

American History Overview



About course and content

- **Goal:** To improve understanding of our closest ally: imperfect best hope for a 'free world.
- **Scope** From before Europeans to present day
- **Style** , ...informative, factual...and...hopefully... fun
- **Method** :Research mostly from Wikipedia, Britannica, Khan Academy, my own 'library' ...not an academic study
- **Qualifications** ...not a historian or academic. BA in Political Science and MA in Finance University of California. American family back to Revolution + life-long interest

Scope and Structure

Modules	Title (as of July 10 th)	Years	Provisional Dates
1	Pre Columbian times to Constitution	20,000 -1781	July-Sept
2	The early Republic	1781-1800	Sept/Oct
3	Continental Empire	1800-1848	Oct/Nov
4	Civil War and Reconstruction	1848-1876	Nov/Dec
5	Emergence of a world power	1876-1920	Jan/Feb
6	Retreat and renovation	1920-1941	March/April
7	An empire in transition	1945-1981	May/June
8	Master of the World	1981-2008	July/Sept
9	Adapting to a multi polar world	2009---2024	Sept/Oct

Two talks per month, off August, break December

Module One : Pre Columbian to Revolution

Tal k	Title	Content	Dates
1	Pre Columbian America	Indigenous peoples before Europeans	20,000 BC to 1500
2	First Explorers and Settlements	Spanish, French and English	1500-1600
3	From Settlements to Colonies	Emergence of new societies	1600-1700
4	British America	British American cultures	1700-1763
5	The road to Separation	Escalating differences	1763-1776
6	The Revolution	War and civil war	1776-1783