

HIST 1700 ESSAY 2

“Changes and evolutions in American history”.

Throughout American history many changes and evolutions occurred. Changes occurred in many different environments and as time progressed, evolved drastically. Some of these are governmental structure, policy, economics, security, and more.

The single largest change in American history would be the colonization of the Americas during the 15th and 16th centuries. This changed the lives of many thousands of native Americans and also the lives of many European settlers. It's estimated millions of indigenous people would die from disease and conflict during this period, and many cultures and traditions would die out, and make way for a new colonial culture to emerge. Even as history would progress, the Native way of life still suffered at the hands of the colonizers, and even up until the 19th century, we would see the genocide and eradication of the Native way of life (example: forced migration from the Trail of Tears to modern day Oklahoma), through violent conflict or through assimilation.

Another one of the largest changes that occurred in American history is the establishment of the United States in the 18th century. The declaration of independence in 1777 would drastically alter not only the Americas, but the world as a whole. The revolutionary war gave birth to a future superpower that would influence the world drastically in the coming centuries.

As the United States evolved, so did its policy. We've seen the United States become increasingly progressive as time moved on, and also had intermittent reactionary periods as well.

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From increasingly growing imperialism in the early 20th century, to the reduced isolationism in the coming decades, the United States has endured many changes throughout its lifetime. Mainly during the late 19th and 20th centuries, in which the United States evolved economically from its massive industrialization, population, and entry into the world as a global power.

The United States became embroiled in two world wars, and in the span of 50 years, would change from an isolationist country in a depression, to a prospering democracy and bastion of the free world. The United States would soon thrust itself into the spotlight following the first, and after the second, became the main torchbearer of democracy during the cold war.

Even during and after the cold war, the United States evolved to a point where it exerted its influence on other countries; especially in Latin America in which the United States would back coups in places such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Panama, and Paraguay, effectively changing the political landscape and economic landscape of many of these countries. These changes have left scars in many, such as the Pinochet brutal dictatorship of Chile, which today, the effects are jarring as now left wing candidates take Chile's government positions by storm, the opposite of what America had intended. Such examples of the United States' intervention into countries shows us just easily we can alter and change history in the Americas.

To this day, the Americas (Especially the north) are known for their liberal democratic governments, and are looked to as the bastions of freedom throughout the world, and the antithesis of tyrannical rule. The United States is still the world's leading global power following the collapse of the soviet union, and still influences geopolitics globally as the 'world's police officer.'