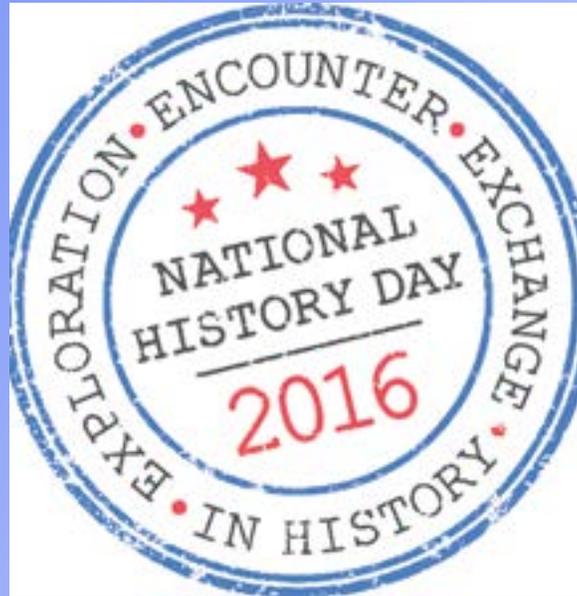
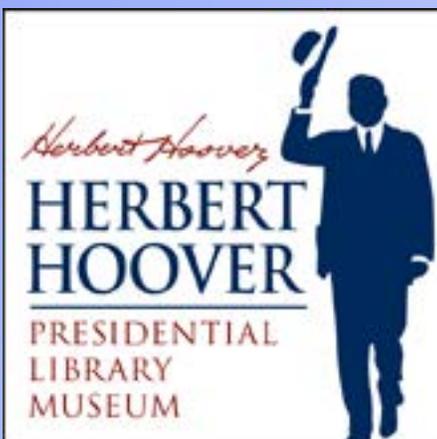


Topic Ideas



National History Day 2015-2016

**Prepared by the Archival and Education
Staff at the Herbert Hoover Presidential
Library and Museum**



Cultural Exchange: Creating Network Television in Japan

After World War II, Japan cooperated with the American occupying forces. Seeking acceptance in the world arena, Japan worked to modernize its political economy and culture. Henry Holthusen, American consultant to the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, worked to establish an educational television network in Japan. Holthusen and Japanese authorities recognized the enormous value of television as a medium of cultural exchange.

Starting points

Henry Holthusen Papers Subject Files – Television: Worldwide Network Plan, Japan

Secondary Sources

Books on Japanese popular culture

East Meets West: The Hoovers in China

The day after Herbert Hoover married Lou Henry in 1899, the couple sailed to China for his new mining job in Tientsen, China. The two Iowa natives encountered a Chinese culture very distrustful of foreigners. Despite their cultural differences, the Hoovers worked hard to learn the Chinese language and customs. All was for naught as a wave of anti-western feeling swept China in 1900 and drove westerners out of China. Although they left abruptly, the Hoovers never lost their love the Middle Kingdom.

Starting Points

Herbert Hoover Pre-Commerce Papers Subject Files – Boxer Rebellion and China

Lou Henry Hoover Papers Subject Files – Boxer Rebellion and China

Secondary Sources

Biographies of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover

History books about 20th century China

Dangerous Encounters: War Reporting in Vietnam

In the early 1960s, Howard M. Handleman was both a correspondent and editor for *U.S. News & World Report*. As an editor, he received dispatches from the various war correspondents stationed in South Vietnam and brought these reports to the American public. The journalists told of exchanges between the U.S. military advisors and the South Vietnamese Army as well as countless reports about the fighting itself.

Starting Points

Howard Handleman Papers Countries File – Vietnam

Secondary Sources

History books about the Vietnam War

Encounters in Espionage: Germany 1936

Colonel Truman Smith, an American military attaché in Berlin from August 1935 to April 1939, observed firsthand Hitler's rearmament of Germany and reported information about the Luftwaffe to the United States government. As an attaché, he formed close friendships with various German officers and hosted numerous dinner parties and social events always seeking new information. In May 1936, Smith convinced the German aircraft industry to permit Charles Lindbergh to inspect their activities and developments and in 1938 Lindbergh was permitted to fly a Messerschmitt Bf 109, the jewel of the German Air Force. Smith's information was vital in the war against Germany a few years later.

Starting Points

Truman Smith Papers Subject Files – Germany and Military Attaché

Secondary Sources

History books about World War II

Biographies of Charles Lindbergh

The Final Frontier: Space Exploration the 1960s

In the 1960s, America pursued space exploration in earnest and put an American on the moon at the end of the decade. This objective was not altered even after fire claimed the lives of three American astronauts. The tragedy was investigated by Congress, and the decision was made to proceed with space exploration. The decision was not easily reached; the debate in Congress was sometimes heated. Bourke Hickenlooper, Senator from Iowa and a member of the Aeronautics and Space Sciences Committee, was one who supported space exploration.

Starting Points

Bourke Hickenlooper Papers – Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee Files

Secondary Sources

History books about NASA and space exploration

Interregnum: Hoover, FDR, and the Exchange of Power

One vital consideration of a representative government is the peaceful exchange of political power. On November 8, 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President of the United States, defeating the incumbent, Herbert Hoover. But Inauguration Day was not until March 4, 1933, almost four months later. Meanwhile, many political and economic crises, both domestic and foreign, loomed over the country.

Starting Points

Herbert Hoover Papers President's Personal Files – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Roosevelt Correspondence Collection

Theodore Joslin Papers – Diary

Secondary Sources

Biographies of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt

Encounter and Exchange Behind the Western Front: Herbert Hoover and the Commission for Relief in Belgium

Early in World War I, Germany invaded Belgium; Great Britain countered with a blockade of Belgium to prevent ships from getting to it. It didn't take long for a nation that imported 80% of its food to starve. Herbert Hoover made the Belgian crisis his personal crusade, and agreed to administer the Commission for Relief in Belgium. Hoover faced many obstacles: he needed to find a food supply great enough to feed 10 million people every day; he needed ways to transport and distribute the food, and he needed to communicate with leaders on both sides to stop the German army from taking the food, and the British navy trying to stop the food from reaching enemy territory.

Starting points

Herbert Hoover Papers Pre-Commerce Files – Belgium, CRB

Lou Henry Hoover Papers Subject Files – Belgian Flour Sacks, Belgian Lace, Belgian Relief

Joseph C. Green Small Collection

Secondary Sources

Biographies of Herbert Hoover

History books on World War I

All topics can be researched at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum

Research Room Procedures

The reading room is open to researchers Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4:45 p.m. It is closed all federal holidays and weekends. Archivists are happy to assist NHD students, teachers, and families. Appointments are suggested by calling 319-643-5301.



The archivists and education staff at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum are available to help all NHD students, regardless of topic choice. Please e mail elizabeth.dinschel@nara.gov or call 319-643-5301 for additional assistance.