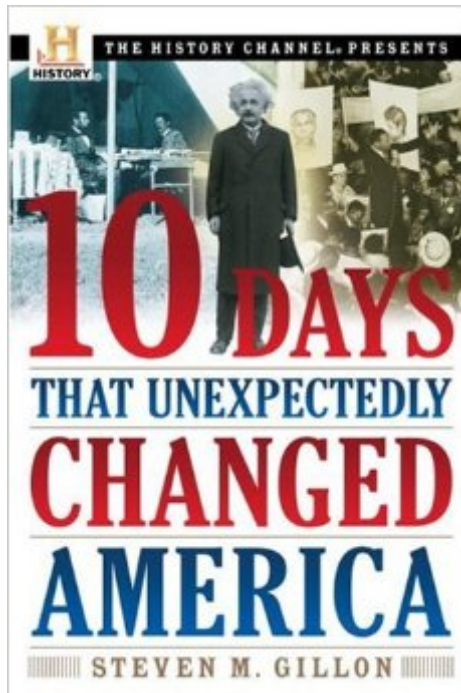


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# 10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America (History Channel Presents)



## Synopsis

A companion book to The History Channel® special series of ten one-hour documentaries *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America* pinpoints pivotal days that transformed our nation. For the series and the book, The History Channel challenged a panel of leading historians, including author Steven M. Gillon, to come up with some less well-known but historically significant events that triggered change in America. Together, the days they chose tell a story about the great democratic ideals upon which our country was built. You won't find July 4, 1776, for instance, or the attack on Fort Sumter that ignited the Civil War, or the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. But January 25, 1787, is here. On that day, the ragtag men of Shays' Rebellion attacked the federal arsenal in Springfield, Massachusetts, and set the new nation on the path to a strong central government. January 24, 1848, is also on the list. That's when a carpenter named John Marshall spotted a few glittering flakes of gold in a California riverbed. The discovery profoundly altered the American dream. Here, too, is the day that noted pacifist Albert Einstein unwittingly advocated the creation of the Manhattan Project, thus setting in motion a terrible chain of events. Re-creating each event with vivid immediacy, accessibility, and historical accuracy, *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America* comes together as a history of our country, from the first colonists' contact with Native Americans to the 1960s. It is a snapshot of our country as we were, are, and will be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In "10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America", Steven M. Gillon writes about key events in US

history and their impact on American Society. Gillon does this while paying close attention to historical accuracy and with lively writing that is sharp, descriptive, and enjoyable. Gillon's book is about historical events that caused, for better or worse, long-lasting changes in American history. Gillon does not write about April 6, 1917, when America entered World War I, or December 8, 1941, when America declared War on Japan. Gillon does not cover the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy, which had profound effects in American society. The author does not write about the 1973 landmark case: "Roe v. Wade". Instead, Gillon selects what some may view as obscure events, but that are all important in the sense that they did cause unforeseen change in American history. Gillon covers a wide range of events, from the slaughter of the Pequot Indians by the Puritans to the murders of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi. Did Shays' rebellion lead to the creation of the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislative branches of the government? Was the Battle of Antietam the beginning of the end of the Civil War? Was Elvis Presley the "founding father" of rock and roll? These are but some of the questions that Gillon wants us to ponder. Few Americans will disagree that Theodore Roosevelt was the architect of significant changes in American history. However, would Roosevelt have become president if President William McKinley had not been assassinated in 1901?

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