

Georgia College & State University

Study Guide to Georgia History

This guide is an outline to aid you in studying Georgia's history and should be used in conjunction with *The New Georgia Encyclopedia* website (<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/>) and/or a textbook on Georgia history to fill in details. Additionally, a strong knowledge of United States history is crucial for placing Georgia events and people in their broader historical context. A textbook on American history that can be accessed online is *The American Yawp* (<http://www.americanyawp.com>). This guide provides some chronology along with major trends and events, and some significant people that you should be able to identify.

Geography:

Three basic areas: Mountains, Piedmont, Coastal Plain
Each region supports different flora and fauna

Capitals of Georgia:

Savannah (1782-1786)
Augusta (1786-1795)
Louisville (1796-1806)
Milledgeville (1807-1868)
Atlanta (1868-present)

Governors of Georgia:

For each governor of Georgia, know the major event(s) of their administration and their stance on the major events of the period (for instance, in the 1770s, was the Governor of Georgia supporting American independence or loyal to England? In the Civil Rights era, what stance did the governors of Georgia take on issues like desegregation?)

Time Periods:

Prehistoric periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian (pre-1500s)

Colonial: 1550s-1775

Revolutionary War/Confederation: 1775-1788

Early National Period: 1790s-1820s

Antebellum Period: 1820s-1861

Civil War: 1861-1865

Reconstruction: 1865-1877

Gilded Age/Progressive Era: 1870s-1910s

WWI to WWII: 1917-1945

Post-World War II: 1945-present

Trends, Patterns, and Events of Georgia History

I. Prehistoric Periods, pre-1500s

Native American populations: Cherokee in North, Creek Confederation in Middle and West Georgia, small band of Chickasaw near Augusta

Seasonal patterns of hunting, gathering, agriculture

Political and social organization, especially of Mississippian cultures

II. Colonial Period, 1500s-1775

Key Early Explorations: 1525-1646: Spanish expeditions exploring Georgia coast and interior; Late 1550s-early 1600s: Spanish missions along Georgia coast; 1670: Founding of Charleston, English traders began to trade with Native Americans in what is now Georgia

Key Events in Establishment of Georgia: 1732: Georgia Charter granted to a charitable trust. Three reasons for colony's founding: trust wanted to provide a new start for England's poor and persecuted Protestants in Europe; English government wanted defensive buffer between Spanish Florida and English Carolina; English government wanted Georgia to fit into British mercantilism. 1733: First colonists arrive with founding Trustee James Oglethorpe

Key Events in Trustee Period (1733-early 1750s): Three major laws: no alcohol, no slavery, license required to trade with Native Americans; colonization by English and other European immigrants; Native American relations/negotiations for Savannah; discontent

over Trustee policies (including land policies); problems with “Malcontents”; War of Jenkins’ Ear with Spanish, including Battle of Bloody Marsh; abandonment of Trustee policies and laws by late 1740s; economic development; First Great Awakening

Key Events in Royal Colony Period (1752-1775): development of slavery and plantation system; rice culture along the coast; fur/deerskin trade in backcountry; new government with royal governor, Governor’s council, elected Commons House of Assembly; Indian land cessions in 1763-1773 opened backcountry to farmers but also restricted settlement; events leading to American Revolution include Georgia’s reactions to events in other colonies; only one of 13 mainland rebellious colonies to not attend First Continental Congress

Key People: James Oglethorpe, William Stephens, Henry Ellis, John Reynolds, James Wright, Hernando de Soto, Mary Musgrove, Tomochichi, George Whitefield

III. Revolutionary War and Confederation Period, 1775-1788

Key Battles: Fighting in Georgia between Patriots (Whigs) and Loyalists (Tories); Battle of Rice Boats, Second Continental Congress and signing of Declaration of Independence; Capture of Savannah, re-establishment of royal government; Battles of Kettle Creek and Briar Creek; Siege of Savannah; multiple rounds of conflict over Augusta

Key Government Developments: Attended Second Continental Congress and signed Declaration of Independence (George Walton, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett); Rules and Regulations; passage of state constitution; Articles of Confederation; Capital moved to Augusta and western expansion/resulting pressure for Native American lands; Constitutional Convention: Georgia electors unanimously chose George Washington for 1st President, supported Constitution and stronger federal government related to Indian lands.

Key People: William Ewen, George Walton, Nathan Brownson, Archibald Bulloch, Archibald Campbell, Button Gwinnett, John Adam Treutlen, John Wereat, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett, Lachlan MacIntosh, Elijah Clarke, Thomas Brown, Abraham Baldwin, William Few, Noble Wimberly Jones, Alexander McGillivray, Nancy Hart, Count D’Estaing, James Jackson

IV. Early National Period, 1789-1820s

Key Political Developments: Capital moved to Louisville (1795) and Milledgeville (1804); “Civilization Policy” and Indian land cessions, revised Constitutions of 1789, 1795; development of political factions (Jackson/Troupites, Clarkites), Yazoo Land Fraud; War of

1812 and impacts; Red Stick War with Upper and Lower Creeks, Battle of Horseshoe Bend, and end of war with Treaty of Fort Jackson

Key Economic Developments: end of Indian trade; rice culture continued in coastal areas; tobacco culture in piedmont; cotton gin invented in 1793 by Eli Whitney; development of cotton culture; land lottery; continuing development of slavery; agricultural production of yeoman farmers; development of banking; development of transportation—roads

Key Religious and Social Development: Second Great Awakening; growth especially of Methodists and Baptists; establishment of University of Georgia in 1785; development of towns especially in western parts of state

Key People: Abraham Baldwin, William Few, George Mathews, James Jackson, John and Elijah Clarke, George Troup, Josiah Meigs, Eli Whitney, John Milledge, Alexander McGillivray

V. Antebellum Period, 1820s-1860s

Key Political Developments: Georgia Triumvirate of Whigs; Compromise of 1850; Georgia Platform and emphasis on the Fugitive Slave Act; Know Nothings; Whigs; Democrats; Calhounism; Party development over issues of tariffs, states' rights, secession; Mexican-American War; increasing sectional tensions in the 1850s; rise of the Republican party

Key Economic Developments: Industrial development in Georgia like cotton mills, tanneries, quarries, turpentine distilleries, lumber; Market Revolution; slavery and cotton's continued growth and economic prominence; cotton and rice agricultures; food crop production (like corn); road improvements; development of railroads—Georgia Railroad, Central of Georgia, Western and Atlanta and smaller rail lines; limited development of

Key Characteristics of Slavery in this Time Period: Prevalence in Georgia; how many people owned slaves; prevalence of plantations vs. small farm agriculture (planter elite, small planters, yeoman farmers, poor whites); what types of slavery were practiced in Georgia; chattel system; task system; gendered differences in slaves' experience of slavery; influence of Christianity

Key Religious and Social Developments: Second Great Awakening; the Great Revival; moral reform efforts including Academy for the Blind, Academy for the Deaf; mental health institutions like Central State Hospital; Franklin College and limited private education for most; religious-founded higher education institutions: Emory, Oglethorpe, Mercer, Wesleyan College for Women

Key Native American Relations: 1820s-1830s Native American Removals of Creeks and Cherokees; Supreme Court cases *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* and *Worcester v. Georgia*; Treaty of New Echota; Treaty of Indian Springs; Indian Removal Act of 1830; Trail of Tears

Key People: William Harris Crawford, George Gilmer, Wilson Lumpkin, Howell Cobb, Herschel Johnson, Alexander Stephens, Robert Toombs, Joseph Brown, William McIntosh, John Ross, Major Ridge, Elias Boudinot, Crawford W. Long

VI. Civil War, 1860-1865

Key Political Developments: Georgia voters divided in election of 1860 between Southern/Northern Democrats and Constitutional Unionists; States' Rights; Federalism; Secession Convention; Unionism in Georgia (know key figures and arguments); Secession in January 1861; Fort Sumter; tensions between Georgia and Confederate governments;

Key Battles in Georgia: Union Blockade of coast; Capture of Fort Pulaski; Kennesaw Mountain, Chickamauga, Atlanta Campaign, March to the Sea, Fort McCallister, Darien, Columbus; Savannah Harbor. Know the chronology of these battles, as well. Prison Camp at Andersonville.

Key Economic Developments: industry expansion; Atlanta as quartermaster and commissary headquarters for Confederacy; Confederate Powder Factory in Augusta; inflation; shortages;

Key Social Developments: Homefront in the Civil War; morale challenges as war dragged on; opposition to the draft; class resentments; challenges for civilians; liberation of African Americans from slavery

Key People: Joseph E. Brown, Alexander Stephens, Robert Toombs, Howell and T.R.R. Cobb, Henry Benning, Braxton Bragg, Joseph E. Johnston, William Tecumseh Sherman, Henry Wirz

VII. Reconstruction, 1865-1877

Key Political Developments: Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan; Presidential Reconstruction; Radical Reconstruction; emergence of Republican Party in Georgia; political enfranchisement of African Americans; Constitution of 1868; Readmission to U.S. in 1868 and 1870; expulsion of black legislators; "Redemption"; Rise of "Bourbon" Democrats to power; Constitution of 1877 One-Party-Rule; Election of 1876; Compromise of 1877; black

codes; convict-lease system; military government of Georgia; 13th 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Key Economic Developments: Freedman's Bureau; cotton agriculture; sharecropping; tenant farming; emergence of crop lien system of credit; Atlanta as state capital and center of distribution and commerce; rebuilding infrastructure like railroads

Key Social Developments: Lost Cause; Confederate Symbolism; legacies of the Civil War into the 20th and 21st centuries; higher educational institutions for African Americans; reopening of colleges and establishment of new state colleges; state-supported public school system (segregated); founding of African American churches; Ku Klux Klan; lynching

Key People: Charles J. Jenkins, Joseph E. Brown, Rufus Bullock, John B. Gordon, Jefferson Long, William Jefferson White, Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, Gustavus J. Orr, Sidney Lanier

VIII. Gilded Age/Progressive Age: 1870s-1910s

Key Political Developments: Disenfranchisement of black voters through policies and voting systems that favored rural power; Democratic Party consolidation of power; Farmers' Alliance; Populism; Segregation laws at state and local levels; *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896); Anti-Lynching Campaign; Leo Frank Case (murder and lynching in Atlanta); Rebirth of KKK at Stone Mountain

Key Economic Developments: Increase in tenant farming/sharecropping/crop liens; "New South"; agricultural diversification begins; textile industry and processing of other natural resources; Coca Cola begins; urbanization in a few areas; convict lease system

Key Social Developments: More access to education; new colleges established; race relations; Atlanta Race Riot of 1906; Differing approaches of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois—Atlanta Compromise speech; resistance to segregation; emergence of African American businesses, civil and social organizations;

Key People: William and Rebecca Latimer Felton, Hoke Smith, Thomas E. Watson, John Marshall Slaton, Leo Frank, Joel Chandler Harris, Henry Grady, Booker T. Washington, WEB DuBois, Alonzo Herndon, Asa Candler, Martha Berry

IX. World War I to World War II: 1917-1945

Key Political and Economic Developments: Military Bases in World War I; some diversification in agriculture; sharecropping continued; boll weevil issues; Great

Depression; New Deal; Relief Programs (PWA, WPA, CCC for example); Recovery programs (such as AAA and social security) opposed by Governor Eugene Talmadge; Marietta Bell Aircraft Factory; Glynnco Naval Air Station

Key Social Developments: Transportation changes in automobiles and planes; entertainment in movies and radios; electricity in urban areas; “Roaring Twenties” and backlash to it; WWII homefront; Double Victory Campaign; Great Migration; Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

Key People: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Walter George, Richard Russell, Eugene Talmadge, E. D. Rivers, Erskine Caldwell, Margaret Mitchell, Arthur Raper, Lillian Smith, Robert Woodruff, Charles Herty

X. Post-World War II: 1945-present

Key Political Developments: increased African American voting and office holding; Emergence of viable two party system; end of county unit system; Sunbelt Conservatism, “Two Georgias”

Key Economic Developments: Diversification and mechanization of agriculture (peaches, peanuts, soybeans); increased industrialization (carpet, automobile, chicken, paper, etc.); growth of service and technology jobs; Tourism industry; Emergence of Atlanta as a major US city; Economic problems for rural areas and small towns; increased urban and rural poverty

Key Social Developments: NAACP; SNCC; African American civil rights; Albany Movement; Savannah “sit-ins”; *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954); “Terrible Terrell”; resistance led by Herman Talmadge and others; desegregation of schools and higher education; privatization of schools; HOPE scholarship; Rapid urbanization and suburbanization; population migration from Northern states; increased ethnic, racial, and religious diversification

Key People: Martin Luther King, Jr.; Ellis Arnall, Marvin Griffin, Ernest Vandiver, Hamilton Holmes, Charlayne Hunter, Carl Sanders, Lester Maddox, Jimmy Carter, Richard Russell, Sam Nunn, Carl Vinson, Flannery O’Connor, Alice Walker, Maynard Jackson, Andrew Young, Ray Charles, Herman Talmadge, Zell Miller