

The United States of America, commonly referred to as the United States (U.S.) or America, is a federal republic composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, and various possessions. With over 331 million people, it is the world's third-most populous country. The capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city is New York City.

The United States emerged from the thirteen British colonies established along the East Coast. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared independence from Great Britain, leading to the formation of the United States of America. The American Revolutionary War ended in 1783, with recognition of the independence of the United States from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

The United States is a federal republic and a representative democracy. It is one of the world's oldest surviving federations. The country is a founding member of the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organization of American States, NATO, and other international organizations.

The United States is a highly developed country, with the world's largest economy by nominal GDP and second-largest economy by PPP. The U.S. economy is driven by abundant natural resources, a well-developed infrastructure, and high productivity. It has a mixed-market economy, characterized by a large private sector and significant government intervention.

The United States is ethnically diverse and multicultural, with immigrants from all over the world. It is known for its cultural contributions to music, art, literature, cinema, cuisine, and technology. The country's culture has been influenced by Native American, African, Asian, Polynesian, and European cultures.

The United States has a vast and varied landscape, ranging from the tropical beaches of Hawaii to the frozen wilderness of Alaska, from the deserts of the Southwest to the forests of the Pacific Northwest. It is home to many national parks, monuments, and landmarks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, Statue of Liberty, and Golden Gate Bridge.

The United States has a powerful military, with the world's largest defense budget. It plays a leading role in international affairs, with significant influence in political, economic, and cultural spheres. However, the country also faces challenges, including income inequality, racial tensions, political polarization, and environmental issues.