



## Decade 2: 1910-1919

### 1910

- Japan formally annexes Korea
- Union of South Africa established, with its parliamentary capital in Cape Town and administrative capital in Pretoria
- Portuguese monarchy ends; Teofilio Braga selected as president of new republic
- Mexican revolution begins; Francisco Madero publishes his manifesto *La sucesión presidencial en 1910*
- Boy Scouts of America incorporated
- Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay, becomes immigration center for Asians entering US
- Thomas Edison introduces his kinetophone, which makes talkies a reality
- Halley's Comet observed photographically for the first time
- Australia's Annette Kellerman arrested for swimming in Boston Harbor in an "indecent" one-piece swimsuit that exposes her legs
- William Monroe Trotter leads protest against the play, *The Clansman*, based on the novel by Thomas Dixon; the play is later redone as the movie *The Birth of a Nation*
- *The Crisis*, under the editorship of W.E.B. Du Bois, published; this protest organ was established as a place for disseminating news and protest information relating to issues of segregation and discrimination of African-Americans
- Jack Johnson, boxer, won the World's Heavyweight Championship by knocking out James Jeffries

### 1911

- First use of aircraft as offensive weapon, Turkish-Italian War; Italy defeats Turks, annexes Libya
- Chinese Republic proclaimed after revolution overthrows Manchu dynasty; Sun Yat-sen named president
- Mexican Revolution: Porfirio Diaz, president since 1877, replaced by Francisco Madero
- Roald Amundsen becomes first man to reach South Pole
- US explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Incan city of Machu Picchu
- Supreme Court finds Standard Oil Company (May 15) and American Tobacco Company (May 29) to be in violation of Sherman Antitrust Act
- First feature film released when the two reels of D.W. Griffith's *Enoch Arden* screened together
- British physicist Ernest Rutherford discovers the structure of an atom

- American geneticist Thomas Morgan shows that inherited factors are represented by genes placed at specific sites along a chromosome
- First chromosome maps developed
- First Indianapolis 500
- Procter & Gamble introduce Crisco, first solid vegetable shortening
- National Urban League founded to help the many African Americans who are migrating to the cities find jobs and housing

## 1912

- "Unsinkable" ocean liner Titanic sinks on maiden voyage after colliding with an iceberg; over 1,500 drown (April 15)
- Balkan Wars begin, resulting from territorial disputes: Turkey defeated by alliance of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Montenegro (Oct.)
- New Mexico and Arizona admitted as states No. 47 and 48
- Woodrow Wilson elected president
- William Randolph Hearst begins to acquire his media empire that will include 18 newspapers and 9 magazines within two decades
- Girl Scouts of America founded by Juliette Gordon Low
- Radio Act of 1912 assigns three- and four-letter codes to radio stations and limits broadcasting to the 360m wavelength, which jams signals
- *Photoplay* debuts as first magazine for movie fans
- American Astronomer Henrietta Leavitt discovers correlation between Cepheids' periods and luminosity, a relationship that becomes important to the measurement of interstellar and intergalactic distances
- German meteorologist and geophysicist Alfred Wegener proposes the idea of continental drift
- Piltdown Man hoax perpetuated; supposed fossils said to be "missing link" in evolution
- Term "vitamin" used for first time
- Electronic timers introduced for first time at the Stockholm Olympic Games
- W. C. Handy, the so-called "Father of the Blues," publishes his song *Memphis Blues*, which becomes a huge hit

## 1913

- Suffragettes demonstrate in London and Washington, DC
- London peace treaty partitions most of European Turkey among the victors of first Balkan War
- In second Balkan war, Bulgaria attacks Serbia and Greece and is defeated after Romania intervenes and Turks recapture Adrianople (June)
- Garment workers strike in New York and Boston; win pay raises and reduced hours
- Sixteenth Amendment (income tax) and 17th (popular election of U.S. senators) adopted
- Bill creating US Federal Reserve System becomes law
- Woodrow Wilson becomes 28th U.S. President
- Armory Show in New York introduces Americans to European modern art
- *Billboard* magazine publishes a list of the most popular vaudeville songs; it is the predecessor to their trademark charts

- First crossword puzzle appears in *New York World*
- Ernest Rutherford and Niels Bohr describe atomic structure
- Henry Ford develops first moving assembly line
- Vitamins A and B discovered
- *Darktown Follies* opens in Harlem and helps to make Harlem a black cultural center

## 1914

- World War I begins: Austria declares war on Serbia; Germany on Russia and France; Britain on Germany
- Panama Canal officially opened after 10 years of construction
- Congress sets up Federal Trade Commission, passes Clayton Antitrust Act
- US Marines occupy Veracruz, Mexico, intervening in civil war to protect American interests
- World's first red and green traffic lights installed in Cleveland
- In his second big-screen appearance, Charlie Chaplin plays the Little Tramp, his most famous character
- Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Tarzan of the Apes* published
- Winsor McCay unleashes *Gertie the Dinosaur*, first animated cartoon
- George Washington Carver begins experimenting with peanuts as a new cash crop for Southern farmers
- Last known passenger pigeon dies in the Cincinnati Zoo
- James Frank and Gustav Hertz carry out experiments, which confirm Niels Bohr's model of the atom with electrons in different energy levels
- Babe Ruth makes his major league debut
- Black nationalist Marcus Garvey founds the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Jamaica, advocating black economic and political independence and the founding of a new homeland in Africa; the UNIA soon moves to the US

## 1915

- British ocean liner Lusitania sunk by German submarine; 1,195 perish
- Second Battle of Ypres fought
- Genocide of estimated 600,000 to 1 million Armenians by Turkish soldiers
- One millionth Ford automobile rolls off the assembly line
- Superior Court in Fulton County, Ga. accepts the charter for the establishment of the new Ku Klux Klan (Dec. 4)
- D.W. Griffith's technically brilliant Civil War epic, *The Birth of a Nation*, introduces narrative close-up, flashback, and other elements that endure today as the structural principles of narrative filmmaking
- Audrey Munson, playing a model for a sculptor in the film *Inspiration*, becomes first actress to shed her clothes on screen
- Germans first use poison gas (Apr. 22) as a weapon at the second Battle of Ypres during World War I
- Richard Willstätter wins a Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his research on chlorophyll in plants

## 1916

- Battle of Verdun fought; Battle of the Somme follows in July
- Pershing fails in raid into Mexico in quest of rebel Pancho Villa
- Easter Rebellion in Ireland put down by British troops
- Congress authorizes a plan to expand the US armed forces over the next five years (June)
- Montana voters elect 36-year-old Republican Jeannette Rankin, first woman to serve in US Congress
- US National Park Service in the Department of the Interior created by act of Congress (Aug. 20)
- Charlie Chaplin signs on with Mutual Studios and earns an unprecedented \$10,000 a week
- Albert Einstein completes his mathematical formulation of a general theory of relativity, which includes gravity
- Kotaro Honda discovers that adding cobalt to tungsten steel produces an alloy that produces particularly strong magnets
- First PGA Championship

### **1917**

- First US combat troops arrive in France as U.S. declares war on Germany (April 6)
- Third Battle of Ypres fought
- World-wide influenza pandemic strikes; by 1920, nearly 20 million are dead
- Government offices seized and the Romanov's Winter Palace stormed in Russian October Revolution
- US declares war with Germany (Apr. 6)
- "I Want You" James Montgomery Flagg's poster, featuring Uncle Sam and based on a 1914 British poster, attracts thousands of U.S. recruits to WWI duty
- First Pulitzer Prizes are awarded for editorial writing, reporting, history of the United States, and biography or autobiography
- Telescope with a 100-inch mirror (the world's largest for 30 years) installed atop Mount Wilson Observatory in California
- Heparin, a natural anticoagulant, which can be used to stop blood clotting, discovered
- Forty African Americans and eight whites killed in race riots in East St. Louis, Ill., stirred up by white resentment of African Americans working in wartime industry
- Between ten thousand and fifteen thousand blacks silently walk down New York City's Fifth Avenue to protest racial discrimination and violence (July 28)

### **1918**

- Russian revolutionaries execute the former czar and his family; Russian Civil War between Reds (Bolsheviks) and Whites (anti-Bolsheviks)
- Allied troops (U.S., British, and French) intervene in Russia (March)
- Second Battle of the Marne (July-Aug.)
- German Kaiser abdicates (Nov.); hostilities cease on the Western Front
- Japanese hold Vladivostok until 1922
- Daylight Saving Time goes into effect (March)
- New York's worst subway accident kills 92 and injures 100 after a train jumps a track in Brooklyn at 30 mph (five times the speed limit) (Nov. 2)

- Pulitzer Prizes in Fiction, Drama and Poetry debut

## 1919

- Versailles Treaty, incorporating Woodrow Wilson's draft Covenant of League of Nations, signed by Allies and Germany; rejected by U.S. Senate
- Mahatma Gandhi initiates Satyagraha campaigns, beginning his nonviolent resistance movement against British rule in India
- About three-quarters of the Boston police force goes on strike (Sept. 9); Massachusetts Governor (John) Calvin Coolidge acts quickly to dismiss the strikers, saying that no one has the right to strike against the public safety
- 18th amendment, prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages anywhere in the US, ratified (Jan. 16)
- After moving from its southern rural roots, jazz establishes Chicago as its capital; the city will become home to such jazz greats as trumpeter Louis Armstrong and pianist Jelly Roll Morton
- Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford establish United Artists in an attempt to control their own work
- Dial telephones introduced by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company
- Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity confirmed when the Royal Astronomical Society sees the predicted effect during a solar eclipse
- Irving Langmuir develops a theory of covalent bonding between atoms
- Black Sox scandal in baseball
- Oscar Micheaux, a pioneering director-producer of "race movies," produces his first film, *The Homesteader*, based on his novel
- Race riots erupt in 26 U.S. cities during the course of the year, including Washington, D.C., and Chicago