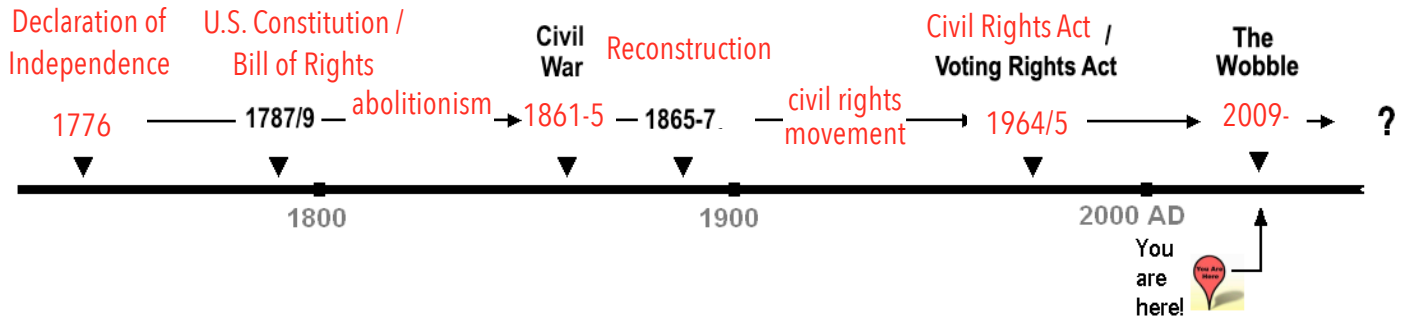


Part 1: Facts Practice

1. Fill in the missing parts of the timeline. (When a date is missing for an event, enter the date. When the date is given, but the name of an event is missing, enter the name. Don't forget to label arrows that represent phases of history as well. *Make sure the timeline is truly complete before moving on!*)



(5 pts: 1/2 pt per missing entry)

Part 2: The History of the American Social Contract

2. What is a “social contract”? Give three examples of social contracts in your personal life.

A “social contract” is the set of rules that any group of people agrees to live by, which in an organized society is embodied by its private institutions and a government that enforces that society’s laws. Social contracts abound in life, in all contexts. Any family’s social contract usually includes jobs for adults and chores for kids, such as walking the dog or taking out the trash. The social contract of HistoryAtOurHouse for live classes revolves around the rules of etiquette for classroom behavior. The social contract of America includes the idea of presidential elections held every four years, among many other laws. **(5 pts: 1pt for definition; 3 pts for three examples; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

3. Why does the history of the American social contract begin with the *Wobble* today? What question that is normally missing in history does this help focus on when learning about much earlier events?

The history of the American social contract has to begin with the *Wobble* of recent presidencies from Obama to Trump to Biden, because these are the most recent events that have shaped our world, and the culmination of the story of the social contract so far. Focusing on this reality helps us to focus on the connection between the events we study (the past) and how they have shaped the world we live in (the present). **(3 pts: 1pt for the Wobble as the present; 1 pt connecting past and present; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 13 pts

4. What does the *Declaration of Independence* declare as the original American social contract? How do the Constitution and Bill of Rights embody or contradict this social contract?

The *Declaration of Independence* says that America is founded to protect the natural rights of individuals to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Constitution created a union to make independence and the lasting defense of rights possible, but also includes a compromise relating to slavery, which continued to be practiced in eight of the thirteen states and had yet to be repudiated as a part of human life. The Bill of Rights makes special provisions for the protection of rights *from the government itself*, but also fails to address the immorality of slavery, thus embedding a contradiction between right and slavery in the original American social contract. **(5 pts: 1pt for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; 1 pt for union and compromise over slavery; 1pt for protecting rights; 1pt for contradiction; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

5. Explain the challenge of interpreting the history of slavery from a modern point of view.

Interpreting slavery from a modern point of view involves the challenge of the “presumption of modernity.” This means modern people presume to judge people of the past by means of modern standards when they fail to recognize that those standards did not exist and did not apply in the past. Slavery was normal in human life until America was founded. It was never challenged by any religious tradition or by any culture. It is critical to understand this or we will fall prey to the modern folly of assuming everybody in the past *should* have been like us and view just about everything in the past with an exaggerated negativity. **(4 pts: 1pt for modern life being different; 1pt normalcy of slavery; 1pt for challenge of judging; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

6. Why was it not possible to abolish slavery before the Civil War despite the rise of abolitionism? In what ways did the Civil War make abolition possible, and how did it finally happen?

It was not possible to abolish slavery before the Civil War for a set of combined reasons which begins with the normalcy of slavery at the time of the founding, and thus the inclusion of slavery in the social contract until the rise of abolitionism, and finally the fact that this social contract was embedded in the Constitution, which could not be changed without the consent of 3/4 of the states. The Civil War made abolition possible because it was triggered by the secession of the South, which was trying to maintain slavery, which technically put seceding states in rebellion against the Union and made it impossible for them to resist changes to the laws, and by the victory of the Union, which allowed the Union to impose abolition as a condition of the South resuming its participation in the governance of the country. **(6pts: 1pt for normalcy of slavery; 1pt for Constitutional amendment limitation; 1pt for Civil War disqualifying states; 1pt for Union victory; 1pt for southern states being forced to accept Reconstruction ; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 15 pts

7. How did the original American social contract fail? Why did it happen precisely when it did?

The original American social contract failed because of the rise of abolitionism as a social movement, which emphasized the immorality of slavery, thus challenging the moral compromise of the social contract. It took decades for the abolitionists to make the issue important enough for the southern states to feel threatened by the election of Abraham Lincoln (an abolitionist) to the presidency. When Lincoln was elected president in 1860 it triggered the secession of the South, which is the precise mechanism by which the social contract broke.

(4 pts: 1 pt for abolitionism; 1 pt for election of Lincoln; 1pt for secession; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)

9. Pick two of the heroes of the civil rights movement, and how did each one promote the cause of full citizenship for African-Americans?

Rosa Parks was a black woman living in Mississippi who defied segregation laws on a public bus by sitting in an area reserved for white people. She was arrested for it. Ruby Bridges was a little black girl in Louisiana who wanted to attend the same public school as white kids, and she needed the protection of federal marshals to attend school because she was threatened by racist white people for doing so. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister who was a charismatic speaker, who gave the speech “I have a dream” in Washington to promote the cause of civil rights. **(3 pts: 1pt for any of the two examples above, and for others that the student may have correctly included ; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

10. What do the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 say? Why were these laws deemed necessary? How did their passage come about through the *civil rights movement*?

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says that it is illegal to discriminate against anyone on the basis of race. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 reinforces the 15th amendment and says that it is illegal to prevent someone (such as through a so-called “literacy” test) from voting on the basis of race. These laws were deemed necessary because a hundred years had elapsed since the Civil War and African-American citizens were still not treated as equal citizens and continued to suffer many injustices because of race-based discrimination. The *civil rights movement*, led by Martin Luther King Jr., triggered by many acts of courage by African-Americans, was the long process of peacefully combatting injustice and racism in order to promote the changing of the laws. **(5 pts: 1 pt for CRA; 1pt for VRA; 1pt for ongoing injustice after Civil War; 1 pt CRM to promote change; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 12 pts

11. What is the strict meaning of “democracy”? Why can’t America ever be a democracy in that sense of the word? What “right” did the founding fathers not define in the original social contract? What did they think America should be instead of a democracy?

The word “democracy” is the anglicized form of “demos” and “kratia” from ancient Greek. Together these words mean “the rule of people.” Since a populace can never be in complete agreement on all things, the rule of the people means the rule of the majority, when people vote to decide how laws are made. America can never be a democracy in the true sense of the word, because its constitution and bill of rights protects individual rights and places limitations on the actions of the majority, preventing it from actually ruling. In relation to this, it is important to note that the Founding Fathers did not include the “right to vote” in any of their key documents defining the social contract or fundamental laws of the United States. In their understanding, a “republic” was a society with a constitution and representative government, instead of majority rule.

(6 pts: 1pt for demos-kratia; 1 pt for majority rule; 1pt for limits on majority rule in America; 1 pt for no “right to vote” in founding documents; 1 pt for “republic;” 1pt for spelling and grammar)

Total Points This Page: 6 pts

Total Points On Test: 46 pts