Shelf Personal/Home Computer Age Starts</u>	Byte in January 1980 announced in an editorial that "the era of off-the-shelf personal computers has arrived". The magazine stated that "a desirable contemporary personal computer has 64 K of memory, about 500 K bytes of mass storage on line, any old competently designed computer architecture, upper and lowercase video terminal, printer, and high-level languages". The author reported that when he needed to purchase such a computer quickly he did so at a local store for \$6000 in cash, and cited it as an example of "what the state of the art is at present ... as a mass-produced product". By early that year Radio Shack, Commodore, and Apple manufactured the vast majority of the one half-million microcomputers that existed. As component prices continued to fall, many companies entered the computer business. This led to an explosion of low-cost machines known as home computers that sold millions of units before the market imploded in a price war in the early 1980s.

1980-Present	<u>Investment Banking Transitions from Deal Making to Trading; The Inception of Algorithms</u>	In the 1980s, the emphasis on deal making shifted to a new focus on trading. Firms such as Salomon Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Drexel Burnham Lambert became prominent as investment banks earned an increasing amount of their profits from trading for their own account. Advances in computing technology enabled banks to use sophisticated mathematical-models to develop and execute trading strategies. The high frequency and large volume of trades enabled them to generate a profit by taking advantages of small changes in market conditions.
1980s	<u>The Rise of Junk Bonds and Leverage Buyouts</u>	In the 1980s, Michael Milken, head of the high-yield bond department at Drexel Burnham Lambert, popularized the use of high yield debt (also known as junk bonds) in corporate finance, especially in mergers and acquisitions. This new source of capital sparked an explosion in leveraged buyouts and hostile takeovers. In 1990 Milken was charged with 98 counts of racketeering, securities fraud, mail fraud and other crimes. Had Mr. Milken been convicted of racketeering, he could have been sentenced to as much as 20 years in prison and forced to forfeit most of his wealth.
1980s-1990s	<u>Walmart Disrupts Rural Economies</u>	There is strong evidence that rural communities in the United States have been more adversely impacted by the discount mass merchandisers (sometimes referred to as the Wal-Mart phenomenon) than by any other factors in recent times. Studies in Iowa have shown that some small towns lose up to 47 percent of their retail trade after 10 years of Wal-Mart stores nearby (Stone 1997).
1981	<u>Salomon Brothers Changes from Partnership to Corporation</u>	Salomon Brothers was an American investment bank founded in 1910 by Arthur, Herbert and Percy Salomon and a clerk named Ben Levy, remaining a partnership until the early 1980s. In 1981, it was acquired by the commodity trading firm Phibro Corporation and became Salomon Inc. This starts a movement of investment firms becoming publicly held companies, thus reducing responsibility and increasing leverage and risk.
1981-1995	<u>MTV is launched and launches the Era of Music Videos</u>	MTV was originally first tested on December 1, 1977 as Sight on Sound, but was officially launched in 1981, and originally aired music videos as guided by television personalities known as "video jockeys" but in the years since its inception, the network significantly toned down its focus on music in favor of original reality programming targeting teenagers and young adults. MTV ushered in the era of music videos which lasted until 1995
1982	<u>President Reagan's Commission on Housing recommends the GSEs be separated from the Government</u>	A GSE A government-sponsored enterprise is a quasi-governmental entity established to enhance the flow of credit to specific sectors of the American economy. Created by acts of Congress, these agencies, though privately held, provide public financial services. GSEs help to facilitate borrowing for all sorts of individuals, from students to farmers to homeowners.

1982	<u>First Japanese Car Built in the U.S. and Japan becomes the world's largest auto maker</u>	In 1982 at the encouragement of the Reagan administration, Japanese automakers set up plants in the U.S., to preserve U.S. jobs. These plants were typically located in Southern states and the Auto Union failed to prevail resulting in significantly lower wages for these autoworkers compared to the Big three automakers. The influence of labor unions continued to decline. Union workers earned 15-20% more for a given education level than non union workers, a recent Princeton University study revealed.
1984	<u>The Cosby Show Debuts</u>	The Cosby Show is an American sitcom television series co-created by and starring Bill Cosby, which aired for eight seasons on NBC from September 20, 1984, until April 30, 1992. The show focuses on an upper middle-class African-American family living in Brooklyn, New York. According to TV Guide, the show "was TV's biggest hit in the 1980s, and almost single-handedly revived the sitcom genre and NBC's ratings fortunes."
1984	<u>The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984</u>	Following the 1984 Cable Act, the number of households subscribing to cable services increased as did the channel capacity. However, competition among distributors of cable services did not increase and in many areas the rate for cable services outpaced inflation.
1984	<u>War on Drugs, Mandatory Drug Sentences, Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984</u>	The presidency of Ronald Reagan saw an expansion in the federal focus of preventing drug abuse and for prosecuting offenders. In the first term of the presidency Ronald Reagan signed the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, which expanded penalties towards possession of cannabis, established a federal system of mandatory minimum sentences, and established procedures for civil asset forfeiture. From 1980 to 1984 the federal annual budget of the FBI's drug enforcement units went from 8 million to 95 million
1985	<u>Microsoft Introduces Windows. Establishes a Monopoly for its Products</u>	Microsoft introduced an operating environment named Windows on November 20, 1985, as a graphical operating system shell for MS-DOS in response to the growing interest in graphical user interfaces (GUIs). Microsoft Windows came to dominate the world's personal computer (PC) market with over 90% market share, overtaking Mac OS, which had been introduced in 1984.
1985	<u>Soft Drink Manufacturers in the U.S. Shift from Beet Sugar to High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)</u>	The cost of sugar in the US started to rise in the late 1970s and into the 1980s due to government-imposed tariffs, prompting soft drink manufacturers to switch to high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) as a cheaper alternative to sugar. (Diet drinks were not included, because they have long been flavored with artificial sweeteners; the switch from saccharin to aspartame around the same time was an unrelated move.) By the mid-1980s, all of the major soft drink brands switched to HFCS for their North American products, with the original formula of Coca-Cola being one of the last holdouts. In most countries, sugar is still used rather than HFCS.

1985-1991	<u>The End of the Cold War</u>	The strong anti-communist stance of Ronald Reagan and the new leadership of Soviet General Secretary Miguel Gorbachev paved the way for the formal ending of the Soviet Union in 1991. President Reagan's close relationship with Pope John Paul II and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher played a vital role in accomplishing this goal.
1985-2000	<u>The Rise of Maquiladoras- Exporting Manufacturing to Mexico</u>	The Rise of the Maquiladoras. Mexican Manufacturing of U.S. Goods. After the Mexican debt crisis of 1980 (see Latin American debt crisis), the economy liberalized and foreign investment increased. Factory jobs began to leave central Mexico, and workers followed the jobs from central Mexico to the maquilas in the north and on the border. In 1985, maquiladoras overtook tourism as the largest source of foreign exchange, and since 1996 they have been the second largest industry in Mexico behind the petroleum industry. It has estimated that this has cost the U.S. over 700,000 in manufacturing jobs.
1985-Present	<u>The Sexual Abuse Scandal of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States</u>	As it became clear that there was truth to many of the allegations and that there was a pattern of cover-ups in a number of large dioceses across the United States, the issue became a nationwide scandal, creating a crisis for the Catholic Church in the United States. Though the sex abuse cases are not unique in comparison to other countries, the sex abuse crisis in the United States is more conspicuous due to the behavior and reaction (or lack thereof) from the clergy and the Vatican.
1986-2011	<u>The Oprah Winfrey Show Debuts and its influence on American Culture grows over the 25 years it is on the air</u>	The Oprah Winfrey Show, often referred to as The Oprah Show or simply Oprah, is an American daytime syndicated talk show that aired nationally for 25 seasons from September 8, 1986, to May 25, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. Produced and hosted by its namesake, Oprah Winfrey, it remains one of the highest-rated daytime talk shows in American television history. The show was highly influential to many young stars, and many of its themes have penetrated into the American pop-cultural consciousness. Winfrey used the show as an educational platform, featuring book clubs, interviews, self-improvement segments, and philanthropic forays into world events. The show did not attempt to profit off the products it endorses; it had no licensing agreement with retailers when products were promoted, nor did the show make any money from endorsing books for its book club. Early on in his campaign for President, Oprah endorsed Barack Obama.
1986	<u>The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986</u>	The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (the Act) established the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) as a federal "no-fault" compensation system for individuals who may have been injured by specific covered vaccines. The VICP has ensured childhood vaccine supplies by dramatically reducing vaccine companies' and providers' liability that threatened the production of vaccines during the 1980s. Vaccines have been patented in new combinations since the 1970s and there have been concerns about their safety and a possible link to Autism.

1986	<u>Tax Reform Act of 1986</u>	(TRA) ended prohibited taxpayers from deducting interest on consumer loans, such as credit cards and auto loans, while allowing them to deduct interest paid on mortgage loans, providing an incentive for homeowners to take out home equity loans to pay off consumer debt. Household debt would grow from \$705 billion at year end 1974, 60% of disposable personal income, to \$7.4 trillion at year end 2000, and finally to \$14.5 trillion in midyear 2008, 134% of disposable personal income.
1986	<u>The Immigration Reform Act in 1986</u>	The Immigration Reform and Control Act altered US immigration law by making it illegal to hire illegal immigrants knowingly and establishing financial and other penalties for companies that employed illegal immigrants. The act also legalized most undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the country prior to January 1, 1982.
1986	<u>1st Korean Automobiles Imported to the United States</u>	Korean Automaker Hyundai enters U.S. Market, its chief attribute is its low cost. The second Korean automaker would enter the U.S. marketplace in 1992, again as a low cost offering. Unlike Japan, it is important to note that South Korea is more of a planned economy with significant government involvement and encouragement. This is true for the automobile industry as well as the electronics and consumer appliance industry. Hyundai at its inception was aided by the Ford Motor Company and its technology in 1968. Hyundai and the South Korean auto industry are much more global in nature than General Motors are Ford. Hyundai established a plant in Alabama in 2004 and Kia in Georgia in 2006. Both have plants in Mexico.
1987	<u>FCC Repeals The Fairness Doctrine</u>	During Ronald Reagan's administration, the FCC revisited the subject of the fairness doctrine. The agency concluded that the rise of cable television had eased some of the scarcity issues and that the Fairness Doctrine might be chilling speech by keeping broadcasters from addressing important issues out of a reluctance to represent both sides. In August 1987, the FCC repealed the Fairness Doctrine. Some think this coupled with radio expense saving gave rise to talk radio and nationally syndicated programs.
1988	<u>Passage of the Native American Gaming Regulatory Act and The Rise of Native American Casinos</u>	The Native American gaming story is particularly extraordinary in that it has grown into a \$27 billion business from almost nothing in just 20 years. Native American Casinos now comprise over 40% of the U.S. gaming Industry. The casinos have changed the economic climate in and around the reservations. Examining the effects of casinos after at least four years of operation, the authors of a study find that positive changes include: young adults moving back to reservations, fueling an 11.5 percent population increase; adult employment increasing by 26 percent; and a 14 percent decline in the number of working poor. The North American Foundation for Gambling Addiction Help reports that approximately 2.6% of the U.S. population has some type of gambling issue. That adds up to nearly 10 million people in the United States.

1988	<u>Prozac the first SSRI Anti-Depressant Drug is Introduced, Starting the Psych Med Movement</u>	Prozac, having failed as an antihypertensive then anti-obesity drug, was marketed as an antidepressant after it lifted the spirits of five mildly depressed volunteers according to this article in the U.K. The drug, 25 years later, is marketed as a near-panacea despite “warnings that it does not actually work for millions of patients, and can cause significant harm to adults, unborn children and the environment.” At present in the United States one 1 out of 6 people are on psychiatric medications in a given year, including children at an increasing rate, despite the serious dangers and damage the drugs can cause. Little effort has been made to insist on safer drugs or non pharmacological alternatives. In 2009, the U.S. Market for psychiatric drugs was over \$42 Billion and it has grown considerably since then.
1989	<u>The Fall of The Berlin Wall</u>	On November 9, 1989, as the Cold War began to thaw across Eastern Europe, the spokesman for East Berlin’s Communist Party announced a change in his city’s relations with the West. Starting at midnight that day, he said, citizens of the GDR were free to cross the country’s borders. East and West Berliners flocked to the wall, drinking beer and champagne and chanting “Tor auf!” (“Open the gate!”). At midnight, they flooded through the checkpoints. This was seen as a victory for democracy and freedom and against communism and an affirmation of President Reagan's work.
1989	<u>The Savings and Loan Crisis of 1989 and The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA)</u>	As a result of the S&L crisis, Congress passed the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA), which amounted to a vast revamp of S&L industry regulations. One of the most significant actions of the FIRREA was the creation of the Resolution Trust Corporation, which had the goal of winding down the failed S&Ls that regulators had taken control of. The Act also put forth minimum capital requirements, raised insurance premiums, limited S&Ls' non-mortgage and mortgage-related holdings to 30%, and required the divestment of junk bonds. When all was said and done, the Resolution Trust Corp. had liquidated more than 700 S&Ls. Across the United States, more than 1,000 S&Ls had failed by 1989, essentially ending what had been one of the most secure sources of home mortgages. The S&L market share for single-family mortgages before the crisis was 53% (1975); after, it was 30% (1990).

1980-present The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States

The AIDS epidemic, caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), found its way to the United States as early as 1960, but was first noticed after doctors discovered clusters of Kaposi's sarcoma and pneumocystis pneumonia in gay men in Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco in 1981. Treatment of HIV/AIDS is primarily via a "drug cocktail" of antiretroviral drugs, and education programs to help people avoid infection. Initially, infected foreign nationals were turned back at the U.S. border to help prevent additional infections. The number of U.S. deaths from AIDS have declined sharply since the early years of the disease's presentation domestically. In the United States in 2016, 1.1 million people aged over 13 lived with an HIV infection, of whom 14% were unaware of their infection.[1] Gay and bisexual men, African Americans, and Latinos remain disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in the U.S. Due to initial lack of involvement by the government, the private sector and activists. This resulted in the formation of ACT-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power by Larry Kramer. Galvanized by the federal government's inactivity, the movement by AIDS activists to gain funding for AIDS research, which on a per-patient basis out-paced funding for more prevalent diseases such as cancer and heart disease, was used as a model for future lobbying for health research funding. The overall death rate among persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in New York City decreased by sixty-two percent from 2001 to 2012.

1990- Present Global Outsourcing of jobs expands beyond manufacturing into call centers, data entry and other white collar functions

There is much uncertainty about the impact of outsourcing on American knowledge-based jobs because of the lack of data collected in this area. The only U.S. government study so far reported that there were 13,000 layoffs in 2003 due to foreign outsourcing, but most of those were in manufacturing. Global Insight, a private firm, estimated that about 104,000 IT jobs were lost to outsourcing from 2000 to 2003. These numbers make up a small fraction of the 140 million workers in the U.S. economy. Some researchers estimate that from 3.3 to 14 million knowledge-based jobs will be at risk between 2000 and 2015 because of outsourcing. In 2004, the U.S. Government Accountability Office cautiously concluded that outsourcing "is a small but growing trend in the U.S. economy." While the majority of the American Public are against outsourcing, most economists are not.

1990- Present The 1990 Immigration Act

Another piece of immigration legislation, the 1990 Immigration Act, modified and expanded the 1965 act, increasing the total level of immigration to 700,000. The law also provided for the admission of immigrants from "underrepresented" countries to increase the diversity of the immigrant flow. Eighty-five percent white in 1965, the nation's population was one-third minority in 2009 and is on track for a nonwhite majority by 2042.

1990-Present	<u>Meat Packing Industry becomes marvel of efficiency at the expense of workers</u>	The meatpacking industry has evolved into a marvel of modern efficiency, producing 105 billion pounds annually of poultry, pork, beef and lamb destined for dinner tables across America and the world. That's nearly double what it produced three decades ago. The evolution has come at a cost: a cramped workplace, a culture of underreporting illnesses, and a cadre of rural, immigrant and undocumented workers who share transportation and close living quarters have provided ideal conditions for airborne illnesses like the coronavirus.
1990s	<u>What are we putting in our food that makes us Fat? The start of the Obesity Epidemic</u>	According to CDC Research, the obesity epidemic spread rapidly during the 1990s across all states, regions, and demographic groups in the United States. Obesity (defined as being over 30 percent above ideal body weight) in the population increased from 12 percent in 1991 to 17.9 percent in 1998. The problem has continued to grow. Many medications, especially psychiatric medications are known to alter the metabolic system and there are many questions and not many answers about the U.S. food supply, how it is grown or raised and the additives and chemicals added to processed foods. The U.S. FDA has few standards or safeguards in this area, and the National Institute of Health, by its own admission has done little research in this area. Obesity and related chronic disorders are increasing at alarming rates and it is estimated that 86% of Americans will be overweight by 2030
1990s-Present	<u>Rise of Incarceration Rates, Inception of the For Profit Prison System</u>	After 1980, the situation began to change. In the 1980s, while the number of arrests for all crimes had risen by 28%, the number of arrests for drug offenses rose 126%. The result of increased demand was the development of privatization and the for-profit prison industry. The US Department of Justice, reporting on the effects of state initiatives, has stated that, from 1990 through 2000, "the increasing number of drug offenses accounted for 27% of the total growth among black inmates, 7% of the total growth among Hispanic inmates, and 15% of the growth among white inmates." In addition to prison or jail, the United States provides for the deportation of many non-citizens convicted of drug offenses.
1990s-Present	<u>The Demise of Private Practice Physicians</u>	Physicians' ownership of their own practices had been in steady decline for decades, according to previous AMA data. The share was 75.8% in 1983 and 57.7% in 1994. ... The proportion of physicians working in solo practice dropped from 18.4% in 2012 to 14.8% in 2018
1990s-2000	<u>Cell Phones Become a Mass Market Product</u>	These two decades saw incremental but incredible improvements to cellular technology. The phones got smaller, and they got a lot cheaper. The networks got faster, and the service also got a lot cheaper. Whereas cell phone service cost as much as a dollar a minute during the AMPS days.

1990s-2017	<u>The Opioid Epidemic in the United States</u>	The opioid epidemic (also known as the opioid crisis) refers to the extensive overuse of opioid medications, both from medical prescriptions and from illegal sources. The epidemic began in the United States in the late 1990s, when opioids were increasingly prescribed for pain management and resulted in a rise in overall opioid use throughout subsequent year. From 1999 to 2017, more than 399,000 people died from drug overdoses that involved prescription and illicit opioids. The crisis was due in large part to the FDA giving approval of opioids as long term pain treatment.
1990s-Present	<u>The Rise of Special Interest Corporate Lobbyists, The Influence of Wealthy Elites and the Demise of Influence of Ordinary Citizens</u>	In the 1960s and 1970s Corporations used to lobby together for generalized decrease in regulation and taxes. The Business Round Table and Regional Banks played a large role in conveying corporate interests. In the 1990s there was a shift in corporate mentality by many toward focusing exclusively on maximizing shareholder wealth and corporate leaders focused on their own agendas. The quest for influence in politics is a flourishing industry, with roughly twelve thousand registered lobbyists in Washington, D.C., and ex-penditures reaching \$3.4 billion in 2018. Several scholars, such as James Thurber, believe the industry em-ploys almost one hundred thousand people, with annual expenditures of \$9 billion.
1990- Present	<u>The Decline of Human Gate Keepers for Corporations and Institutions and the Rise of Self Serving Phone Trees</u>	The decline of human gatekeepers such as secretaries and receptionists has led to a substantial decrease in middle class positions for non college educated workers, especially women. It has also served to reduce the free flow of information between organizational leadership and customers and has in many cases put the interaction possibilities in very self serving means for the organization in that customers time is no longer a valued part of the equation.
1990-Present	<u>The Start of the Diabetes Epidemic in the U.S.</u>	In 2017, 7.2% of the population was diagnosed with diabetes, or 6.3% of the population when adjusted for age, which takes into account changes in age distribution. This marks a 188% increase from 1980 (and 125% when adjusted for age). Additionally, people who have diabetes may be undiagnosed for the condition. Current estimates from the CDC suggest that 30.3 million people in the U.S. (9.4% of the total population) have diabetes, including 23.1 million with a diagnosis and 7.2 million who are undiagnosed. Diabetes is one of the top ten leading causes of death in the United States. Some prescription drugs are known to cause diabetes.
1991	<u>The Launch of The Jerry Springer Show, A Tabloid Talk Show that Featured Unedifying and Degrading Human Behavior and ushered in Reality TV</u>	The Jerry Springer Show (also known as Jerry Springer) was an American syndicated tabloid talk show that aired from September 30, 1991 to July 26, 2018, hosted by Jerry Springer. For its second season in the fall of 1992, the series was purchased by the NBC owned-and-operated stations, thus allowing it to finally achieve full national distribution. The search for higher ratings led the program gradually towards provocative topics. The show had a spirit of encouragement for crude, out of control and violent behavior and they became commonplace by 1994. General Electric acquired NBC in 1996. The unedifying behavior continued to prevail.

1991	<u>The Persian Gulf War</u>	Hussein defied United Nations Security Council demands to withdraw from Kuwait by mid-January 1991, and the Persian Gulf War began with a massive U.S.-led air offensive known as Operation Desert Storm. After 42 days of relentless attacks by the allied coalition in the air and on the ground, President George H. W. Bush declared a cease fire. Though the Persian Gulf War was initially considered an unqualified success for the international coalition, simmering conflict in the troubled region led to a second Gulf War—known as the Iraq War—that began in 2003.
1991, 1992	<u>Rodney King Incident; Los Angeles Riots</u>	Rodney Glen King (April 2, 1965 – June 17, 2012) was an American construction worker turned writer after surviving an act of police brutality by the Los Angeles Police Department. On March 3, 1991, King was violently beaten by LAPD officers during his arrest on I-210. A civilian, George Holliday, filmed the incident from his nearby balcony and sent the footage to local news station KTLA.[2]:85 The footage clearly showed an unarmed King on the ground being beaten after initially evading arrest. The incident was covered by news media around the world and caused a public furor. Four officers were eventually tried on charges of use of police brutality. Of these, three were acquitted, and the jury failed to reach a verdict on one charge for the fourth. Within hours of the acquittals, the 1992 Los Angeles riots started, sparked by outrage among racial minorities over the trial's verdict and related, longstanding social issues.
1994	<u>Amazon is founded as an online bookseller.</u>	Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos in Bellevue, Washington, on July 5, 1994. The company started as an online marketplace for books but expanded to sell electronics, software, video games, apparel, furniture, food, toys, and jewelry. Among various controversies, the company has been criticized for technological surveillance overreach, a hyper-competitive and demanding work culture, tax avoidance, and anti-competitive practices. Amazon is known for its disruption of well-established industries through technological innovation and mass scale.
1994	<u>Publication of "Realizing the Information Future: The Internet and Beyond" a National Research Council report that shaped policy and pricing for the Internet</u>	In 1994, a National Research Council report, again chaired by Kleinrock (and with Kahn and Clark as members again), Entitled “Realizing The Information Future: The Internet and Beyond” was released. This report, commissioned by NSF, was the document in which a blueprint for the evolution of the information superhighway was articulated and which has had a lasting affect on the way to think about its evolution. It anticipated the critical issues of intellectual property rights, ethics, pricing, education, architecture and regulation for the Internet.

1994	<u>1994 Violent Crime Control and Enforcement Act; The Three Strikes Law</u>	Under the federal "Three Strikes" provision, which is now codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3559(c), the defendant receives mandatory life imprisonment if he or she: is convicted in federal court of a "serious violent felony" and has two or more prior convictions in federal or state courts, at least one of which is a "serious violent felony." The other prior offense may be a "serious drug offense." The United States leads the world in its incarceration rate and a disproportionate percentage of the Black community is incarcerated.
1994	<u>North American Free Trade Agreement</u>	North American Free Trade Act NAFTA Passage With the introduction of NAFTA in 1994, Northern Mexico became an export processing zone. This allowed multinational corporations from the US to produce products cheaply. During the five years before NAFTA, maquila employment had grown at a rate of 47%; this figure increased to 86% in the next five years. The number of factories also increased dramatically. Between 1989 and 1994, 564 new plants opened; in the five years following, 1460 plants opened.
1994	<u>Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994</u>	Restrictions on the opening of bank branches in different states that had been in place since the McFadden Act of 1927 were removed under the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994.
1994-Present	<u>The Rise of Photo Enforced Red Light Cameras in U.S. Cities</u>	The Photo Enforced Red Light Cameras are not without controversy. The business model most typically involves the city turning over control, including the equipment for intersection management for intersections over to the camera company and it is not unusual for these intersections to contain equipment that doesn't meet code and intersection configuration that varies from the highly developed specs that assure intersection conformity for safest human interaction. The tickets are exorbitant and many people cannot afford them, leading them into the justice system.
1994- Present	<u>Increasing Market Concentration Threatens U.S. Economy</u>	An increasing shift from a decentralized, fragmented economy in the 1980 comprised of many local and family businesses such as pharmacies and dress shops, restaurants and banks and regional businesses and focused industry corporations to a largely oligopolies and in some cases monopolistic industries and a large number of essentially holding companies. This has altered employment opportunity and participation in the economy for many and has also damped consumer choice. The dominance of Amazon has led some to believe that we will end up with very few stores. The FTC and the Justice Department have largely overlooked many mergers and other antitrust violations to allow this to happen.
1995	<u>The Broadcast of The O.J. Simpson Trial</u>	The Broadcast of the Trial served to create a tabloid atmosphere for a very serious crime and created celebrities out of the trial participants. The high ratings led to several new tv programs sensationalizing real court cases. The trial became historically significant because of the reaction to the verdict. The nation observed the same evidence presented at trial but a division along racial lines emerged in observers opinion of the verdict, which the media dubbed the "racial gap"

1995	<u>Business Casual Starts to Become Popular</u>	Originating in Silicon Valley in the 1980s, Business Casual starts to go mainstream in the 1990s and business suits start to become a thing of the past and jeans on Friday's become commonplace, changing the formality of the workplace culture and society as a whole as well as having an impact of the garment and retail and fashion industries.
1995	<u>The Launch of Match.com Ushers in the Age of Online Dating</u>	The launch of Match.Com ushered in the popularity of on line dating and altered how people meet and court. The Industry consolidated greatly twenty years later and in 2015 Match Group which owns Match.com went public.
1995	<u>Mainstream Introduction of the Internet and Email</u>	The Internet has revolutionized the computer and communications world like nothing before. The invention of the telegraph, telephone, radio, and computer set the stage for this unprecedented integration of capabilities. The Internet is at once a world-wide broadcasting capability, a mechanism for information dissemination, and a medium for collaboration and interaction between individuals and their computers without regard for geographic location. The Internet represents one of the most successful examples of the benefits of sustained investment and commitment to research and development of information infrastructure.
1995	<u>The Rise of Day Trading and Short Term Stock Speculation</u>	Day trading was once an activity that was exclusive to financial firms and professional speculators. Many day traders are bank or investment firm employees working as specialists in equity investment and fund management. Day trading gained popularity after the deregulation of commissions in the United States in 1975, the advent of electronic trading platforms in the 1990s, and with the stock price volatility during the dot-com bubble.
1995-2002	<u>The Dot-com Bubble and Crash</u>	The dot-com bubble (also known as the dot-com boom, the tech bubble, and the Internet bubble) was a stock market bubble caused by excessive speculation in Internet-related companies in the late 1990s, a period of massive growth in the use and adoption of the Internet. Between 1995 and its peak in March 2000, the Nasdaq Composite stock market index rose 400%, only to fall 78% from its peak by October 2002, giving up all its gains during the bubble.
1995-Present	<u>Executive Compensation is out of Control and Rises at a Faster Rate than the Typical Worker</u>	Management guru Peter Drucker believed the proper ratio between a chief executive's pay and that of the average worker should be around 20-to-1 as it was in 1965. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI), in a report last summer by Lawrence Mishel and Jessica Schieder, shows that CEO pay is and continues to be dramatically higher now. CEO pay in the US peaked in 2000 at \$20.7 million (in 2016 dollars), 376 times the pay of the typical worker. In 1995, the CEO-to-worker pay ratio was 123-to-1; in 1989, it was 59-to-1; in 1978, it was 30-to-1; and in 1965, it was, as Drucker's ratio would have it, 20-to-1.

1996	<u>1996 Garment Sweatshop Scandal becomes Economically Justified or a non issue by 2008</u>	In 1996 the National Labor Committee, a human rights group, reported that sweatshop labor was being used to make clothes for the Kathie Lee line, sold at Wal-Mart. The group reported that a worker in Honduras smuggled a piece of clothing out of the factory, which had a Kathie Lee label on it. By 2008 the acceptance of globalized relative working conditions had been acceptable to some as Americans became increasingly dependent on cheap clothing.
1996	<u>The FCC Telecommunications Act of 1996</u>	In 1996, adopting The Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress noted it wanted to provide a pro-competitive, de-regulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition. The Act stipulated that the FCC must conduct a biennial review of its media ownership and shall determine whether any such rules are necessary in the public interest as a result of competition. The Commission is ordered to repeal or modify any regulation in determines will no longer be in the public interest, It was also the first time internet was included in broadcasting and spectrum allotment.
1996	<u>Google is Founded, Changing the way we access information and our notion of privacy</u>	Google has changed the way we access information, our notion of privacy making personal information a commodity, and has changed digital rights management and the advertising and market research industries.
1996	<u>Media Informs General Public about Computer Cookies which Impair Privacy</u>	The public didn't really become aware of them until 1996, when the media started reporting on the potential threat to privacy. Concerns focused on the fact that cookies were storing information on user's computers without their knowledge or consent. Cookies are small text files that reside on your computer, and the information they contain is set and accessed by the servers of the websites that you visit. Cookies allow servers to identify you and remember things about you. "The problem is that those same cookies can also be used to track people, and do things that many people don't like, like deliver targeted ads,"
1996	<u>President Clinton Ignores China's Human Rights and Grants China Normal Trade Status, Most Favored Nation</u>	Economic priorities prevailed in granting China Most Favored Nation and their was the mistaken belief that American values would prevail and that we would teach China democracy and capitalism.
1996	<u>Creation of LLC Company Available in all 50 States</u>	In 1977, when the state of Wyoming first passed legislation allowing a new type of company called a Limited Liability Company (LLC), hardly anyone noticed. Today, over two-thirds of all new companies formed are LLCs.

1996	<u>The Mental Health Parity Act of 1996</u>	The Mental Health Parity Act (MHPA) is legislation signed into United States law on September 26, 1996 that requires annual or lifetime dollar limits on mental health benefits to be no lower than any such dollar limits for medical and surgical benefits offered by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering coverage in connection with a group health plan. Prior to MHPA and similar legislation, insurers were not required to cover mental health care and so access to treatment was limited, underscoring the importance of the act. For a number of reasons, mental health is now the third largest area of healthcare by dollar amount in the United States.
1996	<u>The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996</u>	In 1996, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which addressed border enforcement and the use of social programs by immigrants.
1996- Present	<u>The Establishment and Rise of Fox News and Tabloid Style Journalism creating the Era of "Fake News" and the Rise of Conspiracy Theories and Mean Spirited Gossip as an alternative to objective reporting</u>	The channel was created by Australian-American media mogul Rupert Murdoch to appeal to a conservative audience, hiring former Republican media consultant and CNBC executive Roger Ailes as its founding CEO. It launched on October 7, 1996, to 17 million cable subscribers. Fox News has been described as practicing biased reporting in favor of the Republican Party, the George W. Bush and Donald Trump administrations, and conservative causes while portraying the Democratic Party in a negative light. Concurrent with its growth, Rupert Murdoch purchased and owned The Wall Street Journal.
1996- Present	<u>U.S. Economy shifts from fair trade to free trade and becomes dependent on cheap Chinese goods</u>	Despite it being a communist, centrally planned nation, the U.S. allowed Chinese imports in an ever expanding range of product categories from consumer goods to component parts to prescription drugs, developing a dependence on goods whose main appeal was a low price and in many cases these goods were dumped (priced below cost) to support the growth of the Chinese economic plan. The U.S. moved from a nation that promoted and insisted upon fair trade to what that simply allowed free trade. In 2001, China became the first centrally planned economy admitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO) — the only global organization designed to facilitate multilateral trade between its member nations. The WTO's self-professed primary purpose is "to open trade for the benefit of all."
1997-2005	<u>The Decline of the U.S. Furniture Industry</u>	The furniture industry, excluding the kitchen cabinet sector, lost 108,000 jobs or 21 percent of its workforce between 1997 and 2005. American furniture manufacturers realized Chinese manufacturers were dumping goods on the U.S. market and even successfully sued but it did not stop the demise of the U.S. Industry. Furniture used to be seen as an investment and quality mattered. Now the mass market is geared toward high design and low price and low quality.

1997-Present	<u>Direct to Consumer Pharmaceutical Advertising takes off with little regulation and the propensity for an influence in news content with networks and newspapers due to its large spend</u>	Direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising (DTCPA) has grown rapidly during the past several decades and is now the most prominent type of health communication that the public encounters. The FDA regulates DTCPA, but critics say that the rules are too relaxed and inadequately enforced. The U.S. and New Zealand are the only countries that allow DTCPA that includes product claims. Most other countries don't allow DTCPA at all; however, Canada does allow ads that mention either the product or the indication, but not both. In 1983, FDA Commissioner Arthur Hayes asked the pharmaceutical industry to observe a voluntary moratorium while the agency studied the issue. ^{2,20} In 1985, the FDA published a notice in the Federal Register claiming regulatory jurisdiction over DTCPA and stating that prior standards of "fair balance" and "brief summary" that had been established for advertising to health care providers were sufficient to protect American consumers against deceptive or misleading claims. In 1995, the FDA held a hearing to discuss easing broadcast DTCPA regulations in recognition of the prohibitive time and expense that the rules then required. ² In 1997, the FDA issued draft guidance on this topic. Now, advertisers had to include only "major risks" and provide an "adequate provision" that would direct viewers elsewhere to access complete "brief summary" information. Now, advertisers had to include only "major risks" and provide an "adequate provision" that would direct viewers elsewhere to access complete "brief summary" information.
1998	<u>U.S. Department of Energy Computer Incident Advisory Capability releases information bulletin that neglects to see true capabilities of computer cookies</u>	The U.S. Department of Energy Computer Incident Advisory Capability released an information bulletin, which included this assessment: "The vulnerability of systems to damage or snooping by using Web browser cookies is essentially nonexistent. Cookies can only tell a Web server if you have been there before and can pass short bits of information (such as a user number) from the Web server back to itself the next time you visit. ... Information about where you come from and what Web pages you visit already exists in a Web server's log files and could also be used to track users browsing habits, cookies just make it easier."
1998	<u>Impeachment of President Bill Clinton</u>	The impeachment of Bill Clinton was initiated on October 8, 1998, when the United States House of Representatives voted to commence impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States, for "high crimes and misdemeanors" The specific charges against Clinton were lying under oath and obstruction of justice. The charges stemmed from a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against Clinton by Paula Jones and from Clinton's testimony denying that he had engaged in a sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

1998-Present	<u>The Rise of Big Pharma and its influence on Public Policy</u>	With their deep pockets comes a strong hand of political and legislative influence, to the tune of \$2.9 billion between 1998 and 2014 on lobbying expenses, and \$15 billion in campaign contributions between 2013 and 2014. For some people, this straddles the line between unethical and illegal. Even as the federal government issues massive fines to keep those companies in check, the industry itself is a significant contributor to the Food and Drug Administration's budget, leading to concerns of conflicts of interest and outright bribery. This, say observers and watchdogs, is where "the pharmaceutical industry" becomes "Big Pharma." In 2012, for example, GlaxoSmithKline pled guilty to criminal charges of willfully promoting its leading antidepressant drugs, like Paxil and Wellbutrin, to consumers under the age of 18. Neither drug had been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to be used by minors, for which reason the government slapped a \$3 billion fine on the company. In 2012, Johnson & Johnson were hit with a \$2.2 billion fine for promoting off-label use of its drugs (i.e., the company was found guilty of encouraging consumers to use the drugs for purposes not condoned by the FDA). Pfizer, in 2009, paid \$2.3 billion for illegally marketing its Extra drug. The New York Times noted that the fine – a "record sum" at the time – accounted for less than three weeks of Pfizer's sales. ⁷
1998-Present	<u>Business Managed Democracy: A Rise in the Revolving Door between Business and Government</u>	Public Citizen's Congress Watch found that in the US, between 1998 and 2005 42 percent of the members of House of Representatives who left government and 53 percent of senators who left government became lobbyists, mainly for large corporations, with starting salaries up to \$500,000 a year and up to \$2 million a year for former chairs of congressional committees and subcommittees. (This compares with around 3 percent of Congress in the 1970s.) Regulations only stop them from directly lobbying their former colleagues for one year. After that they are able to turn their political careers into extremely lucrative lobbying careers. In addition, between 1998 and 2004 more than 2200 high-ranking government officials became lobbyists. This included more than half the senior officials of the Clinton administration who became corporate lobbyists when they left government office.

1998-Present	<u>American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act and NACARA Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act sets the stage for an increase in foreigners and foreign workers.</u>	The acts allowed for an increase in H-1B visa cap, new fees and penalties for abuse of the H-1B system, and NACARA provided permanent residence ("green cards") to certain Nicaraguans, Cubans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, nationals of former Soviet bloc countries and their dependents. The American Competitiveness Act of the 21st Century removed the cap on the H-1B visas. The legislation promoted globalism and the notion that we needed foreign works in engineering and technology in order to be competitive. In the 1970's foreigners comprised 5% of the U.S. population and at present, excluding those here illegally and not counted, foreigners comprise over 14% of the U.S. population, many of which come from impoverished nations or nations with totalitarian regimes. The percentage of foreign workers in the U.S. workforce is now estimated to be as high as 10%. The gross expansion of the H1-B visa system has allowed temporary work visas to expand to the point that an expectation of working in the U.S. has been set among many Tech professionals from India, with over 280,000 visas granted in a given year. In response to the Covid-19 virus, President Trump has given an executive order halting H1-B visas.
1999-Present	<u>Despite all of the increase in mental care spending, Suicide becomes an epidemic in the United States</u>	In 2017, 47,173 Americans killed themselves. In that single year, in other words, the suicide count was nearly seven times greater than the number of American soldiers killed in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars between 2001 and 2018. What's more, after decades of decline, the rate of self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 people annually—the suicide rate—has been increasing sharply since the late 1990s. Suicides now claim two-and-a-half times as many lives in this country as do homicides, even though the murder rate gets so much more attention. More importantly, the trend in the United States doesn't align with what's happening elsewhere in the developed world. The World Health Organization, for instance, reports that Great Britain, Canada, and China all have notably lower suicide rates than the United States, as do all but six countries in the European Union. (Japan's is only slightly lower.) There are 250 prescription drugs known to contribute to suicidal ideation or action, yet there is no systematic capturing of their impact in the United States.
1999	<u>Introduction of Napster Peer to Peer Sharing of Digital Music Violates Digital Rights Management/Copyright Infringement</u>	Napster is a set of three music-focused online services. It was founded in 1999 as a pioneering peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing Internet software that emphasized sharing digital audio files, typically audio songs, encoded in MP3 format. As the software became popular, the company ran into legal difficulties over copyright infringement.
1999	<u>Columbine High School Massacre</u>	Columbine High School Massacre: Shooting and attempted bombing of Colorado High School by two 12th grade students, killing 12. There has been an escalation in school shootings since this notorious event. From 1970 -April of 1999 there were 650 incidents in the United States, since then there have been over 900.

1999	<u>Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999; Repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933</u>	The Gramm-Leach Bliley Act of 1999 repealed significant aspects of the Glass-Steagall Act as well as the Bank Holding Act of 1956, both of which had served to sever investment banking and insurance services from commercial banking. From 1999 onwards, a bank could now offer commercial banking, securities, and insurance services under one roof. Provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act that prohibit a bank holding company from owning other financial companies were repealed on November 12, 1999, by the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act. This repeal is widely credited with precipitating the 2008 financial crisis. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (GLBA) was a bi-partisan regulation under President Bill Clinton, passed by Congress on November 12, 1999. The GLBA was an attempt to update and modernize the financial industry. The GLBA is most well-known as the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, which stated that commercial banks were not allowed to offer financial services—like investments and insurance-related services—as part of normal operations.
2000-Present	<u>Increase in Foreign Companies being listed on U.S. Exchanges and an Influx of Foreign Leaders for U.S. Corporations</u>	According to the book "Called to Account", prior to the passage of Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 there were about 50 Foreign companies per year listing on American stock exchanges and at the same time and continuing there has been an influx of foreign leaders of U.S. Corporations perpetuating the notion of globalism and in some cases detracting or diluting American fidelity and values. A survey by executive recruiting firm Crist Kolder Associates shows that more than 10 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs got their undergraduate degrees abroad, a rough proxy for nationality.
2000	<u>Survivor Debuts on CBS Ushering in Reality TV</u>	Survivor ushered in the genre of reality tv as it debuted on CBS. Networks scrambled to save money and reality tv and news shows presented a cheaper alternative to dramatic series or sitcoms. Reality TV blurs the lines between what is real and what is fiction and frequently encourages scandalous and unedifying behavior for the sake of ratings. Television in many areas has progressed from socially edifying and informative to public displays of cruelty and unrestrained behavior and language. The FCC has shied away from censoring. In a 2012 survey of high school seniors in the U.S., being a reality tv star was the most frequently cited career aspiration.
2000- 2001	<u>Enron Scandal</u>	A large scandal involving the public company Enron showed the American public and its representatives in Congress that new compliance standards for public accounting and auditing were sorely needed. Enron was one of the biggest, and, it was thought, one of the most financially sound companies in the U.S. Several years before Enron's bankruptcy, the government had deregulated the oil and gas industry to allow more competition, but deregulation also made it easier for companies to act fraudulently. Enron, among other companies, took advantage of this situation.

2000- Present	<u>Non-GAAP Earnings Manipulation Rise Study Finds</u>	Technology companies have been large users of non-GAAP adjustments as these companies typically don't report high net income from the use of GAAP, due to the nature of their businesses. Some companies, such as UBER (UBER), remove recurring costs that are needed to grow in markets that are competitive. This practice makes it difficult to value public companies with one another.
2000- Present	<u>The Rise in the Prevalence of Autism in the United States</u>	Nationally, 1 in 59 children had a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by age 8 in 2014, a 15 percent increase over 2012. There is legitimate concern that the quality and mix of vaccines has played a contributing role and concern that due to the immense power of the pharmaceutical industry on research and public policy the desire for truth and objectivity in research is impaired.
2000- Present	<u>Big Builders Continue to Gain Market Share</u>	Home Building Industry Consolidation: Rise of the Big Builders. Top 20 Builders increase from 16% share of new construction in 2000 to nearly 28% share in 2018. The rise of big builders has altered the nature of the home building industry which was largely local or regional.
2000-Present	<u>The Rise of the Big Banks</u>	Financial institution mergers increased with the total number of banking organizations consolidating to under 8000 in 2008 from a previous peak of nearly 15,000 in the early 1980s. ⁸ While banks have gotten bigger, the conglomeration of different financial services under one organization has also served to increase the complexity of those services. Banks began offering new financial products like derivatives and began packaging traditional financial assets like mortgages together through a process of securitization.
2001	<u>September 11 Attacks</u>	9 11 : a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The attacks resulted in 2,977 fatalities, over 25,000 injuries, and substantial long-term health consequences. It is the deadliest terrorist attack in human history.
2001- Present	<u>The Demise of the Journalist</u>	Newsroom jobs decreased 28% between 2008 and 2017. Between 2001 and 2011, there was a 27 percent decrease in employment in the industry overall. Policy changes governing the media and changes in taste have changed the way news is presented from an objective, factual perspective to more of an entertainment and at times one sided approach and this has impacted the degree to which and how Citizens stay informed.

2001-2020	<u>The War on Terror, including the War in Afghanistan and the Iraq War</u>	<p>The War on Terror is a military campaign launched by the President George W. Bush in response to the al-Qaida 9/11 terrorist attacks. The War on Terror includes the Afghanistan War and the War in Iraq. It added \$2.4 trillion to the debt as of the FY 2020 budget. President Bush announced the War on Terror on Sept. 20, 2001, in a speech to Congress.¹ "Our war on terror begins with al-Qaida," he said, "but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." There was in part an underlying belief that if we went to war abroad we would keep the attacks off American Soil. It was said during this time that America goes to war and America goes shopping as there were no ramifications for consumers.</p>
2001-Present	<u>iTunes and the iPod and the start of the legitimate digital music industry</u>	<p>The iPod is a line of portable media players and multi-purpose pocket computers designed and marketed by Apple Inc. The first version was released on October 23, 2001, about 8 1/2 months after the Macintosh version of iTunes was released. As of May 28, 2019, only the iPod Touch (7th generation) remains in production. The iPod was described by some in the industry as a hard drive with digital rights management in that Apple respected copy right laws. By 2010 the demand for iPods had largely been replaced by the iPhone. The music industry changed dramatically too. In the 1970s, the U.S. music industry was one of larges export industries and by 2005 the shift to digital music and demise of radio shrank the industry to less than half the size it was at its peaks. Some digital forums like YouTube initially capitalized on broad standards for copyright at the expense of artists, although this is changing.</p>

2002	<u>The 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act</u>	The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (BCRA, McCain–Feingold Act, Pub.L. 107–155, 116 Stat. 81, enacted March 27, 2002, H.R. 2356) is a United States federal law that amended the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, which regulates the financing of political campaigns. Its chief sponsors were Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and John McCain (R-AZ). The law became effective on 6 November 2002, and the new legal limits became effective on January 1, 2003. As noted in <i>McConnell v. FEC</i> , a United States Supreme Court ruling on the BCRA, the Act was designed to address two issues: The increased role of soft money in campaign financing, by prohibiting national political party committees from raising or spending any funds not subject to federal limits, even for state and local races or issue discussion; The proliferation of issue advocacy ads, by defining as "electioneering communications" broadcast ads that name a federal candidate within 30 days of a primary or caucus or 60 days of a general election, and prohibiting any such ad paid for by a corporation (including non-profit issue organizations such as Right to Life or the Environmental Defense Fund) or paid for by an unincorporated entity using any corporate or union general treasury funds. The decision in <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i> overturns this provision, but not the ban on foreign corporations or foreign nationals in decisions regarding political spending.
2002- present	<u>Verizon Introduces First 3G Network in U.S.</u>	“With 3G, for the first time, you had a larger bandwidth and reasonable data rates to support meaningful experiences for the user, the idea that internet access would become possible arrived with 3G. The questionable notion of the need for increasingly faster networks and their ensuing costs has played a role in the allowing of mergers in the industry by the FCC. There are legitimate questions about the safety of 5 G Networks and little room for public education and discourse.
2002	<u>The Introduction of the Blackberry</u>	In 2002, the more commonly known convergent smartphone BlackBerry was released, which supports push email, mobile telephone, text messaging, Internet faxing, Web browsing and other wireless information services. The Blackberry was primarily for business/commerce communications and altered the expectations of responsiveness.
2002	<u>Sarbanes Oxley Act Passage</u>	The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is a federal law that enacted a comprehensive reform of business financial practices. The 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act aims at publicly held corporations, their internal financial controls, and their financial reporting audit procedures as performed by external auditing firms. The act was passed in response to a number of corporate accounting scandals that occurred in 2000-2002 period. It put into place a set of new standards for public accounting firms, corporate management, and corporate board of directors. It called for prison time for abuses and in years after the act's passage, several CFOs have resigned. At the time, it also served to slow the progression of foreign firms listing on U.S. Stock Exchanges.

2002	<u>Arthur Andersen ends its role as Auditor of Public Companies in Scandal</u>	After 89 years in business, Arthur Andersen LLP ended its role as auditor of public companies. The Chicago-based company was convicted in June of 2002 of obstruction of justice for shredding and doctoring documents related to Enron audits. Today there are 4 large auditing firms and they audit most large public companies.
2002	<u>The Homeland Security Act of 2002</u>	The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which took over many immigration service and enforcement functions formerly performed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). With some modifications, the policies put into place by the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 are the same ones governing U.S. immigration in the early 21st century. Non-citizens currently enter the United States lawfully in one of two ways, either by receiving either temporary (non-immigrant) admission or permanent (immigrant) admission. A member of the latter category is classified as a lawful permanent resident, and receives a green card granting them eligibility to work in the United States and to eventually apply for citizenship.
2003	<u>FCC Votes to Relax Rules Regarding Media Ownership</u>	This resulted in mergers of several large companies and 4,000 radio stations and minority ownership dropped to its lowest point since tracking began in 1990. In June 2003 the FCC had a single public hearing and then voted 3-2 to repeal the newspaper broadcast cross-ownership ban and to make changes to or repeal a number of other ownership rules as well. This is a progression of the FCC losing its original focus. Licenses are no longer reviewed for "public interest" considerations.
2003	<u>Tesla Motor Company Founded; Ushering in the Age of the Electric Car</u>	Tesla was founded in 2003, shortly after GM destroyed the prototypes for its electric vehicle, the EV-1. In 2004, Elon Musk came to the fledgling company and provided much of the initial capital support to run it. It was founded with the idea to create effective electric cars and sell them to the masses. One peculiarity about Tesla is that it has at times had a market value greater than General Motors or Ford, despite it not being profitable. Elon Musk has run into problems with the SEC and Tesla experienced difficulty in meeting production requirements for its mass market product. Largely automatized, under Elon Musk's guidance, Tesla set up manual assembly lines in tents in parking lot and through the process Elon Musk acknowledged the benefits of manual labor to his surprise.

2004-Present	<u>Consolidation and Transformation of Competition in the Healthcare Insurance Industry</u>	<p>Competition drives innovation and efficiency in the larger economy, and for decades the United States has sought to use competition to motivate improvements in the health care system's performance. But competition requires competitors. The emergence of managed care in the 1980s was accompanied by the creation of hundreds of health insurance plans—mostly health maintenance organizations (HMOs)—which forced the incumbent indemnity insurers to reduce their costs or lose their customers. The subsequent senescence of managed care has been accompanied by an equally remarkable shrinkage in the number of competing health plans, as small firms sold out to their larger rivals and as even some of the industry's biggest names disappeared in a wave of mergers and acquisitions. In the past year, for example, United HealthCare has acquired Oxford Health Plans, and Anthem has announced the acquisition of WellPoint, creating megaplans with twenty-two million and twenty-eight million enrollees, respectively. Many states are dominated by 1-3 providers, with it being commonplace in 2004 for the largest provider to have a 30-60% share. After the passage of Obamacare, consolidated has continued at an escalated rate and this is true of other aspects of healthcare such as hospitals, pharmacies, and pharmaceutical companies.</p>
2004-Present	<u>Foreign Investment into U.S. Farmland on the Rise</u>	<p>Between 2004 and 2014, the amount of agricultural land held by foreign investors doubled from 13.7 million acres to 27.3 million acres — an area roughly the size of Tennessee. While representing only about two percent of total farmland, the value of the foreign-owned U.S. farmland soared from \$17.4 billion (in today's dollars) to \$42.7 billion during that same time period, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.</p>
2005-Present	<u>The Rise of Social Media, Largely Unregulated and Monopolistic, social media alters the way we communicate and become informed</u>	<p>Social media has become an integral part of all of our lives. We use it to connect with friends and family, to catch up on current events, and, perhaps most importantly, to entertain ourselves. This is why just under 70 percent of Americans, and more than 2.6 billion active users globally, use social networking sites. Back in just 2005, social media penetration in the U.S. was just 5 percent, and most of the rest of the internet didn't even know what it was. The social media industry, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and others is highly concentrated if not monopolistic and has surpassed television in advertising dollars. Its growth and power have remained largely unchecked and in many ways it has altered the way people socialize and communicate, and created a penchant for impersonal communication and a lack of listening and respect in some cases.</p>

2005	<u>The Effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Infrastructure</u>	Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, LA The disaster had major implications for a large segment of the population, economy, and politics of the entire United States. It has prompted a Congressional review of the Army Corps of Engineers and the failure of portions of the federally built flood protection system which experts agree should have protected the city's inhabitants from Katrina's surge. Katrina has also stimulated significant research in the academic community into urban planning, real estate finance, and economic issues in the wake of a natural disaster. It brought to light weaknesses and failures in our infrastructure, an issue which has yet to be fully addressed.
2005	<u>Housing Bubble Peaks</u>	New Housing construction peaks, yielding an over supply of new homes and highly leveraged homes. This lack of oversight would contribute to the great recession of 2008 and the "need" for financial institution bailouts. It was also destructive to long term homeowner wealth, as foreclosures pushed housing prices down.
2005- Present	<u>STEM Education Promotion and the Notion of a Workforce Ready Education Model</u>	An increase in funding and emphasis in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education and an increased notion that the primary purpose of education is to provide industry with a workforce ready population vs the general benefits to an individual and a society of an educated populace.
2005-Present	<u>The Rise of the Contract/Freelance Worker</u>	A new NPR/Marist poll finds that 1 in 5 jobs in America is held by a worker under contract. Within a decade, contractors and freelancers could make up half of the American workforce. Workers across all industries and at all professional levels will be touched by the movement toward independent work — one without the constraints, or benefits, of full-time employment. Policymakers are just starting to talk about the implications.
2005-Present	<u>Chinese Investment in U.S. Corporations Grows, Peaks in 2017</u>	Chinese investments in U.S. businesses, all but nonexistent 15 years ago, now total nearly \$50 billion and could reach \$200 billion by the end of the decade, according to a new study tracking the accelerating trend.
2006	<u>Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act PAEA passes in lame duck session</u>	PAEA was the first major overhaul of the United States Postal Service (USPS) since 1970. It reorganized the Postal Rate Commission, compelled the USPS to pay in advance for the health and retirement benefits of all of its employees for the next 50 years, and stipulated that the price of postage could not increase faster than the rate of inflation. It also mandated the USPS to deliver six days of the week. It required that the price charged per package covers its costs so as to prevent it from competing unfairly against shippers like United Parcel Service.

2006	<u>The Exposure of MAINWAY a government data base of phone records and the subsequent exposure of MARINA a similar database of Internet Traffic</u>	MAINWAY is a database maintained by the United States' National Security Agency (NSA) containing metadata for hundreds of billions of telephone calls made through the four largest telephone carriers in the United States: AT&T, SBC, BellSouth (all three now called AT&T) and Verizon. The existence of this database and the NSA program that compiled it was unknown to the general public until USA Today broke the story on May 10, 2006. It is estimated that the database contains over 1.9 trillion call-detail records. The records include detailed call information (caller, receiver, date/time of call, length of call, etc.) for use in traffic analysis and social network analysis, but do not include audio information or transcripts of the content of the phone calls. In response, the Bush administration defended its activities, while neither specifically confirming or denying the existence of the potentially illegal program. According to the Deputy White House Press Secretary, "The intelligence activities undertaken by the United States government are lawful, necessary and required to protect Americans from terrorist attacks." MARINA was exposed by Edward Snowden's documents. The constitutionality and legality of this behavior and the invasion of privacy of U.S. citizens was of great concern. President Barack Obama upheld the behavior.
2006	<u>Google Acquires YouTube</u>	After outbidding companies like Microsoft, Viacom, and Yahoo, Google bought YouTube for a tidy \$1.65 billion. The deal was mutually beneficial for both parties: Google won the war for online video traffic, and YouTube — barely a year old at the time — gained access to Google's hefty resources. YouTube fundamentally altered the music royalty business and changed the music industry
2006- Present	<u>Amazon Starts Fulfillment by Amazon for Small Businesses</u>	Amazon started Fulfillment by Amazon which managed the inventory of individuals and small companies selling their belongings through the company internet site. Amazon now has programs and incentives for Veterans and Amazon employees to start their own on line store. There is little quality control and Amazon skirts liability for the products sold through this venue. This component of Amazon's business though a large cash cow and revenue generator struggles for profitability yet has been very destructive to the retail industry as a whole.
2007	<u>Apple introduces the iPhone and changes the way people communicate.</u>	This was truly the device for productive, creative people on the move. It allowed computing in a hand held device and transformed the way we communicate and stay informed. Apple's valuation is over 1 Trillion Dollars.
2007	<u>Mattel Recalls 1.5 million Chinese made Toys due to Safety Issues</u>	In the middle of year 2007, Mattel had to deal with a product crisis, the worst-ever in its history. Mattel feared that its toys had toxic lead content higher than the permissible level. This could lead to a risk of health hazards for kids. Mattel was heavily criticized for allowing Chinese made toys with unacceptably high levels of lead paint to enter U.S. stores. In August 2007, Mattel recalled about 1.5 million Chinese-made Fisher-Price infant toys. Quality and safety issues are not isolated to the toy industry.

2007	<u>Concessions by the United Auto Workers Union for new employees yields a two tiered system and dramatically decreases the wages of the Big Three Auto Makers and the Transplants.</u>	United Auto Workers Union UAW makes wage concessions for new members and benefit agreement concessions. The difference in wages between the big three auto makers and the transplants has decreased dramatically. Union membership overall has decreased greatly since the 1970s.
2007-2008	<u>Too Big to Fail Mentality and Bailout of Financial Institutions</u>	President George W. Bush went against his beliefs and supported the bailout of many U.S. Banks and Financial Institutions. Proponents held the belief that if these institutions failed it would be too damaging for the economy. Others felt these institutions were too big and should be broken up.
2007-2008	<u>Sub-Prime Mortgage and Housing Crisis</u>	Year-to-year decreases in both U.S. home sales and home prices accelerates rather than slowing, with U.S. Treasury secretary Paulson calling "the housing decline ... the most significant risk to our economy." Home sales continue to fall. The decrease in existing-home sales is the steepest since 1989. In Q1/2007, S&P/Case-Shiller house price index records first year-over-year decline in nationwide house prices since 1991. The subprime mortgage industry collapses, foreclosure activity increases and rising interest rates threaten to depress prices further as problems in the subprime markets spread to the near-prime and prime mortgage market
2008	<u>Barack Obama is elected as America's first Black President</u>	On November 4, 2008, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois defeats Senator John McCain of Arizona to become the 44th U.S. president, and the first African American elected to the White House. On election night Obama said "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer... It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment, change has come to America."
2008	<u>Congress Bails out the Big Three Auto Makers</u>	Congressional Auto Bailouts. Demand for U.S. autos drops dramatically. Big three auto manufacturers suffer losses and receive Congressional Bailout.
2008	<u>Passage of the Troubled Asset Relief Program to support the failing financial system.</u>	Financial Institutions deemed too big to fail. The Troubled Asset Relief Program TARP. The federal government spent \$700 billion via the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) in an attempt to support the failing financial system.

2008	<u>Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008</u>	The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 in the United States included six separate major acts designed to restore confidence in the domestic mortgage industry. The Act included: Providing insurance for \$300 billion in mortgages estimated to assist 400,000 homeowners, establishing a new regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency via the merger of two existing authorities, The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO,)and the Federal Housing Finance Board (FHFB) endowed with expanded powers and greater authority than the sum of its predecessors, to supervise the operation of the 14 housing government sponsored enterprises GSEs among other things.
2008-Present	<u>Increasingly becoming a Debt Dependent Nation with the National Debt Growing from 35% of GDP in 2007 to 81% of GDP in 2020</u>	What makes America strong is our willingness to build and leave a better future for the next generation. Unfortunately, our growing debt is doing the opposite. America faces many challenges including rising inequality, unaffordable healthcare, a changing climate, failing education, crumbling infrastructure, and unpredictable security threats. To address these challenges we will need significant resources. Every dollar that goes toward interest payments means less resources available to build a stronger, more resilient future. The three principle factors contributing to the growth in debt are: Change in Demographics, Rise in Health Care, and Inadequate Revenue/Tax Base
2009	<u>Uber, the Start of the Ride Share Industry, is founded. A disruptive and destructive industry</u>	Uber Technologies, Inc., commonly known as Uber, is an American multinational ride-hailing company offering services that include peer-to-peer ridesharing, ride service hailing, food delivery (Uber Eats), and a micromobility system with electric bikes and scooters. As with other transportation network companies, Uber has been criticized for unfair treatment of drivers, disruption of the taxicab business, and the increase of traffic congestion. The company has also been criticized for its aggressive strategy in dealing with regulators and for several unlawful and/or questionable practices.
2009	<u>Top Officials at the FDA write Incoming President Barack Obama a letter of systemic corruption and wrong doing at the FDA</u>	Scientists and doctors with the FDA have sent a strongly worded letter to President Barack Obama calling for "sweeping measures are needed to end the systemic corruption and wrongdoing that permeates all levels of FDA and has plagued the Agency far too long." No Action was taken
2009-Present	<u>Foreigners Buy Record Number of Homes in U. S. Despite Immigration Concerns</u>	Led by the Chinese there is an increase in the number of foreign owned home purchases. The United States has few laws governing this area.
2010	<u>Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court Decision Giving Corporations 1st Amendment Rights and Allowing Unlimited Corporate Campaign Contributions</u>	Citizens United is a US Supreme Court decision in which five conservative justices ruled that corporations have the same First Amendment free speech protections as a real person. Corporations therefore have a right to unlimited spending in US elections.

2010	<u>Congress non responsive to General Public</u>	Increasingly reliant on lobbyists, Congress is no longer readily responsive to information from citizens and is quite unresponsive. Emails for Congress are not readily available to citizens, yet are to lobbyists, and citizens must fill out forms on websites to express their concerns.
2010	<u>Dodd Frank Financial Regulatory Reform</u>	Dodd-Frank established a number of new government agencies tasked with overseeing the various components of the act and, by extension, various aspects of the financial system. It is aimed at many of the apparent weaknesses within the U.S. financial system. The legislation created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The CFPB's status as an independent agency has been challenged in court, and is currently under review by the United States Supreme Court. President Donald Trump pledged to repeal Dodd-Frank and, in May 2018, signed a new law rolling back significant portions of it. Critics of the law argue that the regulatory burdens it imposes could make United States firms less competitive than their foreign counterparts.
2010-2014	<u>Obamacare is passed in 2010 and affirmed by the Supreme Court in 2012 and went into effect in 2014</u>	The comprehensive health care reform law enacted in March 2010 (sometimes known as ACA, PPACA, or "Obamacare"). The law has 3 primary goals: Make affordable health insurance available to more people, expand the Medicaid program to cover all adults with income below the 138% of federal poverty level, and support innovative medical care delivery methods designed to lower the cost of health care generally. The bill also created Population Health and fined people for not having health insurance. The Supreme Court affirmed the act in 2012 and deemed it lawful for the government to impose a tax on those not having health insurance. Many voting on the proposal never read it.
2010-Present	<u>Student Loans Increase in Prevalence and Amount. Higher Education is Increasingly Financed</u>	Americans owed about \$1.5 trillion in student loans at the end of March 2019, more than two times what they owed a decade earlier. The increase has come as historically high shares of young adults in the United States go to college and the cost of higher education increases.
2011	<u>FCC votes to remove the rule that implemented the Fairness Doctrine along with more than 80 other rules and regulations</u>	In August of 2011 the FCC voted to remove the rule that implemented the Fairness Doctrine along with more than 80 other rules and regulations, following an executive order given by President Barack Obama. In 2017 the FCC eliminated its rule that had previously prohibited common ownership of a full power broadcast station and a daily newspaper and eliminated some radio television cross-ownership rules. The FCC Commissioner's thinking is to allow traditional media companies to better compete with the mega internet companies like Google, Facebook and Apple.

2011 - Present	<u>Failed Attempts to Regulate Internet Privacy by States, Congress and the FTC</u>	From 2011 various bills have been introduced, but later withdrawn or failed. The difficulty of establishing standards and agreeing workable legislation seems to have hampered its progress. By contrast, legislation was passed in the EU, but how effective it has been in protecting consumer privacy is highly questionable. The FTC has tangled with Google and others on the issue of online privacy several times in the last few years. In 2012 Google agreed to a \$22.5 million settlement over Apple's Safari Web browser, which has a default setting to block third-party cookies that Google bypassed. A U.K. court recently ruled that Safari users can sue Google over cookie tracking.
2012	<u>Oil Boom Peak in North Dakota</u>	The North Dakota oil boom refers to the period of rapidly expanding oil extraction from the Bakken formation in the state of North Dakota that lasted from the discovery of Parshall Oil Field in 2006, and peaked in 2012, but with substantially less growth noted since 2015 due to a global decline in oil prices. The oil and natural gas found right here in North Dakota is getting us closer to energy independence, allowing the U.S. to lessen dependence on foreign energy sources. North Dakota is the number two oil producer and number twelve natural gas producer in the U.S., while the country as a whole is now the world's No. 1 producer in both.
2012	<u>Shooting of Trayvon Martin</u>	Unprovoked Shooting of Trayvon Martin an unarmed Black Youth by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Florida
2012	<u>Aurora Colorado Shooting</u>	Movie Theater Shooting in Colorado by Gunman who later pleaded insanity. 12 people killed
2012	<u>Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting</u>	Elementary School Shooting in CT, 26 people killed including 20 children by lone 20 year old gunman who also murdered his mother.
2012-2014	<u>By Executive Order President Obama issues DACA and later DAPA for children of illegal immigrants born in the United States and their parents</u>	President Barack Obama announces the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which offered deferred action from deportation (renewable every two years) and eligibility for a work permit for illegal aliens brought into the U.S. as children. DACA was a presidential executive order and was widely criticized as unconstitutional. President Obama issued another executive order announcing the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA), which deferred the deportation of illegal aliens living in the United States since 2010 who had children who were American citizens or legal permanent residents. His executive order simultaneously expanded DACA. Courts have ruled that DAPA is unconstitutional and the constitutionality of DACA is also in question.
2013	<u>Amazon signs deal with U.S. Postal Service for its last mile of delivery and receives favorable pricing</u>	Under its agreement with Amazon, the Post Office now delivers packages on Sundays and Amazon receives a \$1.46 subsidy on all its packages. It now uses the post office for 40 percent of its packages. The "last mile" of delivery allowing home delivery is the most expensive and Amazon's capacity to do this required its partnership with what once a cabinet branch of the U.S. government, and even with that still struggles for profitability, calling into question the legitimacy of such service.

2014	<u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Mandates Electronic Medical Records (EMR)</u>	As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, all public and private healthcare providers and other eligible professionals (EP) were required to adopt and demonstrate “meaningful use” of electronic medical records (EMR) by January 1, 2014 in order to maintain their existing Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement levels.
2014	<u>Death of Eric Garner</u>	Death of Eric Garner by New York City Police Officer; Start of I Can't Breathe and part of Black Lives Matter Movement. It took over five years for the officer to be fired and no charges were filed.
2014- 2018	<u>The Flint Water Crisis</u>	A story of environmental injustice and bad decision making, the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, began in 2014, when the city switched its drinking water supply from Detroit’s system to the Flint River in a cost-saving move. Inadequate treatment and testing of the water resulted in a series of major water quality and health issues for Flint residents—issues that were chronically ignored, overlooked, and discounted by government officials even as complaints mounted that the foul-smelling, discolored, and off-tasting water piped into Flint homes for 18 months was causing skin rashes, hair loss, and itchy skin. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission, a state-established body, concluded that the poor governmental response to the Flint crisis was a “result of systemic racism.” Later studies would reveal that the contaminated water was also contributing to a doubling—and in some cases, tripling—of the incidence of elevated blood lead levels in the city’s children, imperiling the health of its youngest generation. It was ultimately the determined, relentless efforts of the Flint community—with the support of doctors, scientists, journalists, and citizen activists—that shined a light on the city’s severe mismanagement of its drinking water and forced a reckoning over how such a scandal could have been allowed to happen.
2015	<u>Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court Decision Requiring States to Accept Same Sex Marriages</u>	Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), is a landmark civil rights case in which the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The 5–4 ruling requires all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas to perform and recognize the marriages of same-sex couples on the same terms and conditions as the marriages of opposite-sex couples, with all the accompanying rights and responsibilities.
2015	<u>Shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager by a white policeman in Ferguson, MO</u>	Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot and killed on Aug. 9, 2014, by Darren Wilson, a white police officer, in Ferguson, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis. The shooting prompted protests that roiled the area for weeks. On Nov. 24, the St. Louis County prosecutor announced that a grand jury decided not to indict Mr. Wilson. The announcement set off another wave of protests. In March, the Justice Department called on Ferguson to overhaul its criminal justice system, declaring that the city had engaged in constitutional violations.

2015	<u>Charleston Church Shooting</u>	The Charleston church shooting (also known as the Charleston church massacre) was a mass shooting on June 17, 2015, in Charleston, South Carolina, in which nine African Americans were killed during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church by a white supremacist.
2015-2017	<u>FCC Adopts Net Neutrality for the Internet in 2015 and then repeals it in 2017</u>	In 2015 the Obama-era FCC reclassified broadband service providers as "common carriers" like traditional telephone companies, giving the agency broader authority to regulate broadband providers. This was known as net neutrality and its premise is that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) shouldn't be able to block some sorts of data and prioritize others or throttle or charge more for fast lanes for data. In 2017, the FCC repeals net neutrality and the FCC gives up much authority in this area and states that states cannot be more restrictive than the FCC, yielding less regulation.
2017	<u>Me Too Movement Against Sexual Harassment Takes Off</u>	Following the exposure of the widespread sexual-abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein in early October 2017, the movement began to spread virally as a hashtag on social media. On October 15, 2017, American actress Alyssa Milano posted on Twitter, "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem," saying that she got the idea from a friend. A number of high-profile posts and responses from American celebrities Gwyneth Paltrow, Ashley Judd, Jennifer Lawrence, and Uma Thurman, among others, soon followed
2017	<u>THE FCC Eliminates Broadcast Station Newspaper Cross-ownership Rules</u>	In 2017, the Commission eliminated its rule that had previously prohibited common ownership of a full-power broadcast station and a daily newspaper if the station's contour (defined separately by type of station) completely encompassed the newspaper's city of publication and the station and newspaper were in the same relevant Nielsen market. At the same time, the Commission also eliminated the radio-television cross-ownership rule, which had restricted the common ownership of broadcast radio and television stations located in the same market. These two rules -- the newspaper-broadcast cross ownership and radio-television cross ownership rules -- were eliminated due in part to the growth in the number and variety of sources of entertainment, news and information in the modern media marketplace.
2017	<u>Trump violates anti-nepotism law of 1967 and his behavior goes largely unchallenged</u>	A public official (including the President) may not appoint, employ, promote, advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a civilian position in the agency in which he is serving or over which he exercises jurisdiction or control any individual who is a relative of the public official . The term "relative" was defined to include a sister, brother, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and other family relations. This law has been clearly violated by Donald Trump's appointment of his daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner to be his presidential advisors. There is no exception in the law for those who are not on the government payroll.

2017	<u>Effects of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico</u>	Hurricane Maria in September 2017 devastated the entirety of Puerto Rico and caused a major humanitarian crisis. An estimated 2,982 fatalities and US\$90 billion in damage occurred as a result of the hurricane.
2018	<u>Movement Toward Privatization of the United States Postal Service</u>	The postal service threatens to run out of money by 2024 for a variety of reasons and due to many forces, including the internet, postal unions, and its relationship with Amazon. President Trump is moving is moving toward privatization.
2018	<u>Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting</u>	Florida High School Mass Shooting by 19 year old former student, killing 17 people.
2018	<u>Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting</u>	The Pittsburgh synagogue shooting was a mass shooting that took place on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha Congregation in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The congregation, along with New Light Congregation and Congregation Dor Hadash, which also worshipped in the building, was attacked during Shabbat morning services. The shooter killed eleven people and wounded six. It was the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the United States.
2018	<u>The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Introduces Revolutionary New Approach to Healthcare: Whole Health</u>	Developed by practioners with expertise in functional medicine, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has introduced a revolutionary new approach to Veterans' healthcare. Patient centric, whole health focuses on health and not disease and encourages a greater sense of community involvement and integration, for example, it encourages and helps those suffering from depression to get involved with service with a local charity. Whole health encourages many non pharmacological based means of care for chronic pain and mental health, such as yoga, acupuncture, meditation and nutrition. It also stresses bridging the gap between patients, providers, and medical research. It presents a unique opportunity to learn new and better methods of care and there is hope that this model transform current mainstream approaches. The VA has had systemic healthcare issues and the decision and successful implementation of a complete change in direction verses incremental fixes is impressive.
2020	<u>California Consumer Privacy Act is Passed in 2018 and Comes into Being in 2020. It is based largely on the European General Data Protection Regulation which came into being in 2018 and had an impact of U.S. Tech Firm behavior</u>	The intentions of the Act are to provide California residents with the right to: Know what personal data is being collected about them. Know whether their personal data is sold or disclosed and to whom. Say no to the sale of personal data. Access their personal data. Request a business to delete any personal information about a consumer collected from that consumer. Not be discriminated against for exercising their privacy rights. It is important to note that Europe is more aggressive regarding privacy and anti trust than the United States in the tech area and the corporations in question are U.S. public companies.

2019	<u>Millennials Overtake Baby Boomers as America's Largest Generation</u>	Millennials have surpassed Baby Boomers as the nation's largest living adult generation, according to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. As of July 1, 2019 (the latest date for which population estimates are available), Millennials, whom we define as ages 23 to 38 in 2019, numbered 72.1 million, and Boomers (ages 55 to 73) numbered 71.6 million. Generation X (ages 39 to 54) numbered 65.2 million and is projected to pass the Boomers in population by 2028.
2019-2020	<u>The Impeachment of President Donald Trump</u>	The impeachment of Donald Trump, the 45th president of the United States, was initiated on December 18, 2019, when the House of Representatives approved articles of impeachment on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Trump was later acquitted by the Senate on these two counts of impeachment on February 5, 2020. The process was characterized by sensationalism, stonewalling, name calling, and uncooperativeness and was bipartisan. It further encouraged the spirit of divisiveness and even rebellion in the country.
2019	<u>The Business Round Table Association of Top CEOs says Shareholder Value is no longer their Main Objective</u>	The reimagined idea of a corporation drops the 1980's Jack Welch/GE promulgated notion that they function first and foremost to serve their shareholders and maximize profits. Investing in employees, delivering value to customers, dealing ethically with suppliers and supporting outside communities are now at the forefront of American business goals. This is the first time since 1997 that the Business Round Table has made such a statement.
2019	<u>The Grounding of Boeing 737 MAX due to safety violations</u>	After two major crashes of the Boeing Maxx 737, FAA certification of the MAX was investigated by the U.S. Congress, Transportation Department, FBI and ad hoc panels. The inquiries examined the FAA's longstanding practice of delegating substantial self-approval authority to Boeing. Investigations found evidence that Boeing put undue pressure on employees performing safety assurance work on behalf of the FAA, and also uncovered several systems and manufacturing defects.
2019	<u>FCC Reinstates 2016 Ownership Rules in Light of Third Circuit Court Decision Overturning Rule Changes</u>	The FCC issued an Order reinstating the FCC's 2016 ownership rules, recognizing that the changes made in those rules in 2017 Among the rule changes that have been rendered a nullity are the abolition of the broadcast-newspaper cross-ownership rule (once again reinforcing what we have written several times, that the rule may well outlive the daily newspaper) and the radio-television cross-ownership rule, the local TV ownership rule that had allowed combinations of two TV stations in the same market even if there were not 8 independent voices in the market after the combination, and changes to the FCC's processing policy with respect to radio embedded markets. These changes required the FCC to also issue two Public Notices dealing with these changes.

2019	<u>The U. S. Supreme Court Rejects United Parcel Services' (UPS) appeal that the United Postal Service has unfair package pricing</u>	The Supreme Court unanimously upheld an appeals court ruling related to how much the Postal Service can charge for packages. United Parcel Service Inc. (NYSE: UPS) argued that USPS has an unfair pricing method that has "departed from Congress's requirement" that it compete fairly with private companies. United Parcel Service is some sense a competitor of Amazon and the Postal Service
2019	<u>Internet Advertising Now Comprises Over fifty percent of all Advertising Dollars</u>	This tipping point is also a good reminder of how dominant these advertising businesses like Facebook and Google actually are. Despite a year full of conflict — both companies were called before Congress, both companies are at major risk of regulation both in the United States and abroad — their ad businesses did not suffer. Facebook and Google made up a combined 60 percent of the digital ad industry in the US last year, which equates to roughly \$65 billion in revenue.
2019	<u>Declining Birthrate and Fertility Rate Below Replacement</u>	The number of babies born in the U.S. hit the lowest level in more than three decades in 2019, continuing a five-year downward trend, according to a new federal report. Although part of an ongoing trend since 1971, the recent drop is attributed to changes in attitude toward motherhood and fewer teenage pregnancies.
2019	<u>The Rise of the Nones</u>	As the fastest growing “religious” group in the United States, one-fifth of Americans define their religious affiliation as “none” or “nothing in particular. Nones comprise one-third of adults under 30.
2019	<u>The Mexican Border Crisis: The U.S. Immigration System may have Reached a Breaking Point</u>	The country is now unable to provide either the necessary humanitarian relief for desperate migrants or even basic controls on the number and nature of who is entering the United States.
2020	<u>COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States</u>	The COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States has killed over 100,000 people and largely shut down the economy and social gatherings for the sake of flattening the growth of the virus. The Pandemic has shown how unprepared and ill equipped the Federal Government was to support states and hospitals in dealing with the outbreak. It has manifested what it means to be a Republic and how our society is very much have and have nots as millions of people lost their livelihood and millions of people enjoyed additional time with their families.
2020	<u>The Bipartisan Cares Act Provided over \$2 Trillion in Debt Financed Stimulus and Relief for unemployed Americans, Small Businesses, States, and the Economy as a Whole</u>	The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020. The Act provider for more than \$2 Trillion dollars worth of stimulus and relief for the economy by the Federal Government.
2020	<u>FTC to investigate mergers and acquisitions of tech firms over the past ten years</u>	The FTC will investigate the mergers and acquisitions of Alphabet, Apple, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft over the past ten year to see if there have been antitrust violations.

2020

The Killing of George Floyd

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down, begging for his life and repeatedly saying "I can't breathe". Officers J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane further restrained Floyd, while officer Tou Thao prevented bystanders from intervening. During the final three minutes, Floyd was motionless and had no pulse while Chauvin ignored onlookers' pleas to remove his knee, which he did not do until medics told him to. This ignited both peaceful protests and riots in the subsequent days and weeks afterwards and has generated talk and action regarding systemic racism and police brutality at local, state, and federal levels. All officers involved were charged.