

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Social Studies Contest
Historical List of Topics

Piloted in **2001-2002**: Geography and US government

2003-2004 Delma Yzaguirre, State Contest Director

Topic: The Gilded Age

Limited to the period of time between the election of Rutherford Hayes (the event that officially ended Reconstruction) and 1900 (a date frequently identified as the start of the Progressive Era)

Primary Reading Selection: *The Devil in the White City*, by Erick Larson

2004-2005

Topic: The 1950's

Primary Reading Selection: *The Fifties*, by David Halberstam

2005-2006 Larry McCarty becomes State Contest Director

Topic: World War II: The European Theater

Primary Reading Selection: *Citizen Soldiers*, by Stephen Ambrose

Note from Contest Director: *Although this was my first year as Director I did not play a significant part in picking the topic. My only input was to pick between the books Citizen Soldiers or Band of Brothers. A number of coaches were critical of the fact that the topic did not include the Pacific Theater.*

2006-2007

Topic: The American Revolution and the Emergence of a New Nation

Primary Reading Selection: *1776*, by David McCullough

2007-2008

Topic: The United State Supreme Court

Primary Reading Selection: *The Supreme Court*, by William Rehnquist

2008-2009

Topic: Sub-Saharan Africa: Out of the Past, Into the Future

Primary Reading Selection: *King Leopold's Ghost: A story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, by Adam Hochschild

2009-2010

Topic: The Civil War

Primary Reading Selection: *The Civil War*, by Bruce Catton

2010-2011

Topic: The Final Frontier: U.S. Space Exploration

Primary Reading Selection: *The Right Stuff*, by Tom Wolfe

2011-2012

Topic: Latin America – Past Struggles/Future Challenges

Primary Reading Selection: *The Penguin History Of Latin America*, by Edwin Williamson

2012-2013

Primary Reading Selection: *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, by S. C. Gwynne, Scribner

2013-2014

Topic: Australia and Oceania Neighbors; Past and Present

Primary Reading Selection: *A Commonwealth of Thieves: The Improbable Birth of Australia* by Thomas Keneally

2014-2015

Topic: United States Political History: The Executive Branch

Primary Reading Selection: *1920: The Year of the Six Presidents*, by David Pietrusza

2015-2016

Topic: World War I: Crisis and Change in Europe

Primary Reading Selection: *The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I*, by Barbara Tuchman

2016-2017 Andy Bates becomes State Contest Director

Topic: U.S. Constitutional History; Equality, Freedom, Liberty, and Rights

Primary Reading Selection: *Madison's Gift: Five Partnerships That Built America*, by David O. Stewart

2017-2018

Topic: In the Shadow of the Red Bear: Russia and the former Soviet Union

Primary Reading Selection: *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*, by David Remnick

2018-2019

Topic: U.S. Civil Rights Movements: Fulfilling a Nation's Promise

The Race Beat: *The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*, by Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff

2019-2020

Topic: East Asia: The Middle Kingdom, the Rising Sun, the Land of the Morning Calm, and Beyond

Primary Reading Selection: *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea*, by Keith Pratt

2020-2021

Topic: East Asia: American Empire: Expansion, Imperialism, and Intervention

Primary Reading Selection: *Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's Imperial Dream*, by Gregg Jones