Chapter 1

Land and History

美国全称美利坚合众国，位于北美大陆的中部，东临大西洋，西临太平洋，幅员辽阔，地理位置优越，加之科技发达，很早就跻身世界强国之列。另一方面，美国又是一个全新的国家，美利坚民族更是个全新的民族，他们从其他国家和地区移居到美国，并最终把自己“熔炼”成美国人。美国的历史就是一部世界移民史。然而，美国是由哪些人缔造的？美国的历史到底有多长？研究美国的学者在不断探索和研究这个国家，英语学习者更是需要了解这些问题的答案。在这一章中，我们将同大家一起深入美国社会历史的方方面面，探究她的过去和现在，了解她诞生的历程和塑造她的那些历史人物。

Geography

Stretching over 4,500 km from east to west and 2,700 km from north to south, the main land mass of the United States offers almost every variety of climate and physical feature. Including the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the country covers an area of more than 9 million sq km, Hawaii lying in the Pacific more than 3,700 km away from the mainland, and Alaska nearly 1,500 km to the northwest. To understand some of the differences, let's divide the United States into six regions. Each region is distinctive from the others economically, geographically, and, in some ways, culturally.

1 The Northeast

New York City is the largest city in the Northeast and the financial center of the United States. It was the welcoming port for most of the immigrants. There is another major seaport in the Northeast: Boston. Boston, over 700 km from Washington, DC[1], is the heart of New England[2] states. Along this narrow coastal strip from Washington, DC to Boston, about 20 percent of the population lives in less than 2 percent of the country's land area.

Look inland to Detroit, about 1,000 km northwest of New York City. Detroit was the birthplace of mass production of motor cars and today it is the headquarters of the country's car manufacturers. On to Chicago, the third largest city in the US stretching for approximately 47 km along the southwest shore of Lake Michigan. Chicago is a railway center. It serves the Midwest but is included in the Northeast regional division, because it is part of the network of northern industrial and shipping centers.

2 The Central Basin

The gently sloping prairie land of the Central Basin was once the frontier to those

1 **Washington, DC:** 华盛顿哥伦比亚特区，DC全称为District of Columbia。作为美国政治中心，华盛顿特区在行政上不隶属于任何州，由联邦政府直辖。城市于1800年初步落成，并正式成为首都（此前首都在费城）。

2 **New England:** 新英格兰。美国东北的一个地区，由缅因、佛蒙特、新罕布什尔、马萨诸塞、康涅狄格和罗得岛六个州组成，是英国殖民者最早开发的北美洲地区。

who crossed the Appalachian Mountains[1]. In Illinois there is a rich grassland. The fertile soil and long hot summers with enough rain are a farmer's dream. Farther north in Wisconsin and Minnesota, it is cooler and moister.

3 The Southeast

Now look back across the Appalachian Mountains, south from Washington, DC, into the Southeast. From Virginia to Texas, there are mighty rivers, such as the Mississippi River and Ohio River, which used to flood huge areas and are now being tamed with dikes and dams.

4 The Great Plains

The Great Plains is where the rain gives out, about halfway across Texas and Oklahoma. From here an imaginary line runs north and south almost through the middle of the US. It is called the 50-cm rainfall line. Farmers called it the "disaster line" because those who have tried to farm to the west, where rainfall drops below 50 cm a year, have suffered ruin in years of drought.

The weather in the Great Plains is harsh. The heat of the summer is scorching, and the winter is freezing. The wind blows fiercely, with few hills or forests to stop it, from Montana on the Canadian border to the state of Texas on the Mexican border. Water is precious. Its scarcity drove the settlers on across the plains as far as they could go. Only the Native Americans knew how to survive here. They captured the wild horses descended from those that escaped from Spanish explorers in the 16th century, and hunted buffaloes that provided them with most of their food, clothing, and tools.

5 The Mountains and Deserts

Like the Great Plains, the mountains and deserts region did not attract settlers at first. It was a fearful area, to be crossed as quickly as possible to reach the Pacific coast. The Rocky Mountains are the long backbone of this part of the North American continent—over 4,200 meters high and stretching north to south for almost 4,800 km. Because of its unusual and varied natural beauty, much of this mountains and

1 **Appalachian Mountains:** 阿巴拉契亚山脉。位于北美洲东部，是北美洲东部众多山脉的统称，又称为阿巴拉契亚高地或阿巴拉契亚山系，从加拿大的纽芬兰向南绵亘于北美洲东部，直至亚拉巴马州中部止，全长近3200千米。

deserts region has been preserved unspoiled in national parks—such as Yellowstone in Wyoming. There are few towns and they are far apart. The most successful settlers here were a group of Mormons[1], who settled in the desert by an enormous salty inland sea and in 1847 established the Salt Lake City.

6 The Coastal Valleys

In the coastal valleys there is rich soil, abundant water and mild climate, which makes this land one of the richest farm areas in the US. All three Pacific coast states—Washington, California, and Oregon—face the orient across the Pacific Ocean. Los Angeles is one of the world's largest metropolitan areas. And nearby Hollywood is where motion pictures and many television shows are made. There are three major ports in the region, including the ports of San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle, with San Francisco Bay being one of the world's finest land-locked harbors.

The Population and Immigration

The first American settlers, beginning more than 20,000 years ago, were tribal people wandering from continent to continent: hunters and families following animal herds from Asia to America, across a land bridge where the Bering Strait[2] is today. When Christopher Columbus "discovered" the New World in 1492, about 1.5 million Native Americans lived in what is now continental United States. Mistaking the place for the Indies, Columbus called the Native Americans "Indians." The continent was, incidentally, named after a later Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, who, arriving in Brazil in 1499, believed the place was a new land. He promoted himself so well that he got his name attached to the new continent.

During the next 200 years, people from several European countries crossed the Atlantic Ocean to explore America, and set up trading posts and colonies. Native Americans suffered greatly from the European exploration and colonization.

The English were the dominant ethnic group among early settlers, and English became the prevalent American language. But people of other nationalities were not

1 **Mormon:** 摩门教徒。摩门教是19世纪在美国诞生的基督教新教派，组织结构严密，有较大影响力。信众多聚集在美国西部犹他州等地。

2 **Bering Strait:** 白令海峡，在亚洲大陆东北端和北美大陆西北端之间，连接北冰洋和太平洋。

long in following. In 1776 Thomas Paine[1], a spokesman for the revolutionary cause in the colonies and himself a native of England, wrote that "Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America." These words described the settlers who came not only from Great Britain, but also from other European countries, including Spain, Portugal, France, Holland, Germany, and Sweden. Nonetheless, in 1780 three out of every four Americans were of English or Irish descent.

Among the flood of immigrants to North America, one group came unwillingly. These were Africans, 500,000 of whom were brought over as slaves between 1619 and 1808, when importing slaves into the United States became illegal. The practice of owning slaves continued, especially in the South, where many laborers were needed to work the fields. The process of ending slavery began in April 1861 with the outbreak of the American Civil War between the free states of the North and the slave states of the South. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation[2], which abolished slavery in those southern slave states. Slavery was abolished throughout the United States with the passage of the 13th Amendment to the country's Constitution in 1865.

Even after the end of slavery, American blacks were hampered by segregation and inferior education. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, African Americans, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., used boycotts, marches, and other forms of nonviolent protest to demand equal treatment under the law and an end to racial prejudice. In 1964, the US Congress passed laws prohibiting discrimination in voting, education, employment, and public accommodations.

In 2021, 40.1 million people in the United States were non-Hispanic black alone, which represents about 12.1 percent of the total population. Blacks/African Americans are the second largest minority population in the United States, following the Hispanic/Latino population. Most of the US black population lived in the South.

As of 2019, the Hispanic population in the United States is over 60.47 million. Many Hispanic people who call the United States home immigrated to the country at some point in their lifetimes, but many others were born in the United States. As time goes on, more and more Hispanic people have been born in the US than those who have

1 **Thomas Paine:** 托马斯·潘恩。作家和政治宣传家，撰写的小册子《常识》和《美国危机》等对美国革命产生了重要影响。

2 **Emancipation Proclamation:** 《解放黑人奴隶宣言》。林肯总统于1863年1月颁布的行政命令，规定废除南部各州的奴隶制度，宣布所有黑奴获得自由。因南部叛乱州当时尚未在联邦政府的控制中，该宣言实际上并未解放任何奴隶，但它有力地促进了全国范围内的废奴运动。

immigrated here. While population growth among Hispanics has slowed over the past decade, they still make up about 18 percent of the US population.

Asian Americans recorded the fastest population growth rate among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States between 2000 and 2019. The Asian population in the US grew 81 percent during that span, from roughly 10.5 million to a record 18.9 million, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. California, Texas, and New York saw the most robust numerical growth in their Asian American populations between 2000 and 2019. Together, these three states accounted for 43 percent of overall Asian population growth in the US during that period.

The steady stream of people coming to America has had a profound effect on the American character. The American people are famous for being independent and optimistic, and freedom-loving. Immigrants also enrich American communities by bringing aspects of their native cultures with them. For example, Chinese Americans celebrate their traditional Spring Festival with street fairs and other festivities. And ethnic restaurants can be found in many American cities.

Brief History

1 The Origin and the Colonial Period

Scholars around the world are convinced that the first American settlers arrived in this continent more than 20,000 years ago, from Asia to America, across the Bering Strait. Later they developed their own cultures and societies on the continent. Some lived in permanent settlements, and others still wandered. In short, there was a great diversity of tribal nations, speaking over 500 languages. The tribal people were called Indians because Christopher Columbus mistakenly thought he had arrived in the country where the people of India lived. So for a long time, the Indians' way of life meant "the American way of life."

It is widely believed that the first Europeans to reach North America were Vikings from Iceland, led by Leif Ericsson[1] about the year 1000. But the Vikings failed to establish a permanent settlement and soon lost contact with the new continent. In 1492, acting on behalf of the Spanish crown in search of shorter routes between East and West, the Italian navigator Christopher Columbus sailed west from Europe and landed

1 **Leif Ericsson:** 莱夫·埃里克松。探险家，出生于挪威，被认为是第一个发现美洲大陆的欧洲人。

on the Bahamas in the Caribbean Sea.

Among those who were eager to set their feet on the new continent, the British seemed to gain an upper hand. In fact, the first successful English colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. A few years later, English Puritans came to America in the *Mayflower* to escape religious persecution. In 1620, the Puritans founded Plymouth Colony which later became Massachusetts.

In New England the Puritans hoped to build "a city upon a hill" [1]—an ideal community. They believed that government should enforce God's morality. In spite of their own quest for religious freedom, the Puritans practiced a form of intolerant moralism. In 1636 an English clergyman named Roger Williams left Massachusetts and founded the colony of Rhode Island, based on the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state, two ideals that were later adopted by writers of the US Constitution.

Colonists arrived from other European countries, but the English were far better established in America. By 1733 there were 13 British colonies along the Atlantic Coast, from New Hampshire in the north to Georgia in the south.

2 The War of Independence

Britain and its colonies were soon in conflict. The mother country imposed new taxes, in part to share the cost of fighting a war against France, and expected Americans to lodge British soldiers in their homes. The colonists resented the taxes and would not allow the soldiers to stay in their homes. The slogan behind which the colonists rallied was "No taxation without representation."[2]

All the taxes, except one on tea, were later removed, but in 1773 a group of patriots responded by staging the Boston Tea Party[3]. Disguised as Indians, they boarded British merchant ships and dumped 342 boxes of tea into Boston Harbor. This provoked a harsh reaction from the British Parliament. Colonial leaders convened the First Continental Congress in 1774 to discuss the colonies' opposition to British rule. War broke out on April 19, 1775, when British soldiers confronted colonial rebels in

1 **a city upon a hill:** 山巅之城，典故出自《圣经·马太福音》。1630年清教领袖约翰·温斯罗普（John Winthrop）在一次布道中提出"我们将成为一座山巅之城"。自此之后，它逐渐演变为美国政治和文化中的重要象征，并成为保守派推崇的"美国例外论"的精神起源。

2 **No taxation without representation:** 没有代表权就不纳税。这一口号成为当时北美各殖民地人民抗拒宗主国英国的最主要的政治依据。所谓代表权，即允许殖民地派遣民选代表进入英国议会，成为议会议员。

3 **Boston Tea Party:** 波士顿茶党。1773年12月，他们在波士顿港口将东印度公司的茶叶倒入大海，史称"波士顿倾茶事件"，成为北美殖民地开展独立战争的导火索。

Lexington, Massachusetts. On July 4, 1776, the second Continental Congress adopted a Declaration of Independence[1] drafted by some of the country's founding fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams. It announced that the 13 American colonies then at war with Great Britain were now independent states, and thus no longer a part of the British Empire. The Declaration justified the independence of the United States by listing colonial grievances against King George III, and by asserting certain natural rights, including a right of revolution. The most famous version of the Declaration is now on display at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

At first the Revolutionary War went badly for the Americans. The American army, led by George Washington, was outnumbered by the British army. The turning point came in 1777 when American soldiers defeated the British army at Saratoga, New York. Following the Americans' victory, France and America signed treaties of alliance, and France provided the Americans with troops and warships. The last major battle of the American Revolution took place at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. A combined force of American and French troops surrounded the British and forced their surrender. The war officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, by which England recognized American independence.

Americans created a government based on the US Constitution. In essence, the Constitution lessened Americans' fear of excessive central power by dividing government into three branches—legislative (the Congress), executive (the President and the federal agencies), and judicial (the federal courts)—and by including 10 amendments known as the Bill of Rights to safeguard individual liberties.

3 The Civil War

In the first quarter of the 19th century, the young nation was entangled in a contradiction. The one evil social institution that ran counter to the statement in the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal," was slavery, which enslaved 1.5 million African Americans at the time. The question of slavery became the focus of political debates, and two compromises were reached in 1820 and 1850. But the issue of slavery continued.

After Abraham Lincoln, an abolitionist of slavery, was elected President in 1860, 11 states proclaimed they had left the Union and formed an independent nation, the

1 **Declaration of Independence:**《独立宣言》。宣言着重阐述资产阶级民主自由理念下的天赋人权和社会契约论，历数对英王的不满，并宣布北美13个殖民地脱离英国而成为"自由和独立的国家"。

Confederate States of America. The American Civil War broke out.

The Confederate army did well in the early part of the war, and some of its commanders, especially General Robert E. Lee, were brilliant tacticians. But the Union had superior manpower and resources to draw upon. In the summer of 1863 at Gettysburg[1], the two armies fought the bloodiest battle on American soil. After three days of desperate fighting, the Confederates were defeated, and forced to retreat to Virginia. At the same time, on the Mississippi River, Union General Ulysses S. Grant took control of the entire Mississippi Valley, thus splitting the Confederacy into two. Two years later, after a long campaign known as the Wilderness Campaign[2], the Union forces crushed the Confederates.

The Civil War was a most tragic episode in American history, but it resolved two matters that had troubled Americans since 1776. It put an end to slavery, and it decided that the country was not a collection of semi-independent states but an indivisible whole. Moreover, the war paved the road for the development of American capitalism.

4 The Late 19th Century

Within a few years after the end of the Civil War, the United States became a leading industrial power, and shrewd businessmen made great fortunes. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869; by 1900 the United States had more rail mileage than all of Europe. The petroleum industry prospered, and John D. Rockefeller of the Standard Oil Company became one of the richest men in America. Andrew Carnegie, who started out as a poor Scottish immigrant, built a vast empire of steel mills. An electrical industry flourished as Americans made use of a series of inventions: the telephone, the light bulb, the phonograph, and motion pictures.

Despite the signs of prosperity, up to half of all industrial workers still lived in poverty. New York City, San Francisco, Boston, and Chicago could be proud of their museums, universities, and public libraries—and ashamed of their slums. The prevailing economic dogma of the time was *laissez-faire*[3]: let the government interfere with commerce as little as possible.

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1 **Gettysburg:** 葛底斯堡。1863年7月，美国南、北方军队在宾夕法尼亚州南部小城葛底斯堡展开大会战，最终南军被击溃。葛底斯堡战役成为内战的重要转折点。林肯总统在此发表了具有历史意义的《葛底斯堡演说》，提出“民有、民治、民享”的口号。

2 **Wilderness Campaign:** 荒原战役。美国内战期间，由格兰特将军率领的波托马克军团与李将军率领的北弗吉尼亚军团在弗吉尼亚州北部茂密的森林中发生的一场遭遇战。

3 ***laissez-faire*:** 来自法语，意思为自由放任，尤指政府对工商业所采取的不干涉政策。

5 The United States in the 20th Century

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the evils of capitalism began to become evident. In response to the cruel exploitation of the monopoly capitalists, the workers began to get organized and to strike for higher wages, shorter workdays, and better working conditions. Some fierce battles between capital and labor and bloody suppression of the government took place. At the same time, the Progressive Movement[1] arose to reform society. Politically, this movement was a sign of resistance on the part of the middle class against the monopoly capitalists, against the coalition of money and power.

Social workers went into the slums to establish settlement houses, which provided the poor with health services and recreation. In the cities, reform politicians fought corruption, regulated public transportation, and built municipally owned facilities. States passed laws restricting child labor, limiting workdays, and providing compensation for injured workers.

When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson urged a policy of strict American neutrality. In 1917, Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare forced America to enter the war. But a full year passed before the US army was trained and ready to make a significant contribution to the war effort. By the fall of 1918, Germany's position had become hopeless. In October, Germany asked for peace, and an armistice was declared on November 11. In 1919 Wilson himself went to Versailles to help draft the peace treaty. Although he was cheered by crowds in the allied capitals, at home his international outlook was less popular. His idea of a League of Nations[2] was included in the Treaty of Versailles[3], but the US Senate did not ratify the treaty, and the United States did not participate in the League.

The 1920s were an extraordinary and confusing time to Americans, when hedonism coexisted with puritanical conservatism. It was the age of Prohibition: in

1 **Progressive Movement:** 进步主义运动。20世纪初期美国国内自下而上进行的一次社会改革运动。改革的矛头指向资本与权力的结盟，以及腐败的市政当局和州政府。

2 **League of Nations:** 国际联盟，第一次世界大战后根据《凡尔赛和约》建立的国际组织，巅峰时期曾拥有58个会员国，主要致力于平息国际纠纷、减少武器数量、保障民众权利、促进世界贸易等。由于制度设计上的不足，特别是意大利和日本作为国联创始会员国分别侵略埃塞俄比亚和中国东北，国联沦为新帝国主义的工具。1946年国联解散。

3 **Treaty of Versailles:** 《凡尔赛和约》，全称《协约国和参战各国对德和约》，是第一次世界大战后，战胜国（协约国）对战败国（同盟国）签订的和约，其主要目的是削弱德国的势力。和约于1919年6月28日在巴黎的凡尔赛宫签署，故称《凡尔赛和约》；于1920年1月10日正式生效，标志着第一次世界大战正式结束。

1920 a constitutional amendment outlawed the sale of alcoholic beverages. Yet drinkers easily evaded the law in thousands of "speakeasies," and gangsters made illicit fortunes in liquors. It was also the Roaring Twenties[1], the age of Jazz and spectacular silent movies. The Ku Klux Klan[2], a racist organization born in the South after the Civil War, attracted new followers and terrorized blacks, Catholics, Jews and immigrants. For big business, the 1920s were golden years. The United States was now a consumer society, with booming markets for radios, home appliances, synthetic textiles, and plastics.

But the superficial prosperity masked deep problems. With profits soaring and interest rates low, plenty of money was available for investment. Much of it, however, went into reckless speculation in the stock market. The bubble burst in 1929. The stock market crashed, triggering the Great Depression[3].

By 1932 thousands of American banks and businesses had failed. Industrial production was cut in half, wages had decreased by 60 percent, and one out of every four workers was unemployed. That year Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President on the platform of "a New Deal[4] for the American people." Within three months Roosevelt had rushed through the Congress a great number of laws to help the economy recover. Roosevelt's New Deal programs did not end the Depression. Although the economy improved, full recovery had to await the defence buildup after America's entry into World War II.

Again neutrality was the initial American response to the outbreak of the war first in China in 1931 and in Europe in 1939. But the bombing of Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii by the Japanese in December 1941 brought the United States into the war. The United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Union agreed to concentrate on defeating Germany first. British and American forces landed in North Africa in November 1942, proceeded to Italy in 1943, and liberated Rome on June 4, 1944. Two days later—D-Day[5]—allied forces landed in Normandy. Paris was liberated on August 24, and by September the American army had crossed the German border. The Germans finally surrendered on May 8, 1945. The war against Japanese invasion came to a swift end in

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1 **Roaring Twenties:** 咆哮的二十年代，指第一次世界大战后美国繁荣兴旺的20世纪20年代。

2 **Ku Klux Klan:** 三 K 党。美国南北战争结束后成立于南方的白人种族主义极端组织，蒙面行私刑，迫害黑人等少数族裔。

3 **Great Depression:** 大萧条，指1930年代席卷全球的经济衰退，始于1929年美国股市的崩盘。

4 **New Deal:**（罗斯福）新政，1933年美国总统罗斯福执政后为挽救当时严重的经济危机而采取的施政纲领。新政的目的在于大力加强国家对社会经济生活的调节和管理，局部改善现存的生产关系。

5 **D-Day:** 即1944年6月6日。当日盟军在法国诺曼底地区发起大规模登陆作战，成为欧洲战局的一个重要转折点。

August of 1945, when President Harry Truman ordered the use of atomic bombs against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Soviet Red Army entered northeast China.

A new international organization, the United Nations, came into being after the War, and the United States became one of its founding members. Soon tensions developed between the United States and its wartime ally, the Soviet Union. The Cold War began.

From 1945 until 1970 the United States enjoyed a long period of economic growth, interrupted only by mild and brief recessions. For the first time the majority of Americans enjoyed a comfortable standard of living. In 1960, about 55 percent of all households owned washing machines, 77 percent owned cars, 90 percent had television sets, and nearly all had refrigerators. At the same time, the nation was moving slowly to establish racial justice.

In 1960 John F. Kennedy was elected President. He promised to "get the country moving again" after the eight-year presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower. In October 1962, Kennedy was faced with the most dramatic crisis of the Cold War—the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Soviet Union was found installing nuclear missiles in Cuba. Kennedy imposed a naval blockade on the island. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev ultimately agreed to remove the missiles. In science and technology, Kennedy also promised to surpass the Soviet Union. He promised that Americans would walk on the moon before the decade was over. This promise was fulfilled in July 1969, when the spacecraft *Apollo 11* landed on the moon.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, managed to push through the Congress a number of new laws establishing social programs. In 1964, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, which was the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction[1]. In 1965, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders present at the ceremony. Johnson's War on Poverty included food stamps, preschool education for poor children, vocational training for dropouts from school, community service for slum youths, and Medicare and Medicaid[2], which still exist today. During his five years in office, Johnson became

1 **Reconstruction:** 重建。指美国在内战结束后的动荡时期（1865—1877）采取的一系列政策措施，旨在将脱离联邦的南方州以及几百万新获得自由的黑人重新融入美国社会。

2 **Medicare and Medicaid:** 美国的两大公共医疗保险计划，由联邦政府于1965年创建，旨在为不同人群提供医疗保障。Medicare主要为65岁及以上的老年人，以及某些特定残疾人士和病患提供医疗保险；Medicaid主要为低收入家庭人士提供医疗补助。

preoccupied with the Vietnam War. Demonstrations protesting American involvement broke out on college campuses, and there were violent clashes between students and police. Antiwar sentiment spilled over into a wide range of protest against injustice and discrimination.

Disappointed by his increasing unpopularity, Johnson decided not to run for re-election. Richard Nixon was elected President in 1968. He pursued a policy of Vietnamization, gradually replacing American soldiers with Vietnamese. In 1973 he signed a peace treaty with Vietnam. Nixon achieved another diplomatic breakthrough: normalizing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In 1972 he easily won re-election.

During that presidential campaign, however, five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate office building in Washington, DC. Journalists investigating the incident discovered that the five burglars had been employed by Nixon's re-election committee. Eventually, tape recordings made by the President himself revealed that he had been involved in the cover-up. By the summer of 1974, it was clear that the Congress was about to impeach and convict him. On August 9, Richard Nixon became the only President in American history to resign from office.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan was elected President. Whatever their attitudes toward Reagan's policies, most Americans credited him with a capacity for instilling pride in their country and a sense of optimism about the future. If there was a central theme to his domestic policies, it was that the federal government had become too big and federal taxes too high. Despite a growing federal budget deficit, in 1983 the US economy entered into one of the longest periods of sustained growth since World War II.

Reagan's successor, Republican George H. W. Bush, became President in 1989, and benefited from Reagan's popularity and continued many of his policies. When Iraq invaded oil-rich Kuwait in 1990, Bush put together a multinational coalition that expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait early in 1991.

By 1992, however, the American electorate had become restless again. Voters elected Bill Clinton, a Democrat, President. During Clinton's eight years in the White House, economy was his priority. He enforced tax reduction and cut federal expenditures. Riding on the wave of the development of the IT industry, American economy boomed in the 1990s.

In 1998, as a result of issues surrounding personal indiscretions with a young

woman—a White House intern, Clinton was the second US President to be impeached by the House of Representatives. He was tried in the Senate and found not guilty of the charges brought against him. He apologized to the nation for his actions and continued to have unprecedented popular approval ratings for his job as President.

In international affairs, with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United States became the only superpower in the world. The American global strategy aimed to sustain its dominance worldwide and prevent the rise of any power that could challenge it, especially in regions vital to its interests.

6 The United States in the New Millennium

By the time Clinton left office in early 2001, the American economy had kept growing for 112 successive months. The majority of Americans enjoyed material comfort.

In a close and controversial election, George W. Bush was elected President in 2000 as the Republican candidate, defeating then Vice President Al Gore. George W. Bush, former Governor of Texas, and eldest son of President George H. W. Bush, served as the 43rd President of the United States from 2001 to 2008.

Eight months into Bush's first term as President, on September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occurred. In response, Bush announced a global war against terrorism, and ordered an invasion of Afghanistan that same year and an invasion of Iraq in 2003. However, many observers were also disturbed by Bush's pursuit of unilateralism in handling international affairs. Domestically, Bush signed into law broad tax cuts, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, and Medicare prescription drug benefits for seniors. His tenure saw national debates on immigration and social security.

Bush successfully ran for re-election against Democratic Senator John Kerry in 2004, garnering 50.7 percent of the popular vote to his opponent's 48.3 percent. After his re-election, Bush received increasingly heated criticism from the general public. In 2005, the Bush administration faced strong and widespread criticism over its handling of Hurricane Katrina[1]. In December 2007, the United States entered its most serious post-World War II recession. This prompted the Bush administration to take more direct control of the economy, enacting multiple economic programs to preserve the country's financial system. Though Bush was popular within the US for much of his first term,

1 **Hurricane Katrina:** "卡特里娜"飓风。2005年8月29日清晨，该飓风以每小时233公里的速度在墨西哥湾沿岸的新奥尔良海岸登陆并给沿岸及内陆各州造成巨大的人员和财产损失。

his popularity declined sharply during his second term.

In the 2008 general election, Barack Hussein Obama defeated Republican nominee John McCain and was inaugurated as the 44th President, with Joe Biden as Vice President, on January 20, 2009. He is the first African American to hold the office. In his first few days in office Obama issued executive orders and signed into law several seminal bills concerning labor, public health, and environment.

The first bill signed into law by Obama was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act[1] of 2009, relaxing the statute of limitations for equal-pay lawsuits. He also signed the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover an additional four million children uninsured.

On February 17, 2009, Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a $787 billion economic stimulus package aimed at helping the economy recover from the deepening worldwide recession. In June 2009, Obama called on his cabinet to accelerate the spending. Along with spending and loan guarantees from the US Federal Reserve[2] and the US Treasury Department, about $11.5 trillion had been authorized by the Bush and Obama administrations, with $2.7 trillion actually spent by the end of June 2009.

In the third quarter of 2009, the US economy expanded at a 2.8 percent annual pace. Most economists agreed that the stimulus package did help create economic growth. However, unemployment continued to rise to 10.1 percent (the highest in 26 years).

In February and March, 2009, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made separate overseas trips to announce a "new era" in US foreign relations with Russia and Europe, using the terms "break" and "reset" to signal major changes from the policies of the preceding administration. Obama's granting of his first television interview as President to an Arabic cable network, Al Arabiya, was seen as an attempt to reach out to Arab leaders.

In November 2009, Obama paid a state visit to China. Apart from holding talks with Chinese leaders, the 44th President of the United States impressed Chinese viewers with a lively question-and-answer session with college students and tours to symbolic sites such as the Great Wall. Notably, he became the first US President to visit China during his first year in office, highlighting the growing importance of US-China

1 **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act:**《莉莉·莱德贝特公平酬劳法》。该法案由美国国会制定，由奥巴马总统于2009年1月29日签署并正式生效。

2 **US Federal Reserve:** 美国联邦储备局，简称美联储，是美国的中央银行。

relations during his administration.

Fast forward to 2016, the political landscape in the United States had shifted significantly. The presidential election that year was largely shaped by two populist candidates—businessman and reality TV star-turned-Republican Donald Trump and Democratic socialist, Senator Bernie Sanders. While Obama's presidency focused on diplomacy and global partnerships, the 2016 election reflected a growing wave of domestic populism and discontent among voters. Trump secured the Republican nomination with fervent support, especially from blue-collar white men, by promising to "Make America Great Again" through measures such as combating illegal immigration, negotiating favorable trade deals, and rejecting political correctness. On the Democratic side, Sanders' progressive campaign was ultimately overshadowed by former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who entered the convention with a commanding delegate lead. In a stunning turn of events, Trump not only won several crucial battleground states like Ohio and Florida but also flipped traditional Democratic strongholds such as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, securing the Electoral College victory despite losing the popular vote by over 2.8 million votes. In his inaugural address on January 20, 2017, Trump made the populist criticism of the Washington Establishment that had been a hallmark of his campaign and struck a strongly nationalist "America First" tone. He continued to use Twitter (X) regularly as his principal platform for expressing presidential privilege. Having appropriated the term "fake news" to belittle mainstream media coverage of events that were unfavorable to his administration, he sought to evade the press and shape the country's political narrative directly.

President Trump's administration prioritized dismantling Obama-era policies, reshaping domestic governance, and redefining America's role in global affairs.

Trump sought to reverse key elements of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), supporting the American Health Care Act (AHCA) to reduce federal involvement in health care. However, legislative efforts to fully repeal Obamacare failed due to opposition within the Senate.

Immigration was a central focus of his presidency. Trump issued executive orders to construct a border wall with Mexico and authorized aggressive deportation measures through Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)[1]. He also introduced the controversial "Muslim ban," suspending immigration from seven Muslim-majority

1 **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** 美国移民及海关执法局。2003年成立，是美国国土安全部（DHS）重要的调查力量，也是联邦政府第二大调查机构。

countries, which faced legal challenges and was temporarily blocked by federal courts.

On environmental policy, Trump withdrew the US from the Paris Agreement on climate change, arguing it harmed American economic interests. He also exited the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)[1], reflecting his broader emphasis on prioritizing domestic industries over global commitments.

Trump's presidency saw significant social unrest. Racial injustice and police violence sparked nationwide protests, particularly after the killing of George Floyd[2] in 2020. Earlier, Trump faced criticism for his response to the Charlottesville alt-right rally in 2017, where he controversially stated that there were "very fine people" among white nationalist protesters.

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated the final year of Trump's term. While he declared a national emergency in March 2020, his administration faced criticism for inconsistent messaging and downplaying the severity of the virus. By the end of his term, over 400,000 Americans had died, and unemployment had surged to 14.8 percent.

In terms of international relations, Trump redefined US trade policy with a protectionist approach. He renegotiated NAFTA[3] into the USMCA and imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico, and the EU, citing national security concerns. He characterized the EU as a "trading foe" and clashed with NATO allies over defense spending, demanding member states contribute more.

In the Middle East, Trump withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, reimposing economic sanctions on Iran despite opposition from other signatories. His administration facilitated the normalization of relations between Israel and several Arab nations through diplomatic efforts.

Trump's presidency was marked by impeachment proceedings. In 2019, he was impeached for abuse of power after pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden. In

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1 **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP):** 跨太平洋伙伴关系协定。重要的国际多边自由贸易协定，其前身为跨太平洋战略经济伙伴关系协定（TPSEP），旨在促进亚太地区的贸易自由化，是亚太经济一体化的重要平台。

2 **the killing of George Floyd:** 乔治·弗洛伊德谋杀案。2020年5月25日，在明尼苏达州明尼阿波利斯，一名美国白人警察杀害了46岁的非裔美国人乔治·弗洛伊德。这起谋杀事件引发了美国及其他国家针对种族主义的乔治·弗洛伊德抗议活动。

3 **NAFTA:** 北美自由贸易协定（North American Free Trade Agreement）。全球最重要的区域贸易协定之一，由美国、加拿大和墨西哥于1992年签署，1994年1月1日正式生效，旨在促进三国之间的贸易和投资。2018年，NAFTA被重新谈判并更新为美墨加协定（USMCA，United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement），以适应新的经济和贸易环境，并于2020年7月1日正式生效。

2021, he was impeached a second time for inciting the Capitol riot[1], becoming the first US President to be impeached twice.

Trump won the Republican nomination for the 2020 presidential election, while on the Democratic side, former Vice President, Joe Biden, became the candidate. A total of more than 150 million cast their ballots. On November 7, Biden had the necessary 270 electoral votes to become President-elect, and Kamala Harris also would become the first woman, first Black American, and first person of South Asian descent to serve as Vice President. Still, Trump continued to claim that the election had been stolen. As Biden and Harris were finally officially recognized as President- and Vice President-elect, Trump continued to provoke the mob, as "inciting violence against the government of the United States." On January 13, the House of Representatives impeached the lame duck President[2]. On that same day, all Senate Democrats and seven Republicans voted to convict Trump, but the 57∶43 vote came up short of the two-thirds majority necessary for conviction. Nevertheless, the verdict marked the most nonpartisan vote in US history to convict an impeached President.

Joe Biden became the 46th President of the United States on January 20, 2021, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, economic challenges, and global tensions. From the outset, his administration prioritized addressing the pandemic, launching a national vaccination campaign, expanding testing, and providing economic relief through the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. This legislation included direct payments to Americans, enhanced unemployment benefits, and support for small businesses.

Biden's early days in office also emphasized equity, racial justice, and civil rights. He reversed the ban on transgender individuals serving in the military and took steps to address systemic inequality, making racial equity a central focus of his administration. On climate change, Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement and committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, investing in clean energy, and promoting sustainability.

A major domestic achievement was the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, aimed at modernizing the nation's infrastructure, creating jobs, and addressing climate change. Additionally, Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act to boost semiconductor production and strengthen the manufacturing sector.

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1 **Capitol Riot:** 国会大厦暴乱。指2021年1月6日美国国会大厦被时任总统唐纳德·特朗普的支持者暴力闯入的骚乱事件。

2 **lame duck President:** 跛脚鸭总统。指总统所在的政党没有在国会两院分别占据多数席位，因此导致其施政策略无法实现。在美国政治制度层面，"跛脚鸭"也指一位处于从选举其继任者到其继任者上任这段时期内的官员。

In foreign policy, Biden sought to restore US leadership among global allies. He expanded NATO to include Finland and Sweden, rallied support for Ukraine in response to Russia's military actions, and signed the AUKUS security pact with Australia and the UK. While maintaining strategic competition with China, Biden identified climate change as an area for cooperation. During a 2023 meeting with President Xi Jinping, the two leaders agreed to open a presidential hotline, resume military communications, and collaborate on certain issues, which signaled a cautious effort to stabilize US-China relations.

EXERCISES

1 Judge whether each statement is true (T) or false (F).

_____ **1** Christopher Columbus discovered America in the year of 1492.

_____ **2** "No taxation without representation" was the rallying cry of the American Civil War.

_____ **3** In the American Civil War, the southern Confederate army was led by General Robert E. Lee.

_____ **4** The prevailing economic dogma of the late 19th century was state interventionism.

_____ **5** President Franklin D. Roosevelt's policy to fight the Great Depression was called "War on Poverty."

_____ **6** In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack, President Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2001, and then Afghanistan in 2003.

_____ **7** Barack Obama is the first Hispanic American President ever elected in US history.

_____ **8** Biden's domestic policy focused on advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity.

2 Choose the most appropriate answer to each question or statement.

1 The following figures were often considered the founding fathers of the American republic EXCEPT _____.

A. George Washington　　B. Thomas Jefferson

C. Roger Williams　　D. John Adams

2 The following were some of the characteristics of Puritanism EXCEPT _____.

A. manifest destiny
B. religious freedom
C. intolerant moralism
D. separation of state and church

3 Which of the following is NOT related to African Americans?

A. The Emancipation Proclamation.
B. The 13th Amendment.
C. The 18th Amendment.
D. The Civil Rights Act.

4 The Progressive Movement's supporters did the following EXCEPT _____.

A. fighting corruption
B. establishing the social security system
C. regulating public transportation
D. restricting child labor

5 The 1920s was associated with the following EXCEPT _____.

A. silent movies
B. Ku Klux Klan
C. Prohibition
D. television

6 Which of the following did NOT take place during the Nixon administration?

A. Vietnamization.
B. Cuban Missile Crisis.
C. Watergate Scandal.
D. Re-establishing US relations with China.

7 Clinton was the second US President to be impeached by the House of Representatives, but tried in the _____.

A. Senate
B. Supreme Court
C. Department of Justice
D. Federal Reserve

8 Trump became the first President ever to be impeached twice while in office—the second time for _____.

A. inciting an insurrection against the government
B. refusing to leave the White House
C. attacking the Department of Justice
D. building the wall along the border

9 Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act, a legislation aimed at providing immediate relief to the following EXCEPT _____.

A. large corporations
B. small businesses
C. the unemployed
D. funding for COVID-19 testing

10 Which of the following areas was identified for potential cooperation with China by the Biden administration?

A. Nuclear arms control.
B. Illegal immigration.
C. Climate change.
D. NATO expansion in Europe.

3 Explain each item in your own words.

1 Native Americans
2 Thomas Paine
3 Emancipation Proclamation
4 Progressive Movement
5 New Deal
6 Martin Luther King, Jr.

4 Questions for discussion.

1 What were the main reasons for the American Civil War? How did it help shape modern American race relations?
2 What were the characteristics of the Obama administration's foreign policy?
3 What were the reasons behind the prolonged period of nationwide protests under the Trump administration?