PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

52

"The Historical Evolution of the United States: From A. Lincoln to F. D. Roosevelt"

"La evolución histórica de Estados Unidos: de A. Lincoln a F. D. Roosevelt."

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

On 19 November 1863, at the dedication of a cemetery for the fallen at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln told his audience that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom". Seventy years later, on 4 March 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt took the oath in a country with shuttered banks and declared his "firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". The two sentences frame this topic. Between them lies the period in which the United States was saved from disunion, abolished slavery, failed to secure the equality of the freed people, became an industrial giant and a world power, and finally accepted that the federal government had a responsibility for the welfare of its citizens.

The period covers eighty-five years, from Lincoln's election in 1860 to Roosevelt's death in 1945, so selection is essential. I will first examine the Civil War under Lincoln. Secondly, I will study Reconstruction and its end in 1877. Thirdly, I will analyse the Gilded Age, with its industrial growth, immigration and agrarian protest. Fourthly, I will consider the emergence of the United States as an imperial power and the Progressive Era. Fifthly, I will deal with the First World War and the 1920s. Sixthly, I will explain the Great Depression, the New Deal and Roosevelt's leadership up to 1945. Finally, I will consider the pedagogical and didactic implications of this content for the Secondary English classroom.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted for this topic: James M. McPherson's Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era (Oxford University Press), Eric Foner's Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863–1877 (Harper), and David M. Kennedy's Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929–1945 (Oxford University Press). As for the legal framework of the educational system, I will refer to Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December (LOMLOE), which amends Organic Law 2/2006 on Education; Royal Decrees 217/2022 and 243/2022, which set the minimum teaching for Compulsory Secondary Education and Bachillerato; and Decrees 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Junta de Extremadura, which develop the curriculum of both stages in the region.