

This list can be used to broaden your cultural and historical awareness. It is a large list that you may wish to select from – it is by no means compulsory reading/watching! It is not exhaustive, but it does cover a wide range of periods and themes that you will study in your History lessons. If you read a book / watch a film that you think should be added to the list, tell your History teacher!



World War One

Books, novels and plays:

- a. *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo
- b. *Private Peaceful*, Michael Murpurgo
- c. *Journey's End*, RC Sherriff
- d. *They Called it Passchendaele*, Lyn Macdonald
- e. *Storm of Steel*, Ernst Junger
- f. *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Remarque

Films, series and documentaries:

- a. *All Quiet on the Western Front* (a film from the German perspective)
- b. *Black Adder Goes Forth* (a comedy series)
- c. *Gallipoli* (the attempt to attack Germany's allies in the East)
- d. *The Trench* (trench life for the allies)
- e. *Laurence of Arabia* (war in the desert)
- f. *Oh! What a Lovely War* (the Western Front)
- g. *The Red Baron* (the war in the air)
- h. *Das Boot* (submarine warfare)
- i. *Passchendaele* (a devastating battle)



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (1930) / Credit: UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ Album / Universal Images Group / Copyright © Album / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

World War Two

Books, novels and plays

- a. *Berlin / Stalingrad / D-Day*, Anthony Beevor (historical accounts of major offensives)
- b. *The Silver Sword*, Ian Serraillier
- c. *The Machine Gunners*, Robert Westall
- d. *A Small Circus*, Hans Fallada
- e. *Alone in Berlin*, Hans Fallada
- f. *Band of Brothers*, Stephen E. Ambrose
- g. *The Causes of the Second World War*, Andrew Crozier

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *Saving Private Ryan* (D-Day and beyond)
- b. *The Machine Gunners* (the home front for children)
- c. *Pearl Harbor* (the Japanese attack on a US naval base)
- d. *Enemy at the Gates* (the Siege of Stalingrad)
- e. *Stalingrad* (the Siege of Stalingrad)
- f. *Empire of the Sun* (the Japanese capture of Singapore and a boy's experience of a Japanese concentration camp)
- g. *The World At War* (A superb documentary series covering all aspects of World War Two)
- h. *Bridge over the River Kwai* (the Japanese camps)
- i. *Band of Brothers* (D-Day and beyond)
- j. *From Nuremberg to Nuremberg* (the rise of the Nazis and beyond)
- k. *Generation War* (a German perspective on the war)
- l. *The Gathering Storm* (Churchill)
- m. *Into the Storm* (Churchill)
- n. *Defiance* (resistance in Eastern Europe)
- o. *Conspiracy* (the Holocaust)
- p. *Letters from Iwo Jima* (the war in the Pacific)

Nazi Germany

Books, novels and plays

- a. *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris*, Ian Kershaw
- b. *Hitler 1936-1945: Nemesis*, Ian Kershaw
- c. *In the Garden of Beasts*, Erik Larson
- d. *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition and Racism in Everyday*
- e. *Life*, Detler J.K. Peukert
- f. *Inside the Third Reich*, Albert Speer
- g. *Night*, Ellie Wiesel
- h. *Political Violence Under the Swastika: 581 Early Nazis*, Peter H. Merkl
- i. *The Coming of the Third Reich*, Richard J. Evans
- j. *The Hitler Myth*, Ian Kershaw
- k. *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany*, William L. Shirer
- l. *The Third Reich: A new History*, Michael Burleigh
- m. *Weimar and Nazi Germany*, S. Lee
- n. *Why the Allies Won*, Richard Overy



Ian Kershaw / Photo / 2000 / Credit: Bruni Meyra / akg-images / Universal Images Group / Copyright © akg-images / For Educational Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *Hitler: the Rise of Evil* (Hitler's rise to power)
- b. *Downfall* (the last days of the Third Reich)
- c. *The Final Days* (the White Rose student resistance to the Nazis)
- d. *Shining Through* (a spy thriller)
- e. *The Nazis: A Warning From History* (a superb BBC documentary)
- f. *Amen* (the position of the Catholic Church in Nazi Germany)
- g. *Valkyrie* (an attempt to assassinate Hitler)
- h. *Conspiracy* (the Final Solution)

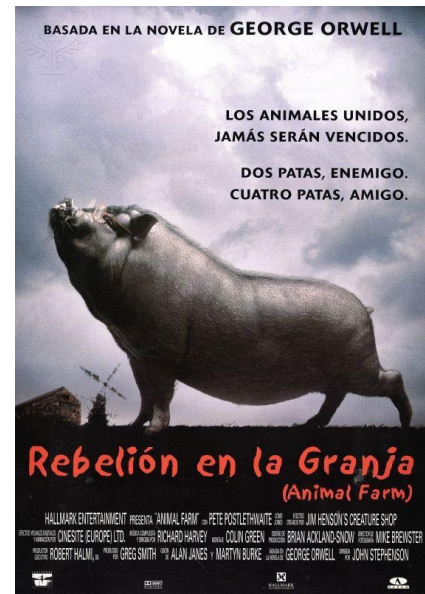
Russian Revolution and Civil War

Books, novels and plays

- Animal Farm*, George Orwell
- Dr Zhivago*, Boris Pasternak
- The Russian Revolution*, Sheila Fitzpatrick
- A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924*, Orlando Figes
- Ten Days that Shook the World*, John Reed (contains eyewitness account of 1917)
- The Russian Revolution: A very short introduction*, S. A. Smith

Films, series and documentaries

- Dr Zhivago* (a love story set in the Russian Civil War)
- The Russian Revolution In Colour* (A superb documentary available online)
- Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971 film about the last of the Romanov dynasty)
- The Last of the Tsars* (a documentary)



ANIMAL FARM (1999) / Credit: Album / Universal Images Group / Copyright © Album / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

The Holocaust

Books, novels and plays

- The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank
- Sarah's Key*, Tatiana de Rosnay
- The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, John Boyne
- Schindler's List*, Thomas Keneally
- The Pianist*, Władysław Szpilman
- Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

Films, series and documentaries

- The Book Thief* (a child's view of the persecution of the Jews)
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (a child's view of the persecution of the Jews)
- Schindler's List*
- The Pianist* (a Jew's survival in Warsaw)
- Conspiracy* (about decisions regarding the Final Solution)
- Escape from Sobibor* (Jewish escape from a notorious camp)

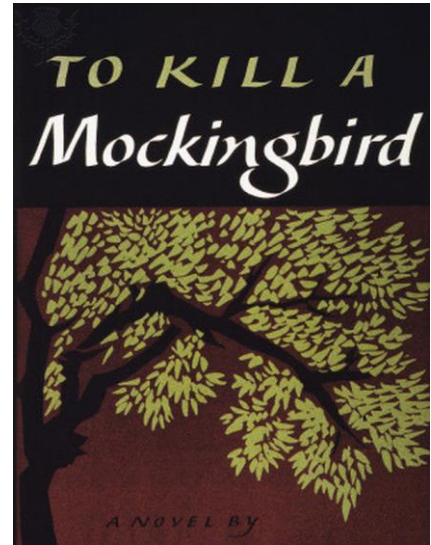


PIANIST, THE (2002) / Credit: FOCUS FEATURES/ Album / Universal Images Group / Copyright © Album / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

The Civil Rights Movement in America

Books, novels and plays

- a. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
- b. *12 Years a Slave*, Solomon Northup
- c. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe
- d. *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett
- e. *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, Alex Haley
- f. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Doreen Rappaport
- g. Malcolm X's autobiography
- h. *Rosa's Bus*, Jo S. Kittinger
- i. *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- j. *The Other Side*, Jacqueline Woodson
- k. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- l. *We March*, Shane W. Evans



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, 1960 / Credit: The Granger Collection / Universal Images Group / Copyright © The Granger Collection / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

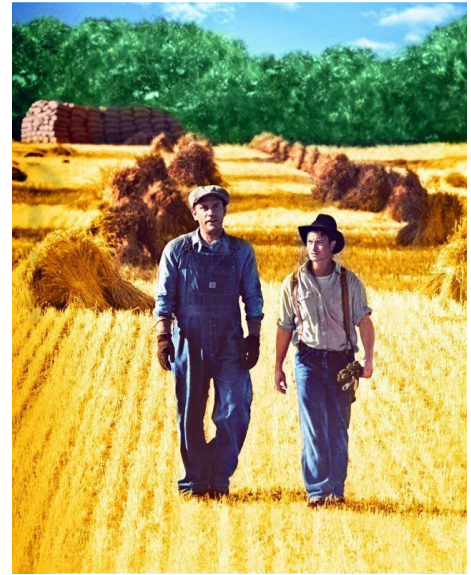
Films, series and documentaries

- a. *12 Years a Slave* (a northern US black man is kidnapped into slavery)
- b. *Roots* (the long story of a generation of slaves from Africa to emancipation)
- c. *Mississippi Burning* (the CIA investigate the murder of a white activist in racist Mississippi in the 1960s)
- d. *Malcolm X* (the life and times of Malcolm X)
- e. *Selma* (the actions of MLK and others in Selma Alabama in the 1960s)
- f. *The Help* (the life and times of black servants in southern USA in the 1960s)
- g. *A Time to Kill* (a black man on trial for murdering white men who raped his daughter)
- h. *Boycott* (the story of Martin Luther King)
- i. Disney's *Ruby Bridges* (the story of a little black girl's battle against segregation)
- j. *The Ernest Green Story* (the story of one of the Little Rock Nine)
- k. *The Long Walk Home* (set during the bus boycott in Montgomery in the 1950s)
- l. *Birth of a Nation* (made and sold by racists in the South, but a key film to inspire the KKK)

Cold War & the USA 1945-1990

Books, novels and plays

- a. *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller
- b. *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
- c. *Red Storm Rising*, Tom Clancy
- d. *Gorky Park*, Martin Cruz Smith
- e. *The Hunt for Red October*, Tom Clancy
- f. *The Looking Glass War*, John le Carré
- g. *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, John le Carré
- h. *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, John le Carré
- i. *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*, Vladislav M. Zubok
- j. *Berlin 1961*, Frederick Kempe
- k. *One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War*, Michael Dobbs
- l. *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*, Tony Judt
- m. *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall*, Anna Funder
- n. *The Cold War: A New History*, John Lewis Gaddis
- o. *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*, Robert F. Kennedy
- p. *Truman*, David McCullough
- q. *Red Tsar: Stalin*, Simon Sebag Montefiore



OF MICE AND MEN (1992) - SINISE, GARY; MALKOVICH, JOHN / Credit: M.G.M. / Album / Universal Images Group / Copyright © Album / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *The Grapes of Wrath* (the USA in the Great depression)
- b. *13 Days* (the Cuban Missile Crisis)
- c. *All the Presidents Men* (Watergate)
- d. *Frost/Nixon* (Nixon interviews after his fall from power)
- e. *Nixon* (Oliver Stone film with Anthony Hopkins)
- f. *JFK* (Kennedy's assassination)
- g. *The Good Shepherd* (the story of the CIA)
- h. *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (spying in the Cold War)
- i. *The Hunt for Red October* (a USSR submarine captain attempts to defect to the USA)
- j. *The Manchurian Candidate* (in the midst of the Gulf War soldiers are kidnapped)
- k. *Fidel the Untold Story* (documentary about Fidel Castro)
- l. *The Odessa File* (attempts to track SS officers)
- m. *The Quiet American* (Vietnam under French control but with the CIA involved)
- n. *The Russians Are Coming!* (a Russian submarine runs aground in New England USA)

Vietnam

Books, novels and plays

- a. *Dispatches*, Michael Herr
- b. *We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young*, Lt Gen Harold G Moore and Joseph L Galloway
- c. *Fields of Fire*, James Webb
- d. *Chickenhawk*, Robert Mason
- e. *A Bright And Shining Lie*, Neil Sheehan
- f. *Vietnam: A History*, Stanley Karnow
- g. *A Rumor Of War*, Philip Caputo
- h. *Vietnam: The Necessary War*, Michael Lind



APOCALYPSE NOW (1979) / Credit: ZOETROPE/UA / Album / Universal Images Group / Copyright © Album / For Education Use Only. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit www.britannica.co.uk/trial

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *In the Year of the Pig* (the Marxist view of the causes of Vietnam)
- b. *Apocalypse Now*
- c. *Platoon*
- d. *Full Metal Jacket*
- e. *The Deer Hunter*
- f. *Good Morning Vietnam*
- g. *Born on the 4th of July*
- h. *Hamburger Hill*
- i. *We were Soldiers*
- j. *The Pentagon Papers* (the discovery of US corruption in Vietnam)
- k. *Last Days in Vietnam* (documentary)

Britain 1939 - 1975

Books, novels and plays

- a. *Austerity Britain: 1945-51*, David Kynaston
- b. *Austerity in Britain: Rationing, Controls, and Consumption, 1939-1955*, Ina Zweinger Bargielowska
- c. *British Low Culture: From Safari Suits to Sexploitation*, Leon Hunt
- d. *Building the Post-War World*, Nichola Bullock
- e. *Carrie's War*, Nina Bawden
- f. *Did Britain Make It?*, Penny Sparke
- g. *Look Back in Anger*, John Osborne
- h. *Our Hidden Lives: The Remarkable Diaries of Postwar Britain*, Simon Garfield
- i. *Post-war: A History of Europe Since 1945*, Tony Judt
- j. *Resistance Through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-War Britain*, Tony Jefferson
- k. *Safe Harbour*, Marita Conlon-McKenna
- l. *Small Island*, Andrea Levy
- m. *The Lonely Londoners*, Samuel Selvon
- n. *Which People's War? National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain 1939-1945*, by Sonya O. Rose
- o. *Whitewashing Britain: Race and Citizenship in the Postwar Era*, Kathleen Paul
- p. *Blunders of Our Governments 1985- 2010*, Crewe and King

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain*
- b. *Kes*
- c. *A Kind of Loving*
- d. *Taste of Honey*
- e. *Cathy Come Home*
- f. *Scandal* (Profumo affair)

General

Books, novels and plays

- a. *A Little History of the World*, EH Gombrich
- b. *Our Island Story*, HE Marshall (a traditional view of British History – good for younger readers)
- c. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson
- d. *Vote for ... who?*, Jonathan Maitland

Films, series and documentaries

- a. *A History of Britain*: Simon Sharma
- b. *Monarchy*: David Starkey
- c. *Elizabeth*
- d. *A Man for all Seasons*
- e. *The Other Boleyn Girl*
- f. *Wolf Hall* (drama mini-series)
- g. *To Kill a King* (the English Civil War)
- h. *Battlefield Britain* (by Peter and Dan Snow)

Teaching notes

Most of the films in the list are rated 15 or lower, however there are some mentioned that are certificate 18 (particularly in the section on Vietnam). You may wish to review this list and remove any recommendations that you would consider inappropriate for your class.

The list could easily be adapted / added to so that it reflects the periods of History taught in your department.