

TAX HISTORY

T I M E L I N E



BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, LLC
TAX + FINANCIAL SERVICES

3,000 BC

The first record of organized taxation. The Egyptian kingdom would send commissioners to take 20% of all grain harvests as a tax.

The Rosetta Stone was the key to unlocking the meaning of hieroglyphics and was mostly a tax document of new tax laws decreed by the Ptolemaic Dynasty, written in both Greek and Egyptian hieroglyphics script.

196 BC

46-44 BC

Julius Caesar was the first to implement a sales tax. During his rule (46-44 BC) sales tax was a flat 1% across the empire.

Caesar Augustus implemented an inheritance tax that was assessed at 5% of all inheritances (except gifts to children and spouses).

31 BC-14 AD

1696

Window Tax: Imposed in England as a kind of a predecessor to the modern property tax. The bigger the house the more windows it had and the more tax it would collect.

Beard Tax: Emperor Peter I of Russia instituted a beard tax as part of an effort to bring Russian Society in line with Western European Models.

1698

1764

Sugar Act of 1764: tax on molasses, sugar, and wine.

Stamp Act of 1765: taxes on important printed material like legal documents, newspapers, and pamphlets

1765

1767

Townshend Acts of 1767: taxes on 72 items, including the tax on tea that led to the Boston Tea Party

The Tariff of 1828 "Tariff of Abomination": Tax of 38% on some imported goods and a 45% tax on certain imported raw materials.

1828

1862

The IRS Agency was established by Abraham Lincoln.

Corporate Income Tax was established.

1909

1913

Federal Income Tax was established.

Estate tax was established.

1916

1924

Gift tax was established

Social Security payroll taxes were established.

1937