Understanding Taxes

Theme 2: Taxes in U.S. History
No Taxation Without Representation

– the cry of the American colonists
Taxes and Early Civilization

2000 BC 60 212 1057 1404 2014 AD
Taxation in the Constitution
Whiskey Rebellion
War of 1812
Protective Tariff

Tariff of 1832

1816 1824 1828 1832 1833
Civil War Income Tax
1913 Sixteenth Amendment
Social Security Act of 1935
Victory Tax of 1942
Tax Reform

1964—As a way to boost a sagging economy, a tax cut by the Johnson Administration allowed taxpayers to have more money to spend on consumer goods.

1969—Nixon’s Tax Reform Act of 1969 closed loopholes used by the rich, and gave exemptions and tax cuts to lower-income groups.


1997—The Tax Reform Act of 1997 made more than 800 changes to the existing tax code.
Tax Reform

2009—President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17. The Recovery Act’s three main goals are to: create and save jobs, spur economic activity and invest in long-term economic growth, and foster accountability and transparency in government spending. The plan includes many federal tax cuts and incentives, including cutting taxes for 129 million working households by providing an $800 Making Work Pay tax credit.