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**FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

**BENI MELLAL**

## **American History, Politics and Society**

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## **Introduction**

The story of America dates back to the end of the fifteenth century. About five hundred years ago, “the Atlantic Ocean, which separates Europe and the American continents, was an unknown waste of trackless waters” (Copper el., p. 1). The people in Europe and American continents did not know or meet each other. America was a new land for the Europeans. The journey of Christopher Columbus to the New World and his reports and letters about it paved the way for more Europeans to move there not just to explore it, but also to benefit from its natural resources and wealth.

The USA, the northern part of this New World, has gone through different historical stages before becoming one of the superpowers of the present-day time. It has gone through intense moments of war and peace, upheaval and order, union and disunion, freedom and slavery, colonialization and independence. It is a rich country at the geographic, demographic, linguistic, cultural, religious, economic, educational and political levels. Since 1789, 46 men have held the Office of the President of the USA which has a Federal, Constitutional form of government. Each President has his own story.

## **The UK: General Information**

### **Geography**

- > The geography of the USA is varied. In the northern parts, winters are extremely cold and may have a lot of snow. In the south, summers are known for intense heat and humidity.
- > There are 50 states in the USA with a landmass of 9,629,091 square kilometers. It is the third-largest country in the world by area. The US is bordered by Canada and Mexico. It borders both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans.

- > The United States of America is a federal republic of 50 states. The 48 contiguous Continental United States and Alaska are located in North America, while Hawaii and smaller outlying areas are located in the Pacific and Caribbean.
- > These are the names of the 50 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.
- > Below is a map of the USA:



- > Some of the highest mountains in the USA: Alaska Range and Wrangell Mountains (Alaska), Sierra Nevada (California), Sawatch Range and Sangre de Cristo Range (Colorado).
- > Some of the famous rivers in the USA: Arkansas River (Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas), Canadian River (Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas), and Des Moines River (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri).

### **Demography**

- > The US has a population of 330.2 million people according to the statistics of 2020. The capital is Washington DC. The largest city is New York.
- > California is said to be the most populous US state with the highest Asian American population (15.5%). Hispanics or Latinos constitute about 39.4% of California's entire population. They also constitute about 32% of Arizona's population.
- > The state where there is the largest Black population is Texas, with more than 3.9 million Black people in 2019. Florida has the second largest population (about 3.8 million), and Georgia is home to 3.6 million Black people.
- > Hawaii is the only US state located outside North America with the highest Asian population (about 37.6%). Hawaiian natives constitute about 10% of the population.
- > In the state of Alaska, there is the state with the highest percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives (about 15.6%).
- > The median age in the USA is 38 years.

### **Language**

- > English is the main language used by the overwhelming majority of Americans. There are also other languages such as Spanish, Chinese. French, Tagalog (spoken by Filipinos), Vietnamese and Arabic. The USA remains a melting pot of languages. There are also dialects of American English spoken in different parts of the USA.

- > In the USA, it's very important to be direct in communication. When people communicate, they need to get straight to the bottom line.

### **Culture**

- > The American culture is individualistic. The USA is an achievement-oriented society. What a person achieves as an individual determines his or her status in the society. In other words, the status of individuals depends on their achievements.
- > The USA has moved from "the era of the melting pot, the assumption that all Americans, whatever their origin, would assimilate to American values, adopt English as their first language, and necessarily revere the institutions embodied in the Constitution of the United States" to the era of having "a multicultural society" (Crawley, 2013, p. 1).
- > One of the most precious elements which are highly regarded in the American culture is time. Americans are generally obsessed with being on time. They attach too much importance to their schedules, deadlines and project-due dates. Time's money. It's scarce. There's never enough time. Being on time is a sign of respect, seriousness and commitment.
- > The Amish in America a group of traditionalist Christians with German origins. They settled in some places like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. The Amish tradition is that children are not allowed to go to school after the 8th grade so that they can help on the farm. They are known for simple living, plain clothes, Christian pacifism, and slowness to use modern technology. The Amish cuisine is known for its simplicity and traditional qualities. They make the best cinnamon rolls in the world. The Amish people can have cell phones, as long as it is not in the home and used for business purposes. In the Amish culture, it's forbidden to pose for pictures because it's seen as a show of pride which is against their religion. But it isn't against their religion to be in a photograph. They are bi-lingual. They speak

Pennsylvania Dutch and their own English dialect. Some Amish ride in cars and drive buggies. They pay taxes like the rest of Americans.

- > Some names of American writers: Edgar Allan Poe, Toni Morrison, Robert Frost, Stephen King, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, J. D. Salinger, T.S. Eliot and Henry James.
- > The USA is known for its important historic buildings and monuments such as Mount Rushmore in Keystone, Brooklyn Bridge and Empire State Building in New York, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Washington Monument in Washington DC, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Golden State Bridge in San Francisco, Trinity Church in Boston, Statue of Liberty in New York and Willis Tower in Chicago.
- > The USA is also famous for a number of galleries and museums such as Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Art Institute of Chicago, National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.

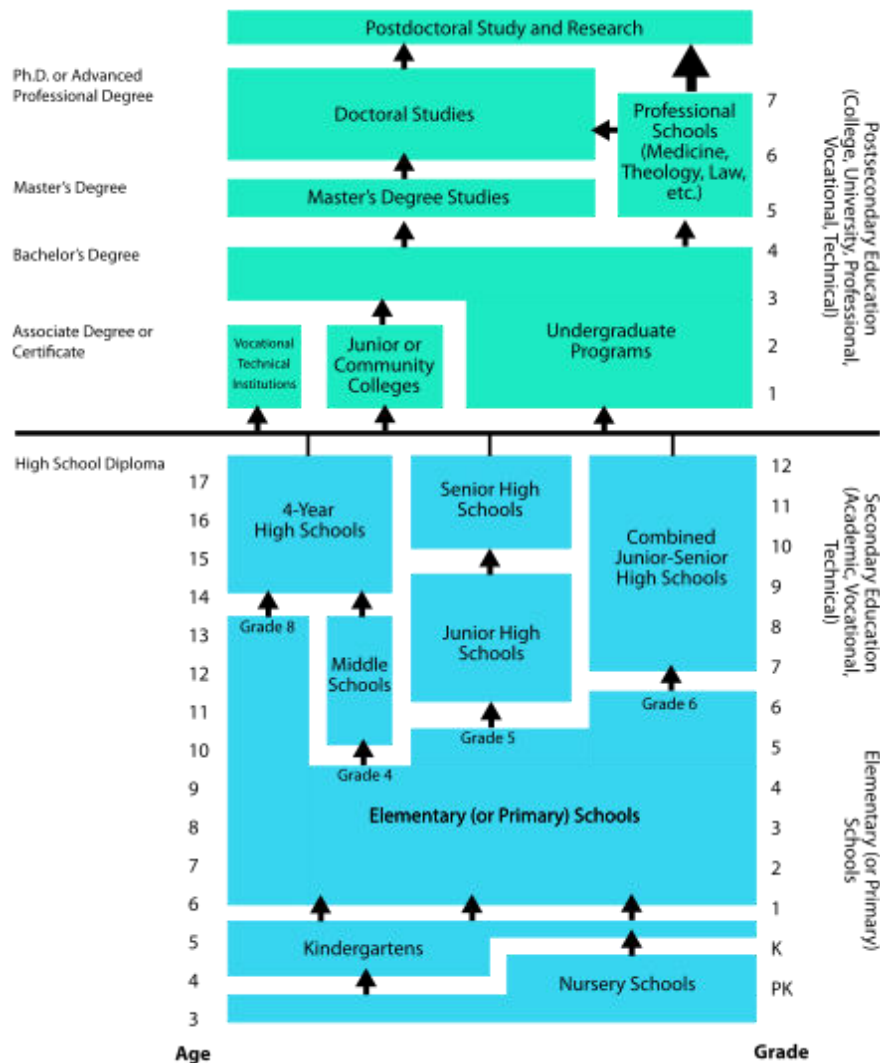
#### Religion

- > The USA is known for its religious diversity. Christianity, namely Protestantism, is the majority religion. According to the 2020 census of American religion, more than 70% identify as Christian. About 23% are religiously unaffiliated, and 5% identify with non-Christian religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Other Americans identify as atheist (3%) or agnostic (3%).
- > Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the USA. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prevents the government from making laws which

bans the free practice of religion. The separation of religion and state is fundamental to the USA.

## Education

- > In the USA, the educational system consists of pre-school education, elementary (or primary) education, secondary education (middle and high schools) and post-secondary education in which students can attend a university, a college, or a professional, vocational or technical institute.
- > The diagram below sums up the main parts of the educational system in the USA;





- > In the USA, pre-school education starts at around age 3 and finishes at about 5. The first year is known as pre-kindergarten or nursery school. The second year is called kindergarten or pre-school.
- > Children most often go to elementary (or primary) schools at the age of five or 6. Elementary education ranges from first grade through grade 5 or 6, depending on the regulations of each state or district. Children study for five or six years before they go to the secondary education. They leave elementary school at around age 10 or 11.
- > Middle school (also called junior high school) receives students at the ages 10 to 14, grades 6 through 8. Between the ages of 14 and 17 or 18, they attend high school. Middle schools and high schools constitute secondary education which can be academic, vocational or technical. Students get their high school diploma at the age of 17 or 18.
- > At the age of 17 or 18, students move to the post-secondary education to study in a college, university, or a vocational or technical institute. They can get an associate degree or certificate, bachelor's degree, Master's degree, PhD or advanced professional degree.
- > Some names of universities in the USA: Kent State University, Harvard University, Columbia University, Georgetown University, Stanford University, Duke University and Johns Hopkins University.

## **Politics in the USA**

### **Form of Government**

- > The USA operates a legal system which provides both rights and duties for individuals. Under its Constitution, it's a federal, representative and democratic republic.
- > Americans have a government of limited powers. "There is a constitution which defines and limits political power, and which provides safeguards

against tyranny and means for popular participation” (Bromhead, 1998, p. 45).

- > Crawley (2013, p. 1) states that the American political system faced many challenges in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: “The American political system has been subjected to severe strains in the twentieth century, including the need to mobilise for two world wars, the depression of the 1930’s, the changing role of government since the Second World War, the challenge of the civil rights movement, the impact of the Vietnam War, and the shock of the Watergate affair which resulted in the resignation of President of Richard Nixon.”
- > In the USA, government at the national, state and local levels has received a harsh criticism from people. This “reflects the high standards which the Americans have set as their ideals” (Bromhead, 1998, p. 44).
- > Bromhead (1998, p. 44) states the principles upon which the government in the USA is founded: “The form of government is based on three main principles: federalism, the separation of powers and respect for the Constitution and the rule of law.”
- > American citizens have two governments: that of their state and the other of the Union (i.e., Federal government). Bromhead (1998, p. 44 & 45) explains the difference between the two in this way: “The states have, under the Constitution, the primary functions of providing law and order, education, public health and most of the things which concern day-to-day life. the Federal government at Washington is concerned with foreign affairs and with matters of general concern to all the states, including commerce between the states.” But “formal amendments to the original Constitution,” and “the words of the Constitution are so imprecise that they have been interpreted in new ways, so that some federal powers have grown within the system” (45).
- > The USA adopts a two-party system. The main parties have been the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

### **Separation of Powers**

- > Crawley (2013, p. 6) states that the separation of powers was a decisive choice of the people who crafted the Constitution to prevent the despotism and tyranny of rulers and governors: “The Founding Fathers of the American Constitution were determined to prevent any section of the new government from abusing its power. They had experienced what they considered to be the despotism of George III, the King of Great Britain, and of the royal governors of colonies.”
- > Bromhead (1998, p. 45) points out that in each state, there is a legislature which represents the law-making power and which usually consists of two houses elected for fixed terms, a governor who represents the executive power, and the State Supreme Court judges who represent the judiciary power. Each state is made up of counties which have their own powers, and within these counties, there are towns and cities which their own local governments and powers. Each city government has an elected mayor, a council in addition to judges; in this way, it reproduces the state government on a smaller scale.

### **Checks and Balances**

- > The US form of government is known for the separation of powers. No branch has power over another. Each branch has separate and independent powers
- > The separation of powers is guaranteed by a system named the Checks and Balances. This system gives the right to each branch to check others and prevent them from being excessively powerful. It prevents each branch from exercising control over others.

## **The Congress**

- > In the USA, the Congress is made up of two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate. They represent the legislative branch of the US government. There are 100 members in the Senate (two members for each state) and 450 members in the House of Representatives (the number of the members depends on the population of each state).
- > The Congress members can propose new ideas for new laws called bills. When the Senate and House of Representatives pass these bills, they are taken to the President for agreement and signature and then they become laws.
- > If the President vetoes the bill, the Congress can vote again to override the veto or make some changes to the bill and send it back to the President.
- > The Congress, which makes federal laws, meets in the US Capitol building in Washington DC.



The Capitol Building

- > Crawley (2013, p. 6) describes the Congress as the most powerful representative assembly in the world: "The Congress of the United States is, without doubt, is the most powerful representative assembly in the world today... as a legislature, Congress continues to exercise a degree of independent decision-making power far greater than retained by the other legislatures of the Western democracies."

- > The power of the Congress resides in that it “makes effective decisions upon domestic and foreign policy, upon the role of government in society, and the way in which government activities will be financed” (6).
- > The President can propose and initiate policies and urge them on the Congress, but he cannot impose it on its members. It is the Congress which determines what legislature will pass, when it will pass and in what form it will pass (6).

### **American Presidents**

- > According to the Constitution of the United States, the President is the 'Head of the State' and the 'Head of the Government'.
- > Forty-six men have occupied the position of the USA president since 1789. The first one was George Washington and the current one is Joe Biden.
- > In the history of the USA, the only president who served for two non-consecutive terms was Grover Cleveland.
- > In the history of the USA, the shortest serving President was William Henry Harrison who died after 31 days in the Office.
- > The longest serving one was Franklin Roosevelt who stayed in the Office for more than twelve years (from 1932 till his death in 1944). But after the Twenty-Second Amendment which was made to the US Constitution in 1951, no president can be elected for more than twice.
- > This is a list of Presidents of the U.S.:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Tenure</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Election</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
1.	George Washington	April 30, 1789  March 4, 1797	Unaffiliated	1788-89    1792	Jon Adams

2.	John Adams	March 4, 1797	Federalist	1796	Thomas Jefferson
3.	Thomas Jefferson	March 4, 1801 March 4, 1801	Democratic- Republican	1800	Aaron Burr
		March 4, 1809		1804	George Clinton
4.	James Madison	March 4, 1809	Democratic- Republican	1808	Vacant after April 20, 1812
		March 4, 1817		1812	Elbridge Gerry
					Vacant after November 23, 1814
5.	James Monroe	March 4, 1817	Democratic- Republican	1816 1820	Daniel D. Tompkins
6.	John Quincy Adams	March 4, 1825 March 4, 1825	Democratic- Republican National Republican	1824	John C. Calhoun
		March 4, 1829			Vacant after December 28, 1832
7.	Andrew Jackson	March 4, 1829	Democratic	1828 1832	Martin Van Buren
		March 4, 1837			

8.	Martin Van Buren	March 4, 1837  March 4, 1841	Democratic	1836	Richard Mentor Johnson
9.	William Henry Harrison	March 4, 1841  April 4, 1841	Whig	1840	John Tyler
10.	John Tyler	April 4, 1841  March 4, 1845	Whig		Vacant throughout Presidency
11.	James K. Polk	March 4, 1845  March 4, 1849	Unaffiliated Democratic	1844	George M. Dallas
12.	Zachary Taylor	March 4, 1849  July 9, 1850	Whig	1848	Millard Fillmore
13.	Millard Fillmore	July 9, 1850  March 4, 1853	Whig		Vacant throughout Presidency
14.	Franklin Pierce	March 4, 1853  March 4, 1857	Democratic	1852	William R. King  Vacant after April

					18, 1853
15.	James Buchanan	March 4, 1857	Democratic	1856	John C. Breckinridge
		March 4, 1861			
16.	Abraham Lincoln	March 4, 1861	Republican	1860	Hannibal Hamlin
		April 15, 1865	National Union	1864	Andrew Johnson
17.	Andrew Johnson	April 15, 1865	National Union		Vacant throughout Presidency
		March 4, 1869	Democratic		
18.	Ulysses S. Grant	March 4, 1869	Republican	1868	Schuyler Colfax
		March 4, 1877		1872	Henry Wilson
					Vacant after November 22, 1875
19.	Rutherford B. Hayes	March 4, 1877	Republican	1876	William A. Wheeler
		March 4, 1881			
20.	James A. Garfield	March 4, 1881	Republican	1880	Chester A. Arthur
		September 19, 1881			
21.	Chester A. Arthur	September 19, 1881	Republican		Vacant throughout Presidency
		March 4, 1885			



22.	Grover Cleveland	March 4, 1885	Democratic	1884	Thomas A. Hendricks
		March 4, 1889			Vacant after November 25, 1885
23.	Benjamin Harrison	March 4, 1889	Republican	1888	Levi P. Morton
		March 4, 1893			
24.	<sup>1</sup> Grover Cleveland	March 4, 1893	Democratic	1892	Adlai Stevenson I
		March 4, 1897			
25.	William McKinley	March 4, 1897	Republican	1896	Garret Hobart
		September 14, 1901			Vacant after November 21, 1899
				1900	Theodore Roosevelt
26.	Theodore Roosevelt	September 14, 1901	Republican		Vacant through March 4, 1905
		March 4, 1909			
				1904	Charles W. Fairbanks
27.	William Howard Taft	March 4, 1909	Republican	1908	James S. Sherman
		March 4, 1913			Vacant after October 30, 1912

28.	Woodrow Wilson	March 4, 1913	Democratic	1912	Thomas R. Marshall
				1916	
		March 4, 1921			
29.	Warren G. Harding	March 4, 1921	Republican	1920	Calvin Coolidge
		August 2, 1923			Vacant through March 4, 1925
30.	Calvin Coolidge	August 2, 1923	Republican		
		March 4, 1929		1924	Charles G. Dawes
					\$
31.	Herbert Hoover	March 4, 1929	Republican	1928	Charles Curtis
		March 4, 1933			
32.	Franklin D. Roosevelt	March 4, 1933	Democratic	1932	John Nance Garner
		April 12, 1945		1936	Henry A. Wallace
				1940	Harry S. Truman
				1944	oi
33.	Harry S. Truman	April 12, 1945	Democratic		Vacant through January 20, 1949
		January 20, 1953		1948	Alben W. Barkley
34.	Dwight D. Eisenhower	January 20, 1953	Republican	1952	Richard Nixon

				1956	
35.	John F. Kennedy	January 20, 1961 January 20, 1961	Democratic	1950	Lyndon B. Johnson
36.	Lyndon B. Johnson	November 22, 1963 November 22, 1963  January 20, 1969	Democratic		Vacant through January 20, 1965
				1964	Hubert Humphery
37.	Richard Nixon	January 20, 1969	Republican	1968	Spiro Agnew
				1972	Gerald Ford
38.	Gerald Ford	August 9, 1974 August 9, 1974  January 20, 1977	Republican		Vacant through December 19, 1974
39.	Jimmy Carter	January 20, 1977	Democratic	1976	Nelson Rockefeller Walter Mondale
40.	Ronald Reagan	January 20, 1981 January 20, 1981	Republican	1980	George H. W. Bush
				1984	
41.	George H. W. Bush	January 20, 1989 January 20, 1989	Republican	1988	Dan Quayle
		January 20,			

		1993			
42.	Bill Clinton	January 20, 1993	Democratic	1992	Al Gore
		January 20, 2001		1996	
43.	George W. Bush	January 20, 2001	Republican	2000	Dick Cheney
		January 20, 2009		2004	
44.	Barack H. Obama	January 20, 2009	Democratic	2008	Joe Biden
		January 20, 2017		2012	
45.	<b>Donald J. Trump</b>	January 20, 2017	Republican	2016	<b>Mike Pence</b>
		January 20, 2021			
46.	<b>Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.</b>	January 20, 2021	Democratic	2020	<b>Kamala Harri</b>

**Adapted from:**

<https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/list-of-the-us-presidents-1603891443-1>

➤ These are the photos of the US Presidents:



### Impeachment of the US President

In American history, three presidents have faced impeachment: Andrew Johnson in 1868, Bill Clinton in 1998 and Donald Trump who is the first US president to be impeached twice in 2019 and 2021. But none of them was removed from office. This means impeachment is rare in the US history.

➤ Andrew Johnson had problems with the Congress whose members produced 11 articles of impeachment, accusing Johnson of having violated the Tenure of Office Act which limits the power of the president to remove federal appointees from office and find a replacement without consulting the Senate. He removed Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War appointed by Abraham Lincoln.

- > Bill Clinton's main charge was his sex affair with the White House intern Monica Lewinsky. He was accused of lying to the investigators and obstructing justice.
- > In 2019, Trump was impeached on the charges of abusing power and obstructing Congress after his phone call with Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine. Trump was accused of betraying the nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections, and of trying to interfere with Congress' Constitutionally protected power to impeach a President. On January 13, 2021, the House of Representatives voted to impeach Trump for the second time for incitement of insurrection the January 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol, which disrupted a joint session of Congress convened to count the electoral votes from the 2020 presidential election.
- > After their impeachment, their political parties lost the next presidential elections.
- > A president can be impeached when accused of violating the American Constitution (e.g., treason, bribery or other high crimes or misdemeanors).
- > To impeach a president, the House of Representatives should pass articles of impeachment as a formal procedure to accuse president of misbehavior. When the House votes for the impeachment, the Senate must hold a trial to decide if the President should be removed from office.

### **Who Were the First Americans?**

Europeans were not the first people to settle in America: "The first Americans did not come from Europe. They came from Asia. They arrived in the New World many, many thousands of years ago" (Copper et al., 1972, p. 1). Before the arrival of these Asians, "only the wild creatures roamed the forests, the grasslands, and the almost lifeless deserts" (1). The people of Europe "thought that Asia, Africa and Europe were the only continents in the world"

(2). When the American continents had been discovered, Europeans started moving to them. For these Europeans, it was a movement from the old world to a new one. The American continents are still called the New World because they were new to people who came from Europe. “To the Indians, who had lived [in America] for thousands, these lands were ... not new” (2).

Carroll and Nobel (1992, p. 26) point out that “America was not a vacant wasteland awaiting the arrival of ‘civilized’ Europeans”. Many peoples were there before this arrival. They “were blessed with an incredibly rich environment based on the vast stock of fish, especially salmon, and abundant edible plants” (26). This means that they relied mainly on fishing and farming in their daily lives. They “learned to make nets and weirs to harvest [crops]” and “developed techniques to preserve their fish” (26). Food was no longer a problem for them, but “wealth and status within society [were] serious concerns” for them (27). One of the important signs of wealth and high social position was the ownership of a lot of slaves (27). The more slaves a person had, the wealthier he was. This “encouraged sporadic warfare among the tribes as a way of obtaining slaves” (27). The Native Americans were “Arawak, Yurok, Iroquois, Natchez and Aztec”(34).

### **Columbus and European Exploration**

- > Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer and navigator, was born in 1451 and died in 1506. He is famous for having explored the Americas under the flag of Spain in 1492. His voyages across the Atlantic paved the way for the European exploration and colonization of the Americas.
- > In the journal of the first voyage of Christopher Columbus as cited in Bourne, E. G. (1906, p. 111), the natives were described in this way: “It appeared to me to be a race of people poor in everything. They go as naked as when their mothers bore them ... All I saw were youths, more than thirty years of age. They are very well made, with very handsome bodies ... They wear the hairs

brought down to the eyebrows ... They paint themselves black ... Some paint themselves white, others red, and others of what color they find. Some paint their faces, others the whole body, some only around the eyes, others only on the nose. They neither carry nor know anything of arms, for I showed them swords, and they took them by the blade and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no irons ... They should be good servants and intelligent, for I observed that they quickly took in what was said to them, and I believe they would easily be made Christians, as it appeared to me that they had no religion.”

- > These natives “were the people Columbus called Indians” (Cooper et al., 1972, p. 4). They were “living in different ways. Some tribes had learned to live in the forests, others on the grasslands, still others in regions of little rainfall” (4).
- > The Europeans brought new methods of working and learning. They brought so many changes. They taught the Indians “how to make iron and steel tools—axes, hammers, knives, saws, chisels, hoes, spades, rakes, sickles, and many others” (5 & 6). They helped the natives move from stone to metal. They also taught them to rely on wheels to move their heavy loads and to use guns for weapons and plows in agriculture (6 & 7). New animals were introduced to the Indians, especially horses, donkeys and oxen (7). The Europeans introduced also “a number system and printing” (7).

### **A New World on the Map**

- > The Americas were not known to people in Europe: “For many thousands of years the people of Europe did not know about North America or South America. They thought that Asia, Africa, and Europe were the only continents in the world” (Cooper et al., 1972, p. 2).
- > For the Europeans at that time, the Americas were a new world. “They said they were leaving the old world and going to a new world” (2).



- > “To the Indians, who had lived [in the Americas] for thousands of years, [they] were, of course, not new” (2).

### **The Name of America**

- > How did the New World come to be named America and not Columbia in honor of Columbus? In their answer to this question, Cooper et al. (1972, p. 28) points out how it was named after Amerigo Vespucci who sailed in 1499 “from Spain to the lands Columbus had discovered.”
- > Amerigo was a passenger who was a good writer. He used his writing skill to write about his trip to the New World. “His letter reached a German geographer named Martin Waldseemuller, who was about to publish a geography book. In this book he printed Amerigo’s letter. He said that he thought the ‘new world’ should be named in honor of the ‘famous explorer,’ Amerigo Vespucci” (28).
- > Cooper et al. (1972, p. 28) comment on this honor in this way: “fate cheated Columbus out of an honor that rightfully belonged to him.”

### **Building Colonies in the New World**

#### **Spaniards in the New World**

- > Bromhead (1998, p. 20) states that “it’s very difficult to say just when colonization began” in the New World. “The first hundred years after Christopher Columbus’ journey discovery in 1492 did not produce any settlement on the north American continent but rather some Spanish trading posts further south, a great interest in gold and adventure, and some colorful piracy in which the English had their part” (20).
- > One of the early Spanish settlements was “Little Spain, a tiny outpost of Spanish Civilization far across the sea,” whose capital was Santo Domingo (Cooper et al., 1972, p. 33 & 34). Some Spanish settlers came in search of the riches and fame; others came out of their love for exploring this New World, whereas some wanted to win the Indians to Christianity. Ponce de Leon came

to the New World in 1493 on Columbus' second voyage and stayed there for most of the rest of his life. He "helped to conquer the Indians living on Hispaniola" (34). He is famous for having put Florida on the map. In 1519, Commander Hernando Cortes conquered "the country of the Aztec Indians, now called Mexico" (35). "Spanish explorers also conquered another great Indian nation- the Mayas of southern Mexico and Central America" (36). Another conquest was led by a bold explorer named Francisco Pizarro in 1531 with the help of a small band of about two hundred soldiers (38). He conquered the country now called Peru.

### **The Thirteen British Colonies in the USA**

- > They are called the Thirteen Colonies and also known as the Thirteen British Colonies or the Thirteen American Colonies. They were established in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- > These Thirteen Colonies groupings were known under these traditional groupings and names: New England (New Hampshire; Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Connecticut); Middle (New York; New Jersey; Pennsylvania; Delaware); Southern (Maryland; Virginia; North Carolina; South Carolina; and Georgia).
- > They fought for independence in 1775 and got it in July, 1776. They severed their political connections to Great Britain and formed their own country.

### **American Revolution**

- > American Revolution is also known as United States War of Independence or American Revolutionary War. It started in 1775 and ended in 1783.
- > It was the revolution of 13 of Britain's North American colonies to get political independence and form the United States of America.
- > As the British crown attempted to have more control over colonial affairs, influential segments of the American colonies decided to revolt against it. At the beginning, it took the form of a civil war within the British Empire, and

then France and Spain joined the colonies against Britain consecutively in 1778 and 1779. Netherlands got also engaged in the war against Britain. The war ended with the final British surrender at Yorktown.

- > George Washington, the first president of the United States (1789–97), was the American general and commander in chief of the colonial armies in the American Revolution (1775–83).
- > This ended the British rule in the Americas, which lasted from 1607 to 1783. The first colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

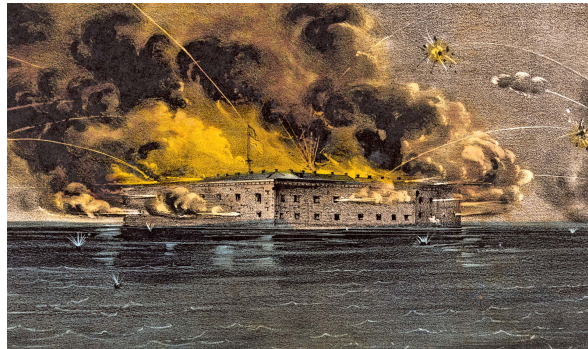
### **The Declaration of Independence**

- > The Americans in the Thirteen Colonies were able to defeat the British Army in the American Revolutionary War, got their independence and established their country under the name of the United States of America.
- > The Declaration of Independence was issued and adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.
- > Benjamin Franklin, an American politician and diplomat, is considered one of the Founding Fathers of the USA. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence. He was one of its signers. He represented the USA in France during the American Revolution.
- > John Adams, the first vice president (1789–97) and second president (1797–1801) of the United States, was a strong advocate of the American Independence.

### **The Civil War**

- > The Civil War in the USA, also known as War Between the States, started in 1861 and ended in 1865. It was between the United States and 11 Southern States (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina). These 11 States seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America.

- > Masur (2021, p. 1) describes this war in this way: “On April 12, 1861, at around 4:30 in the morning, Confederate guns opened fire on Fort Sumter, situated in the harbor outside Charleston, South Carolina. A war began that lasted four years, claimed more than six hundred thousand lives and forever transformed the nation.”



Confederate forces bombarding Fort Sumter, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861

- > Different causes led to this war: the issue of slavery, question of sovereignty and Constitutional authority, the differences between Northerners and Southerners who wanted to secede after the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President in the USA. “By 1860, decades of intensifying conflict over government authority with respect to the expansion of slavery swelled into the tsunami of secession” (3). It was a war to abolish slavery. Northern States were developing quickly at the economic level, whereas the Southern States were lagging behind as they invested mainly in slaves as a labor force.
- > This war began with the intent to restore the country, but it ended up eradicating the Confederate government and changing the Southern society (3). Depredations became a common practice of war. Armies, citizens, cities and landscapes were altogether destroyed.
- > On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared that all people held as slaves in rebellious places should be free (65).

- > The Civil War ended in 1865, with the victory of the Union over the Confederate States. The troops of Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

## **Blacks' Struggle for Freedom and Social Justice**

### **Abolishing Slavery in the USA**

- > The USA was divided into slave states and slave-free states. In slave states, slavery and slave trade were legal, but in slave-free ones, they were not.
- > Abolishing slavery was one the aims of the American Civil War. Black Americans, namely in the South suffered a lot from slavery. They fought so hard for their freedom.
- > After the American Civil War, the 13th Amendment, effective December 1865, abolished slavery in the U.S.
- > The Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments of the US Constitution granted Black Americans their basic civil rights, but the struggle to protect was far from over.

### **Civil Rights Movement**

- > Civil Rights Movement was a non-violent protest against racial segregation and discrimination in the southern United States in the 1950's and 1960's. It was the result of the efforts of enslaved African Americans and their ancestors to fight racism and abolish slavery.
- > An organization was established under the name of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was an interracial American association which worked for the abolition of racial segregation and discrimination in housing, education, employment, voting, and transportation. It opposed racism and struggled to ensure African Americans their constitutional rights.

politics and aggression” (18). He “declared that the United States would join the fray with the purpose of making this ‘the war to end all wars’” (18). Wilson hoped for a war without victors, but this purpose was not achieved as the world got into the Second World War.

- > Unlike Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt “called for absolute victory in his address to Congress the day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor” (20). Roosevelt was convinced that “military defeat was the only message aggressors understood” and that “American power had to be a balance to the forces of aggression” (19). He opted for the war to preserve the interests of the USA against foreign threats.
- > The USA benefited a lot from the Second World War. It “was also the most powerful nation in the world” while Britain, the Soviet Union and other countries “were heavily damaged by the war” (19). The USA was strong with its economy, its power of productivity, its military dominance incarnated in the atomic bombs used against Japan (19 & 20). It presented itself to the world in Hollywood movies and media as a rescuer (20). This stage marked the transition of the world from the European age to the American one.

### **The Cold War**

- > With the end of the Second World War, dream of peace was far from being true for the USA and the rest of the world. The confrontations between the USA and the Soviet Union were on the verge of taking the world to another war. Cold War refers to the rivalry between these two countries and their respective allies.
- > The USA was afraid of the spread of communism in Europe and of the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe. The Soviets wanted to maintain control of Eastern Europe and safeguard against any possible threat coming from Germany in addition to their dream of the establishment of a communism-oriented international community.

- > The tension between the two countries reached the climax when the USA launched the Marshal Plan, formally known as European Recovery Plan, during the period stretching from April 1948 to December 1951 help the economies of 17 western and southern European countries to recover in the hopes of creating stable conditions where democratic institutions could work. This plan brought these countries under the influence of the USA. The Soviets reacted to this by openly installing communist regimes in eastern European countries.
- > This tension relaxed for about four years (from 1953 to 1957) after the death of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin in 1953. But there was no sign of an end between the two countries.
- > Some intense stages in the Cold War:

- The Warsaw Pact (formally known as the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance) was a unified military mutual-defense organization, originally composed of the Soviet Union and Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania before the withdrawal of Albania in 1968 and East Germany in 1990. This organization lasted from May 14, 1955 to July 1, 1991.

The West Germany admitted in the NATO in 1955, the same year when the Warsaw Pact was established.

From 1958 to 1962, the USA and the Soviet Union started developing intercontinental ballistic missiles. In 1962, the Soviets started secretly installing missiles in Cuba, and this led to the Cuban missile crisis. The two superpowers were on the brink of war before an agreement was reached to withdraw missiles.

In 1963, they signed the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty which banned nuclear weapons testing.

- To preserve communism, the Soviet Union sent troops to these countries; East Germany in 1953, Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Afghanistan in 1979.
  - The USA invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Grenada in 1983, but it failed to invade Cuba in 1961 and prevent North Vietnam from bringing South Vietnam under its rule during the period stretching from 1964 to 1975. It also helped overthrow a left-wing government in Guatemala in 1954.
- > Many things happened in the 1980's and led to the end of the Cold War. The Soviet Union had a bad war experience in Afghanistan. The Soviet economy suffered a lot due to the high costs of the arms race. During 1989 and 1990, the Berlin Wall came down. Elections put an end to Communist regimes in Eastern Europe. In late 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved into its component republics. All these events pushed George Bush the father and Mikhail Gorbachev to declare the end of the Cold War.



### **The American War in Vietnam**

- > Anderson (2004, p. 43) states that the decisions of President Lyndon B. Johnson led to the American War in Vietnam: “Between November 1963 and July 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson made a series of decisions that ultimately led to a large-scale American War in Vietnam.” The USA was in support of building “an independent nation in South Vietnam” (43). With the



death of Ngo Dinh Diem, a Vietnamese political leader who served as president of South Vietnam from 1955 until his murder in 1963, the USA was very much concerned about “the political viability of South Vietnam” (43).

- > Since President Johnson and his administration were responsible for the American War in Vietnam, “many journalists, historians, and other observers labeled the Vietnam War as Johnson’s War” (43).
- > President Johnson and some of his predecessors, namely Eisenhower and Kennedy, were very much concerned about the spread of communism. The defense of South Vietnam against North Vietnam could help stop this spread. They referred to North Vietnam as “outside communist aggression” (44). They believed that “Southeast Asia was an area of importance to U.S. security” (44).
- > The Vietnam War “lasted for thirty years in Vietnam, but for Americans it spanned twenty-five years, from the establishment of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam in 1950 to the evacuation of the U.S. embassy in Saigon in 1975” (78).
- > Anderson (2004, p. 78) describes the impacts of this on both Americans and Vietnamese in this way: "The estimate of Vietnamese deaths, military and civilian, is about two million and millions more Vietnamese were wounded, missing, or rendered homeless. Villages, forests, and farms throughout the country were destroyed by high explosives, napalms and defoliants... More than 58,000 Americans died and 300,000 more were wounded. Direct U.S. government expenditures were about \$140 billion, which added to the national debt, contributed to double-digit inflation by the 1970's, and took away resources needed for social services in the United States. Although the fighting in Vietnam ended in 1975, the high costs and long duration of the war had an enduring impact on the people and nations of Southeast Asia.