

America's Wars

War	Years	Main Causes	Concluding Treaty	Major Results
French & Indian War	1755-1763	British and French competition for land, fur-trading outposts in Ohio River Valley	Peace of Paris (1763)	France loses all of North America; Great Britain assumes responsibility for huge amount of territory. British look to colonies for tax
Revolutionary War	1775-1781	Economic and ideological sources of colonial discontent led to protest and violent conflict	Treaty of Paris (1783)	U.S. recognized as independent nation. U.S. territory extends from Mississippi River on the west to Great Lakes on the North to Florida on the South
War of 1812	1812-1815	Impressment of U.S. sailors, land hunger, British aid to Indian tribes	Treaty of Ghent (1814)	U.S. and Great Britain return to <i>status quo antebellum</i> (situation prior to the war). U.S. develops more of a national consciousness
Mexican-American War	1846-1848	Desire for western land and Mexico leads to conflict in Texas and American invasion	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)	U.S. pays \$15 million for Mexican Cession (half of Mexico's northern territory)
Civil War	1861-1865	Southern resistance to growing Northern influence in Congress leads to secession and then conflict	Gen. Lee surrenders to Gen. Grant at Appomattox in April 1865	Slavery ends. South enters period of Reconstruction. U.S. becomes one nation.
Spanish-American War	1898	Spanish atrocities in Cuba and explosion of U.S.S. Maine in Havana Harbor lead to declaration of war	Treaty of Paris (1898)	Spanish Caribbean and Asian fleet destroyed. Puerto Rico, and Philippines added to U.S.
World War I	1914-1918	U.S. enters in 1917 following German resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare	Treaty of Versailles (1919)	U.S. becomes creditor nation. Map of Europe redrawn. Germany forced to give up colonies, pay reparations, and accept sole responsibility for the war.

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World War II	1939-1945	Surprise attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor leads to U.S. entry in both the Pacific and European theaters	Germany surrenders at V-E Day (May 1945). Japan surrenders at V-J Day (September 1945)	Germany and Japan occupied by victorious forces. United Nations created. Nuremberg Tribunals define crimes against humanity
Korean War	1950-1953	North Korean invasion of U.S.-supported South	Armistice (1953)	Korean peninsula division between communist North and non-communist South re-established with a demilitarized zone
Vietnam War	1960-1975	Growing Viet Cong influence in South Vietnam led to massive commitment of U.S. troops and air attacks on North Vietnam	Paris Peace Accords (1973)	All of Vietnam comes under control of Ho Chi Minh.
Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm)	1991	Iraqi invasion of Kuwait leads to coalition attack on Iraqis forces	Iraqi forces surrendered after 100 hours of fighting	Iraqi military withdraws from Kuwait. No-fly zone over Iraq created.
Second Gulf War (Operation Iraqi Freedom)	2003-	Fear of Iraqi possessions of weapons of mass destruction prompted invasion by U.S. and British forces	In September 2010 remaining 50,000 U.S. forces in non-combat roles	Saddam Hussein captured and killed. Democratic elections held in Iraq.
Afghanistan War (Operation Enduring Freedom)	2001-	Taliban support for Al-Qaeda forces launching 9/11 attacks led to U.S. and British attacks on Taliban government		Taliban political rule ended. NATO forces support political and economic reforms.