

American Revolution	The American Revolutionary War began in 1775 until 1783 when the 13 colonies rebelled against British rule, resulting in American independence. Tensions between the colonial government, who represented the British crown, and the people within the colonies rose from small skirmishes between British troops and colonial militiamen to an armed conflict for independence.
Articles of Confederation	The Articles of Confederation (1781) created a sovereign, national government for the United States. They served as the written document that declared independence from Great Britain and established the function of the national government of the United States. However, the Articles of Confederation permitted states to act more like independent, sovereign countries rather than a unified one. The central government found it difficult to enforce policies on individual states and responses to events around the nation leading to a call for a more powerful central government. The Articles of Confederation were then replaced by the current Constitution (1787) created at the Constitutional Convention.
Corsairs	Corsairs were privateers, or sailors, who acted as state agents, captured foreign ships, and were allowed to keep a percentage of the spoils. They captured other nations' ships and cargo, ransomed or imprisoned the crew, and forced them to work in order to make money for the state. The rest of the profits went to the government.
Free trade	Free trade is a policy where a government does not discriminate against imports or interfere with exports by applying tariffs or subsidies in international trade.
International law	International law is a body of rules established by custom or treaty and recognized by nations as binding in their relationships with one another.
Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship	Morocco became one of the first countries to recognize American independence when Sultan Mohammed III opened ports to American ships in 1777. Morocco formally recognized U.S. independence by signing this treaty of peace and friendship in 1786. Today, this treaty is the longest unbroken relationship in U.S. history.
Ottoman Empire	The Ottoman Empire was an Islamic-run empire that ruled areas in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and North Africa for over 600 years. The Ottoman Empire was created by Osman I the leader of the Turkish tribes in Anatolia in 1299. The Ottomans were best known for their contributions to art, science, and medicine. The empire fell after WWI when their army supported the Central Powers. After the war and the defeat of the Central Powers, most of the Ottoman territories were then divided between Great Britain, France, Greece, and Russia. The empire officially ended in 1922 and was followed by the independent Republic of Turkey in 1923.

Pirates	Pirates are criminals who follow few established rules and are independent from their government.
Ransom	A ransom is a sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner.
Ratification of the U.S. Constitution	Ratification of a constitution is the act of giving formal consent to a document making it officially valid. The U.S. Constitution became official when New Hampshire was the ninth of 13 states to ratify. Until ratification in 1788, the United States government was guided by the Articles of Confederation.
Strait of Gibraltar	The Strait of Gibraltar is a channel of water that connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. It lies between the southernmost part of Spain and the northwesternmost part of Africa. Between Point Marroquí, Spain, and Point Cires, Morocco, it narrows to 8 miles. The strait was used by early Atlantic voyagers and it has continued to be important both strategically and economically important to southern Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia as a shipping route.
Treaty	A treaty is an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation; a contract in writing between two or more political authorities such as sovereign states, formally signed by authorized representatives, and usually approved by the legislature of the state.
Tribute	A tribute is a periodic payment from one nation to another. Many nations paid tributes to the Barbary States in exchange for peaceful sea travel.
U.S. Naval Armament Act	The “Act to provide a Naval Armament” was passed in 1794 authorizing the first six ships of the U.S. Navy. Four ships had 44 guns each and the other two ships had 36 guns each. The act also specified sailor's pay, daily rations, and how many crew members were necessary for each ship.