

Words of Visionaries

Module: Speeches by Visionaries & Changing World Order

At Dreamers & Innovators, we have two ongoing modules. First, **Speeches by Visionaries**, for our junior Dreamers, strives to inspire them with the ideas, words and achievements of world-renowned figures such as Kalam, Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs etc.

Our module for seniors, **Changing World Order**, demystifies the conflicts and crises of today by identifying the roots and evolutions of these issues, which all go back to events of the 20th century.

This week's newsletter showcases the ideas of three promising Dreamers: Shudit, who writes about the journey of Africans from slavery to Civil rights in the USA. Veer discusses the internationally impacting Bretton Woods conference, while Saayesha expounds on how the US benefitted from wars.

Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

From Slavery to Civil Rights

Shudit Chandwani
12 years



The Atlantic Slave Trade involved the transportation of African slaves mainly to the United States. Since the 1500s, the Atlantic Slave Trade brought close to ten million slaves to the U.S to work on plantations. They were freed when Lincoln became the 16th President and the District of Columbia Compensation Emancipation Act was passed in 1863. The proclamation declared that all the people held as slaves in the United States shall be free from that day onwards. The proclamation immediately freed on paper millions of the enslaved, but it did not take effect until the Union Army was present. Week by week as the army advanced, more slaves were liberated. The last were freed in Texas on a day they called "Juneteenth" which became a federal holiday on June 19th.

Martin Luther King Jr was a civil rights legend. He wanted to end Segregation and prejudice in the United States through peaceful protest. And finally, in 1964, Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act, eliminating racial segregation in the United States. The legislation made it illegal to discriminate against blacks or other minorities in hiring, public accommodations, education or transportation.

US Supremacy at Bretton Woods

Veer Sagar
13 years



After World War II, it was clear that the world needed a new financial system. The gold standard existed in the early twentieth century but its use was mostly withdrawn by the time WW2 ended. At that time, the economists worried that in the absence of a good economic policy the countries could devalue their currencies or the central bank could print money freely. Thus, the countries decided to meet at a conference in Bretton woods. It was agreed that for all currencies' paper money to be linked to gold. Since the USA had two-third of the world's gold reserves it played an important role. Hence all currencies ended up being pegged against the dollar and the dollar would, in turn, could be converted to gold.

Over a period of time, the amount of US dollars in existence kept on increasing while the gold reserves decreased as other countries wanted gold for their US dollars. So, on 15th August 1971, the Bretton woods system was considered inapplicable.

Also post WW2, a major concern that arose was that if a country went into an economic crisis how would it recover! To address this issue, two institutions were created: one was the IMF (International Monetary fund) which was supposed to offer financial aid to countries that needed financial help from other countries and the second one was World Bank which was for reconstruction and development. It sounds like a very systematic and planned system, but it was not.

The US War Machine

Saayesha Chandrani
14 years



Development for one can be the destruction of others. The U.S.A. has played a significant role in many wars and has been affected by them in the past. Despite the adverse effects of war, the USA has benefitted from a few, such as the Spanish-American War, the World Wars, the Gulf War, and Cold War.

As a result of the Spanish-American War, the United States rose to prominence in the Caribbean region and took over Spain's Pacific possessions. It was during both the World Wars in the 20th century that US contributed in terms of arms. And, in both cases the American economy was bolstered. The World War I helped the USA out of the Depression that started in 1929, after the stock market crash on Black Tuesday. In the case of World War II, the US was a significant debtor nation.

During the Cold War, the United States of America enjoyed economic prosperity and an improvement in its standard of living. This made the US very powerful on the international stage during this time. During the Gulf War, the country used its military and economic instruments to gain international support at a relatively low cost along with executing joint and multinational military operations. Wars sometimes have a positive impact, there proves to be a higher likelihood of a huge negative footprint on a country's economy, population and communities.