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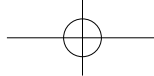
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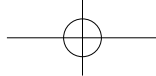
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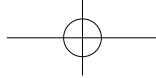
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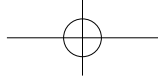
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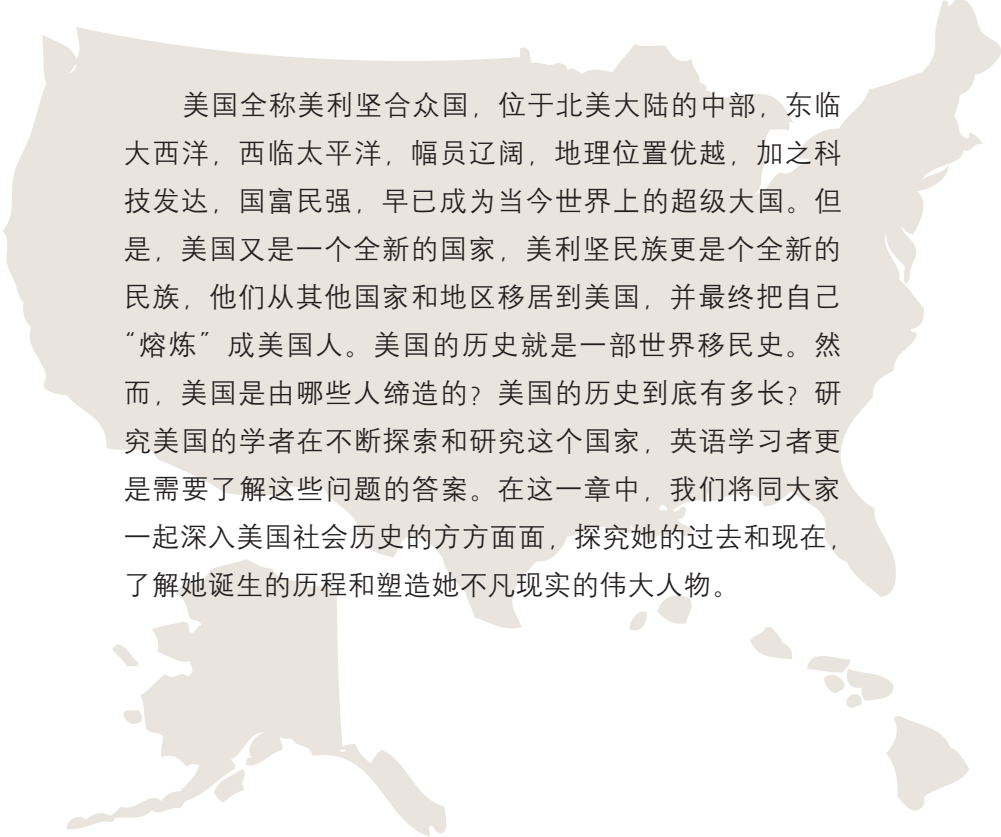


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Chapter 1

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，国富民强，早已成为当今世界上的超级大国。但是，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不凡现实的伟大人物。

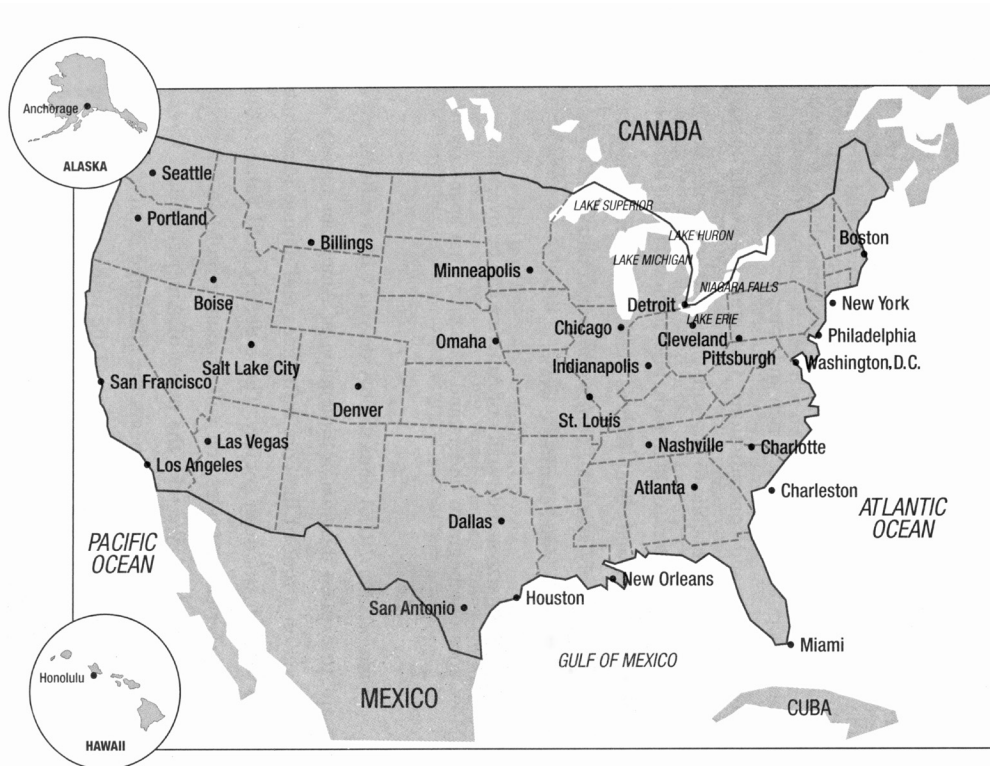


I. Geography

Stretching 4,500 kilometres from east to west and 2,500 kilometres 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 nine million square kilometres, Hawaii lying in the Pacific 3,200 kilometres away from the mainland, and Alaska 3,170 kilometres to the northwest. To understand some of its differences, let's divide the United States into six regions. Each region is distinctive from the others economically, geographically, and, in some ways, culturally.

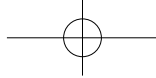
1. The Northeast

New York City is the largest city in the Northeast and the financial centre of the United States. It was the welcoming port for most of the immigrants who saw, as they sailed into its harbour, the immense Statue of Liberty holding high her torch of freedom. There is another major seaport in the Northeast: Boston. Boston, 719 kilometres from Washington, D.C.¹, is the heart of New



Map of the United States

¹ Washington, D.C.: 华盛顿特区, 为美国首都, 位于弗吉尼亚和马里兰之间的波托马克河畔, 与哥伦比亚特区具有同等范围。华盛顿由皮埃尔·L. 昂方设计, 于 1790 年被定为首都, 1800 年自费城迁此。



英语国家社会与文化

England¹ States. Along this narrow coastal strip from Washington, D.C. to Boston, more than 20 per cent of the population live in less than 2 per cent of the country's land area. Washington, D.C., at the southern end of this string of cities, has little industry and no skyscrapers.

Look inland to Detroit, 1,000 kilometres 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 second largest city in the US stretching for 47 kilometres around the southwest shore of Lake Michigan. Chicago is a railway centre. It serves the Midwest but is included in the Northeast regional division, because it is part of the network of northern industrial and shipping centres.

2. The Central Basin

The gently sloping prairie land of the Central Basin was once the frontier to those who crossed the Appalachian Mountains². 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

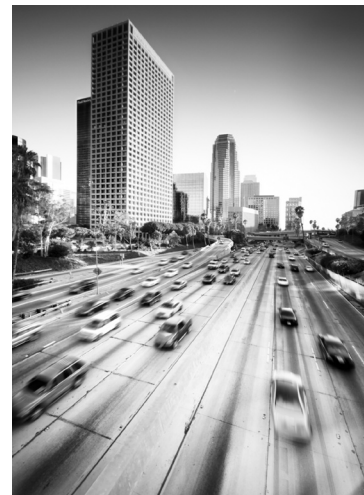
Now look back across the Appalachian Mountains, south from Washington, D.C., into the Southeast. From Virginia to Texas where there are mighty rivers, such as the Mississippi River, Missouri River, Columbia River, and Ohio River, that used to flood huge areas, which are being tamed with dikes and dams.



New York City

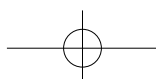


Chicago



Los Angeles

1 New England: 新英格兰地区。包括美国东北部的马萨诸塞、新罕布什尔、康涅狄格、罗得岛、佛蒙特和缅因六个州。
2 Appalachian Mountains: 阿巴拉契亚山脉。





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-centimetre rainfall line. Farmers called it the “disaster line” because those who have tried to farm to the west, where rainfall drops below 50 centimetres 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 metres high and 560 kilometres wide in Utah and Colorado. Because of its unusual and varied natural beauty, much of this mountain and desert 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 Mormons¹, who settled in the desert by an enormous salty inland sea and in 1847 established the Salt Lake City.

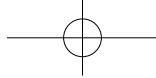
6. The Coastal Valleys

In the Coastal Valleys there is rich soil, abundant water and mild climate, which makes this 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: 117,000 hectares. 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 harbours.

II. The Population and Immigration

The first American settlers, beginning more than 20,000 years ago, were tribal people

1 Mormon: 摩门教徒。该教突出上帝在一次特别启示中惠赐给其创始人的神圣真理，起初实行一夫多妻制，后废除。



英语国家社会与文化

wandering from continent to continent: hunters and families following animal herds from Asia to America, across a land bridge where the Bering Strait¹ is today. When Christopher Columbus² “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.



An Indian American singer

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.

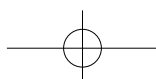
The English were the dominant ethnic group among early settlers, and English became the prevalent American language. But people of other nationalities were not long in following. In 1776 Thomas Paine³, a spokesman for the revolutionary cause in the colonies and himself a native of England, wrote that “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.

Between 1840 and 1860, the United States received a great wave of immigrants. In Europe as a whole, famine, poor harvests, rising population and political unrest caused an estimated five million people to leave their homelands each year. During the late 19th century, so many people were entering the United States that the government operated a special port of entry on Ellis Island in the Harbour of New York City. It is now preserved as part of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

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

-
- 1 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。
 - 2 Christopher Columbus: 克里斯托弗·哥伦布 (1451—1506), 意大利出生的西班牙航海家、新大陆发现者。
 - 3 Thomas Paine: 托马斯·潘恩 (1737—1809), 在美国独立战争中曾以他的革命小册子《常识》激励了美国人的反英斗志。





slaves into the United States became illegal. The practice of owning slaves continued, especially in the South, where many labourers 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 Lincoln¹ issued the Emancipation Proclamation², 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.³, 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, housing, and public accommodations.

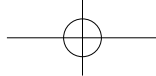
Today, African Americans constitute 12.7 per cent of the total US population. In recent decades blacks have made great strides, and the black middle class has grown substantially. In any case, perhaps, the greatest change in the past decades has been in the attitudes of America's white citizens. Younger Americans in particular exhibit a new respect for all races, and there is an increasing acceptance of blacks by whites in all walks of life and social situations.

It is also quite common to walk down the streets of an American city today and hear Spanish spoken. Today, there are about 27 million Spanish-speaking residents, who are now called Hispanics. About 50 per cent of Hispanics in the United States have origins in Mexico.

Today, Asian Americans are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the country. About 10 million people of Asian descent live in the United States. They come from a variety of countries, including China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

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.

-
- 1 Abraham Lincoln: 亚伯拉罕·林肯 (1809—1865), 美国第 16 任总统 (1861—1865), 共和党人。1861 年当选总统后, 恰逢南北战争爆发。为了维护合众国的统一, 林肯采取大量革命性措施, 颁布《宅第法》和《解放宣言》, 取得内战的胜利。战后被南方种族主义暴徒暗杀。
 - 2 Emancipation Proclamation: 《解放宣言》。南北战争期间, 由亚伯拉罕·林肯总统于 1863 年 1 月 1 日颁布的行政命令, 规定自即日起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。两年后的 1865 年, 国会通过的第 13 条宪法修订案终于正式废除奴隶制度, 从法律上宣布了黑奴的解放。
 - 3 Martin Luther King, Jr.: 马丁·路德·金 (1929—1968), 20 世纪 50—60 年代美国民权运动黑人领导人, 采用非暴力的方式与白人种族主义者抗争, 于 1968 年被暗杀。



III. History

1. The origin and the colonial period

Just when America was discovered by the human race is a large puzzle. But 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 a narrow land strip where the Bering Strait is today. 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 five hundred languages. The tribal people were later what we call Indians because Christopher Columbus mistakenly thought he had arrived in the country where the people of India lived. So for at least 150 centuries, 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 Ericsson¹ 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 on one of Bahaman Islands in the Caribbean Sea.

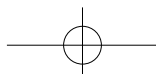
Among those who were eager to set their feet on the new Continent, the British seemed to gain an upper hand. In fact, the first successful English colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. A few years later, English Puritans² came to America in the *Mayflower* to escape religious persecution. In 1620, the Puritans founded Plymouth Colony which later became Massachusetts.



Monument of Christopher Columbus, Barcelona, Spain

1 Leif Ericsson: 里夫·埃里克松, 10—11 世纪的挪威航海探险家, 曾率北欧海盗前往美洲, 据说到达过拉布拉多半岛。

2 Puritan: 清教徒。清教主义既是一种宗教教义, 也是一种价值观念, 主张简化宗教礼仪, 禁欲、苦行, 提倡勤俭廉洁的生活方式。





In New England the Puritans hoped to build a “city upon a hill”—an ideal community¹. 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 Williams² 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.

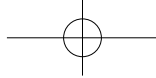
Colonists arrived from other European countries, but the English were far better established in America. By 1733 there were 13 British colonies along the Atlantic Coast, from New Hampshire in the North to Georgia in the South.

2. The War of Independence

England 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.”³

All the taxes, except one on tea, were later removed, but in 1773 a group of patriots responded by staging the Boston Tea Party⁴. Disguised as Indians, they boarded British merchant ships and dumped 342 boxes of tea into Boston harbour. 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 Lexington, Massachusetts. On July 4, 1776, the second Continental Congress adopted a Declaration of Independence⁵ drafted by some of the country’s founding

-
- 1 清教主义中著名的“山巅之城”的理想社会。自那时起，美国人形成一种看法，认为他们国家在进行一个伟大的试验，应为各国仿效。
 - 2 Roger Williams: 罗杰·威廉斯 (1603? —1683)，最初在马萨诸塞地区传教，由于主张宗教自由和政教分离被正统清教教会驱逐出境。后来他建立了罗得岛殖民地，真正实现了宗教和国家政体的分离。
 - 3 “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。
 - 4 Boston Tea Party: 波士顿茶党。1773年12月，他们将东印度公司的茶叶倒入大海，史称“波士顿倾茶事件”。
 - 5 Declaration of Independence: 《独立宣言》。宣言着重阐述资产阶级民主自由哲学的天赋人权和社会契约说，并历数了对英王的25种不满，最后庄严宣布北美13个殖民地脱离英国而成为“自由和独立的国家”。



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fathers, including Thomas Jefferson¹, Benjamin Franklin², and John Adams³. 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, D.C.

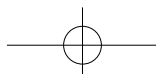
At first the Revolutionary War went badly for the Americans. The American army, led by George Washington⁴, was outnumbered by the British Army. The turning point came in 1777 when American soldiers defeated the British Army at Saratoga, New York. Following the Americans' victory at Saratoga, France and 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.⁵ In essence, the Constitution lessened Americans' fear of excessive central power by dividing government into three branches—legislative (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.

-
- 1 Thomas Jefferson: 托马斯·杰斐逊 (1743—1826)。美国第三任总统 (1801—1809), 第二次大陆会议的成员, 参与起草《独立宣言》。主张政治上的民主和自由, 平均地权, 建立一个农业共和国。总统任职期间, 从法国购买了路易斯安那地区 (1803), 发动了和的黎波里的战争 (1801—1805)。他不仅是一位政治家, 同时还是教育家和建筑师, 自行设计蒙提萨罗庄园, 晚年还创办了弗吉尼亚大学。
 - 2 Benjamin Franklin: 本杰明·富兰克林 (1706—1790)。美国开国元勋之一, 政治家和科学家, 参与起草《独立宣言》。
 - 3 John Adams: 约翰·亚当斯 (1735—1826)。美国第二任总统 (1797—1801), 参与起草《独立宣言》, 参加制宪会议。
 - 4 George Washington: 乔治·华盛顿 (1732—1799)。美国第一任总统 (1789—1797), 第一和第二届大陆会议代表, 领导美国独立战争的大陆军总司令 (1775—1781), 主持费城制宪会议 (1787), 制定联邦宪法, 当选为总统 (1789), 连任两届。
 - 5 1787年美国制定联邦宪法。为防止专制, 宪法明文规定了“三权分立”、“权力制衡”的原则, 为了确保个人权利不被侵犯, 又制定了10条《权利法案》。





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 Confederate States of America. The American Civil War began.

The Confederate Army did well in the early part of the war, and some of its commanders, especially General Robert E. Lee¹, were brilliant tacticians. But the Union had superior manpower and resources to draw upon. In the summer of 1863 at Gettysburg², 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. Grant³ took control of the entire Mississippi Valley, thus splitting the Confederacy into two. Two years later, after a long campaign known as the Wilderness Campaign⁴, 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. Rockefeller⁵ of the Standard Oil Company became one of the richest men in America. Andrew Carnegie⁶, 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*⁷: let the government interfere with commerce as little as possible.

1 Robert E. Lee: 罗伯特·E·李 (1807—1870), 美国内战期间南方军队统帅。

2 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。

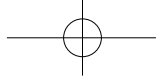
3 Ulysses S. Grant: 尤利西斯·S·格兰特 (1822—1885), 美国第18任总统 (1869—1877), 共和党人, 内战时任联邦军总司令。

4 Wilderness Campaign: 荒原战役。

5 John D. Rockefeller: 约翰·D·洛克菲勒 (1839—1937), 美国洛克菲勒财团创始人, 创办俄亥俄美孚石油公司。

6 Andrew Carnegie: 安德鲁·卡内基 (1835—1919), 美国钢铁企业家, 生于苏格兰。

7 *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 work days and better working conditions. Some fierce battles between capital and labour and bloody suppression of the government took place. At the same time, the Progressive Movement¹ 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 labour, limiting workdays, and providing compensation for injured workers.

When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson² 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 Nations³ was included in the Treaty of Versailles⁴, 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 hedonism⁵ coexisted with puritanical conservatism. It was the age of Prohibition: in 1920 a constitutional amendment outlawed the sale of alcoholic beverages. Yet drinkers easily evaded the law in thousands of "speakeasies"⁶, and gangsters made illicit fortunes in liquors. It was also the Roaring Twenties⁷, the age of Jazz and spectacular silent movies. The Ku Klux Klan⁸, a racist organization born in the South after the Civil War, attracted new followers and terrorized blacks, Catholics, Jews

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。改革的矛头指向金钱与政治的结合,以及腐败的市政当局和州政府。

2 Woodrow Wilson: 伍德罗·威尔逊(1856—1924),美国第28任总统(1913—1921),民主党人,领导美国参加第一次世界大战,大战结束后倡导建立国际联盟,提出“十四点”和平纲领。但是由于美国国会没有批准《凡尔赛条约》,美国最终游离在了自己的伟大创意之外。

3 League of Nations: 国际联盟,第一次世界大战后根据《凡尔赛条约》建立的国际组织,旨在维护世界和平。

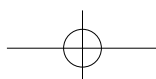
4 Treaty of Versailles: 《凡尔赛条约》,解决了对德国的一系列问题,勾画了战后的国际秩序。

5 hedonism: 享乐主义。

6 speakeasy: 美国俚语,指在1920至1933年间禁酒时期内不法商人开办的酒吧。

7 the Roaring Twenties: 指第一次世界大战后美国繁荣兴旺的20世纪20年代。

8 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,迫害黑人等少数民族。





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 Depression¹.

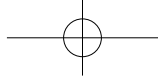
By 1932 thousands of American banks and businesses had failed. Industrial production was cut in half, wages had decreased by 60 per cent, and one out of every four workers was unemployed. That year Franklin D. Roosevelt² was elected president on the platform of “a New Deal³ for the American people”. Within three months Roosevelt had rushed through Congress a great number of laws to help the economy recover. Roosevelt’s New Deal programmes 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 1937 and in Europe in 1939. But the bombing of Pearl Harbour naval base in Hawaii by the Japanese in December 1941 brought the United States into the war.⁴ American, British, and Soviet war planners 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-Day⁵—allied forces landed in Normandy. Paris was liberated on August 24, and by September American units had crossed the German border. The Germans finally surrendered on May 5, 1945. The war against Japan came to a swift end in August of 1945, when President Harry Truman ordered the use of atomic bombs against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Soviet Red Army entered China’s Northeast.⁶

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

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- 1 Great Depression: 大萧条, 指 1929—约 1939 年发生于美国和其他国家的经济衰退。
 - 2 Franklin D. Roosevelt: 富兰克林·D. 罗斯福 (1882—1945), 美国第 32 任总统 (1933—1945), 民主党人, 就任总统后推行新政, 第二次世界大战爆发后为建立反法西斯联盟作出重大贡献。
 - 3 New Deal: 新政, 1933 年美国总统一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。
 - 4 1941 年 12 月 7 日, 日本舰队偷袭珍珠港, 结束了美国孤立主义的舆论与情绪。12 月 8 日, 美国对日宣战, 12 月 11 日, 美国对德宣战, 全面卷入第二次世界大战。
 - 5 D-Day: 第二次世界大战中盟军在法国北部开始进攻的日子, 即 1944 年 6 月 6 日。
 - 6 为了加速战争的进程, 减少人员伤亡, 杜鲁门总统决定向日本投掷原子弹。1945 年 8 月 6 日, 第一颗原子弹在广岛爆炸, 三天后又一颗原子弹在长崎爆炸。



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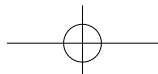
enjoyed a comfortable standard of living. In 1960, 55 per cent of all households owned washing machines, 77 per cent owned cars, 90 per cent had television sets, and nearly all had refrigerators. At the same time, the nation was moving slowly to establish racial justice.

In 1960 John F. Kennedy¹ was elected president. Young and energetic, he promised to “get the country moving again” after the eight-year presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower². 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 Khrushchev³ ultimately agreed to remove the missiles. In science and technology, President Kennedy also promised to surpass the Soviet.⁴ 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. Johnson⁵, managed to push through Congress a number of new laws establishing social programmes. In 1964, Congress passed the Revenue Act of 1964 and the Economic Opportunity Act. Johnson’s “War on Poverty”⁶ included food stamps⁷, preschool education for poor children, vocational training for dropouts from school, community service for slum youths, and Medicare and Medicaid⁸, which still exist today. During his six years in office, Johnson became preoccupied with the Vietnam War.⁹ Although politicians tended to view the war as part of a necessary effort to check communism on all fronts, a growing number of Americans saw no vital American interest in fighting in Vietnam. 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 reelection.

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- 1 John F. Kennedy: 约翰·F.肯尼迪 (1917—1963), 美国第35任总统 (1961—1963), 民主党人。1963年在得克萨斯州达拉斯市遇刺身亡。
 - 2 Dwight D. Eisenhower: 德怀特·D.艾森豪威尔 (1890—1969), 美国第34任总统 (1953—1961), 共和党人, 五星上将, 第二次世界大战期间任欧洲盟军最高司令。
 - 3 Nikita Khrushchev: 尼基塔·赫鲁晓夫 (1894—1971), 苏共中央主席团委员、苏共中央第一书记、部长会议主席。
 - 4 1961年4月, 苏联宇航员进入太空, 表明苏联在航天技术上已领先。总统肯尼迪大为震怒, 决定全力推进太空竞赛。
 - 5 Lyndon B. Johnson: 林登·B.约翰逊 (1908—1973), 美国第36任总统 (1963—1969), 民主党人, 提出建立“伟大社会”的改革纲领, 因使越南战争升级而丧失公众支持。
 - 6 “War on Poverty”: “向贫困宣战”, 20世纪60年代由美国约翰逊政府提出的社会改革计划, 1965年1月正式开始实施, 其主要目标是消除贫困社区, 为贫困的儿童提供学前教育, 为失学青年提供技能培训等。
 - 7 food stamp: 食品券, 凡收入低于标准并符合其他某些条件的家庭均可申请。
 - 8 Medicare and Medicaid: 指联邦政府提供的医疗保险。前者属于老人医疗照护, 后者针对残障者和低收入人口。
 - 9 20世纪50年代美国开始卷入越南战争, 1965年美国全面介入越南内战。越南战争对美国社会造成巨大的影响, 学生反战运动、民权运动、反主流文化运动等蓬勃发展; 同时越南战争也极大地削弱了美国的经济实力。





Richard Nixon¹ 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 North Vietnam and brought American soldiers home. Nixon achieved another diplomatic breakthrough: re-establishing 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, D.C. Journalists investigating the incident discovered that the five burglars had been employed by Nixon's re-election committee. The White House made matters worse by trying to conceal its connection with the break-in. 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 Congress was about to impeach and convict him. On August 9, Richard Nixon became the only president in American history to resign from office.

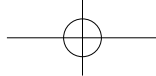
In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan² was elected president. Whatever their attitudes towards Reagan's policies, most Americans credited him with a capacity for instilling pride in their country and a sense of optimism about the future. If there was a central theme to his domestic policies, it was that 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 Bush³, 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 Clinton⁴, 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

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- 1 Richard Nixon: 理查德·尼克松 (1913—1994), 美国第 37 任总统 (1969—1974), 共和党人, 因水门事件被迫辞职。
 - 2 Ronald Reagan: 罗纳德·里根 (1911—2004), 美国第 40 任总统 (1981—1989), 共和党人。推行减税政策, 改革政治经济, 提出星球大战计划。从政前为好莱坞演员。
 - 3 George Bush: 乔治·布什 (1924—), 又称老布什, 美国第 41 任总统 (1989—1993), 共和党人。曾任美国驻联合国大使、驻中国联络处主任、中央情报局局长、罗纳德·里根的副总统。在任期间发动了海湾战争, 并很好地应对了冷战后期的局势。
 - 4 Bill Clinton: 比尔·克林顿 (1946—), 美国第 42 任总统 (1993—2001), 民主党人, 前阿肯色州州长, 是首位二战后出生的总统。他在任期间, 美国经济打破了不间断增长的纪录, 前后总共持续了 112 个月。在外交政策上, 他支持自由主义, 把贸易作为外交的重要手段。



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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. American global strategy was to maintain American dominance of the world as long as possible and not to allow the emergence of a power that would challenge American dominance in the world or in regions that are crucial to American 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. Bush¹ was elected president in 2000 as the Republican candidate, defeating then vice-president Al Gore². 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.



The first World Trade Centre Tower begins to implode.

Eight months into Bush's first term as president, on September 11, 2001³, terrorist attacks occurred. In response, Bush announced a global War on Terrorism, 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 Act⁴, 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 Kerry⁵ in 2004, garnering 50.7 per cent of the

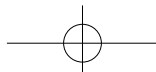
1 George W. Bush: 乔治·W. 布什 (1946—), 又称小布什, 美国第 43 任总统 (2001—2008), 共和党人, 前得克萨斯州州长。“9·11”恐怖袭击事件之后, 举起了单边主义的大旗, 开始推动全球反恐战争, 先后发动了阿富汗战争和伊拉克战争。

2 Al Gore: 阿尔·戈尔 (1948—), 美国第 45 位副总统, 民主党人, 著名环保人士。

3 “9·11”恐怖袭击事件。2001 年, 美国东部时间 9 月 11 日上午 (北京时间 9 月 11 日晚上), 恐怖分子劫持民航客机撞击美国纽约世界贸易中心和华盛顿五角大楼, 史称“9·11”恐怖袭击事件。包括美国纽约地标性建筑世界贸易中心双塔在内的六座建筑被完全摧毁, 其他 23 座高层建筑遭到破坏, 美国国防部总部所在地五角大楼也遭到袭击。

4 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act: 《部分禁止堕胎法案》。布什任职期间签署的一项旨在禁止堕胎的法律, 2003 年正式生效, 2007 年美国最高法院宣布为美国宪法之正式条款。

5 John Kerry: 约翰·克里 (1943—), 美国联邦参议员, 其选区为马萨诸塞州, 现任美国参议员外交关系委员会主席。曾于 2004 年代表民主党参加美国大选, 最终败给共和党人布什。





popular vote to his opponent's 48.3 per cent. 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 Katrina¹. 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 programmes to preserve the country's financial system. Though Bush was popular within the US for much of his first term, his popularity declined sharply during his second term.

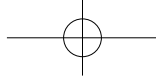
7. The Obama government

On February 10, 2007, a young Democrat named Barack Hussein Obama II² announced his candidacy for president of the United States. A former Chicago community organizer and civil rights attorney, Mr. Obama emphasized the issues of rapidly ending the Iraq War, increasing energy independence and providing universal healthcare throughout the campaign. After a close campaign in the 2008 Democratic Party presidential primaries against Hillary Clinton³, he won his party's nomination. In the 2008 general election, he defeated Republican nominee John McCain and was inaugurated as the 44th president, with Joe Biden⁴ 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 labour, public health, and environment.

Domestic policy

The first bill signed into law by Obama was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009⁵, relaxing the statute of limitations for equal-pay lawsuits. Five days later, he signed the reauthorization of

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- 1 Hurricane Katrina: “卡特里娜” 飓风。2003 年 8 月 29 日清晨，该飓风以每小时 233 公里的速度在美国墨西哥湾沿岸的新奥尔良外海岸登陆并给沿岸及内陆各州——路易斯安那州、密西西比州、佛罗里达州、亚拉巴马州、佐治亚州和田纳西州——造成巨大的人员和财产损失。根据灾后美国政府公布的数字显示，遇难总人数达 1,069 人之多，并导致美国下半年经济增长率下降了 1 个百分点。
 - 2 Barack Hussein Obama II: 巴拉克·侯赛因·奥巴马二世 (1961—)，美国第 44 任总统，2008 年 11 月大选中击败共和党对手麦凯恩当选。他也成为美国历史上首位非洲裔美国人总统（奥巴马之父是肯尼亚人，其母是美国白人）。
 - 3 Hillary Clinton: 希拉里·克林顿 (1947—)，现任美国国务卿，美国前总统克林顿夫人。克林顿政府期间曾主持一系列改革，并参加了 2008 年美国总统选举民主党总统候选人的角逐，最终败给奥巴马。希拉里并不是第一位参与美国总统大选的女性，但她被普遍认为是美国历史上第一位确有可能当选的女性候选人。
 - 4 Joe Biden: 乔·拜登 (1942—)，美国现任副总统，民主党人。来自美国特拉华州，是特拉华州的现任资深联邦参议员。拜登在对华关系上历来主张与中国进行对话，并于 1979 年和 2001 年两度访问中国。2001 年访问中国期间拜登强调美国与亚洲、特别是中国的关系极为重要，美国政府应继续与中国进行接触，努力发展双方的友好合作关系。拜登经常以“利益交汇”一词来概括美中关系。
 - 5 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009: 《2009 年莉利·莱德贝特尔同工同酬法案》，该法案由美国第 111 届国会制定，并由奥巴马总统于 2009 年 1 月 29 日签署并正式生效。



英语国家社会与文化

the State Children's Health Insurance Programme (SCHIP)¹ to cover an additional four million children currently uninsured.

On May 26, 2009, President Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor², a former Federal district judge to the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. Ms. Sotomayor became the first Hispanic to be a Supreme Court Justice.

On September 30, 2009, the Obama administration proposed new regulations on power plants, factories and oil refineries in an attempt to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to curb global warming.

Economic management

On February 17, 2009, Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009³, a \$787 billion economic stimulus package aimed at helping the economy recover from the deepening worldwide recession.

The act includes increased federal spending for healthcare, infrastructure, education, various tax breaks and incentives, and direct assistance to individuals, which is being distributed over the course of several years. In June 2009, unsatisfied with the pace of economic stimulus investment, Obama called on his cabinet to accelerate the spending. Along with spending and loan guarantees from the US Federal Reserve⁴ and the US Treasury Department⁵, 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 per cent annual pace. Obama has claimed that the stimulus package helped stop the economic downturn. Most economists agreed that the stimulus package did help create economic growth. However, unemployment continued to rise to 10.1 per cent (the highest in 26 years).



Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the start of her confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill in Washington on July 13, 2009.

1 State Children's Health Insurance Programme (SCHIP): 《美国国家儿童医疗保健计划》，是指美国联邦政府为其下属各州提供儿童健康保险而支付的配套资金。该项目由美国医疗卫生服务部管理，主要用于覆盖那些中等收入家庭中未能购买医疗保险的儿童。

2 Sonia Sotomayor: 索妮娅·索托梅尔(1954—)，美国最高法院大法官。2009年由奥巴马总统提名，成为首位担任最高法院大法官的西班牙裔美国人。

3 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: 《2009年美国经济复苏与再投资法案》，与布什总统任职期间生效的《2008年经济刺激法案》以及《2008年稳定经济形势法案》等措施统称为《经济刺激法案》。该法案于2009年2月由美国第111届国会制定，2010年2月由奥巴马总统签署生效。上述措施旨在扩大失业救济补助、提高教育以及医疗卫生与其他基础设施的投入。

4 US Federal Reserve: 美国联邦储备委员会，简称美联储，负责履行美国中央银行的职责，现任主席为伯南克。

5 US Treasury Department: 美国财政部，现任财长为盖特纳。



Foreign policy

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 Arabiya¹, was seen as an attempt to reach out to Arab leaders.

On March 19, Obama continued his outreach to the Muslim world, releasing a New Year’s video message to the people and government of Iran. In April, Obama gave a speech in Ankara, Turkey, which was well received by many Arab governments. On June 4, 2009, Obama delivered a speech at Cairo University in Egypt calling for “a new beginning” in relations between the Islamic world and the United States and promoting Middle East peace.

In December, 2009, Obama paid a state visit to China. Apart from holding talks with Chinese leaders, the 44th president of the United States impressed the Chinese viewers with a lively question-and-answer session with college students and tours to symbolic sites such as the Great Wall. In fact, he is the first US president to visit China inside his first year in office.



US President Barack Obama speaks at Cairo University.

Exercises

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

- _____ 1) Christopher Columbus discovered America in the year of 1492.
- _____ 2) During the late 19th century, so many people were entering the United States that the government operated a special port of entry on Ellis Island in the Harbour of New York City.
- _____ 3) “No taxation without representation” was the rallying cry of the American Civil War.
- _____ 4) In the American Civil War, the southern Confederate Army was led by General Robert E. Lee.
- _____ 5) The prevailing economic dogma of the late 19th century was state interventionism.
- _____ 6) President F. D. Roosevelt’s policy to fight the Great Depression was called “War on Poverty”.

1 Al Arabiya: 阿拉伯卫视台。成立于2003年3月，总部设在阿拉伯联合酋长国的迪拜媒体城，是现今中东地区最大的泛阿拉伯媒体机构。2009年1月26日，美国总统奥巴马成为首位接受阿拉伯电视台采访的西方领导人。



3. Match the US presidents with the event that took place in his presidency.

A

- 1) Abraham Lincoln
- 2) Woodrow Wilson
- 3) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 4) John F. Kennedy
- 5) Lyndon B. Johnson
- 6) Richard Nixon
- 7) George Bush (Sr.)
- 8) Bill Clinton
- 9) George W. Bush (Jr.)

B

- a. War on Poverty
- b. rapid development in IT Industry
- c. Gulf War
- d. Civil War
- e. War on Terrorism
- f. World War I
- g. Cuban Missile Crisis
- h. New Deal
- i. Watergate Scandal

4. Explain each item in your own words.

- 1) Puritanism
- 2) the Declaration of Independence
- 3) Progressive Movement
- 4) War on Poverty
- 5) Watergate Scandal
- 6) Barack H. Obama

5. Questions for discussion.

- 1) How has the status of African Americans improved in the course of American history?
- 2) What were the main reasons for the American Civil War? How did it help shape modern American race relations?
- 3) What were the characteristics of the 1920s in America?
- 4) What are the major controversies that plagued the second term of the Bush administration?
- 5) What are the characteristics of the Obama administration's foreign policy?