

Um unsere sehr beliebte interaktive [Mindmap zu Landeskunde der USA](#) auch als Text verfügbar zu machen, findest du hier ein automatisch generiertes Dokument.

Folglich ist dieses Dokument nicht sehr übersichtlich, man kann es aber - im Gegensatz zur Mindmap - ausdrucken.

USA

independence

Monroe-Doctrine

Monroe- Doctrine

The doctrine was issued by President James Monroe during his seventh annual "State of the Union" address to Congress. It was met first with doubt, then with enthusiasm. This was a defining moment in the foreign policy of the United States.

Expressed in 1823, it proclaimed the United States' opinion that European powers should no longer colonize the Americas or interfere with the affairs of sovereign nations located in the Americas, such as the United States of America, Mexico, and others. In return, the United States planned to stay neutral in wars between European powers and in wars between a European power and its colonies.



main ideas

main ideas

The Monroe Doctrine states three major ideas, with one more added by President Theodore Roosevelt.

- First, it conveys that European countries cannot colonize in any of the Americas: North, Central, or South.
- Second, it enforces Washington's rule of foreign policy, in which the U.S. will only be involved in European affairs if America's rights are disturbed.
- Third, the U.S. will consider any attempt at colonization a threat to its national security.

Roosevelt added to the doctrine, and summed up his additions with the statement,

>>*Speak softly and carry a big stick*,<< Theodore Roosevelt

history

short history

1836

The first use of the yet unnamed doctrine when Americans objected to Britain's alliance with Texas on the principle of the Monroe Doctrine.

1845

U.S. President James Polk announced to Congress that the principle of the Monroe Doctrine should be strictly enforced and that the United States should aggressively expand into the West.

1852

some politicians used the principle of the Monroe Doctrine to argue for forcefully removing the Spanish from Cuba. In 1898, the U.S. obtained Cuba and Puerto Rico from Spain after winning the Spanish-American War.

1904

U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, which asserted the right of the U.S. to intervene in Latin America. This was the largest extension that has ever been added to the Monroe Doctrine.

In *present day* discourse, the Monroe Doctrine is often shorthand for American colonialism in the Americas. The political meaning varies with contextual usage, and the perspective of the speaker. Generally, it is used as a simplistic historical proof of modern U.S. empire, whereas Manifest Destiny is presented as an indicator of future U.S. imperial ambitions.

Declaration of Independence

explanation

Declaration of Independence

is the document in which the Thirteen Colonies in North America declared themselves independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain and explained their justifications for doing so. It was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This anniversary is celebrated as Independence Day in the United States. The handwritten copy signed by the delegates to the Congress is on display in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

→ The first and most famous signature on the engrossed copy was that of John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. Two future presidents, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, were among the signatories



The text of the Declaration of Independence can be divided into five sections: the introduction, the Preamble, the indictment of George III, the denunciation of the British people, and the conclusion.

analysis



Historical influences

The United States Declaration of Independence was influenced by the 1581 Dutch Republic declaration of independence, called the Oath of Abjuration. The Kingdom of Scotland's 1320 Declaration of Arbroath was undoubtedly also an influence as the first known formal declaration of independence.



Philosophical background

The Preamble of the Declaration is influenced by Enlightenment philosophy, including the concepts of natural law, self-determination, and Deism. Ideas and even some of the phrasing was taken directly from the writings of English philosopher John Locke, particularly his Second Treatise on Government, titled "Essay Concerning the true original, extent, and end of Civil Government."

Practical effects

Some historians believe that the Declaration was used as a propaganda tool, in which the Americans tried to establish clear reasons for their rebellion that might persuade reluctant colonists to join them and establish their just cause to foreign governments that might lend them aid. The Declaration also served to unite the members of the Continental Congress.



>> *We must all now hang together, or we will all surely hang separately.* << Benjamin Franklin quote

principles

human rights democracy

capitalism Since the Industrial Revolution, capitalism gradually spread from Europe, particularly from Britain, across global political and cultural frontiers. In the 19th and 20th centuries, capitalism provided the main, but not exclusive, means of industrialization throughout much of the world

American Revolutionary war explanation

American Revolutionary War

from 1775–1783, is also known as the American War of Independence. It was a war between



Great Britain and revolutionaries within thirteen British colonies, who declared their independence as the United States of America in 1776. The war was the culmination of the American Revolution, a colonial struggle against political and economic policies of the British Empire. The war eventually widened far beyond British North America; many Native Americans also fought on both sides of the conflict.

The Revolution also involved a series of broad intellectual and social shifts that occurred in American society as new republican ideals took hold in the population. A new republican ethic formed the core of American political values.

After the declaration of independence 1776 the colonists defeated the British in 1783

origins

politics Influence through the "country" party in English politics, which denounced the corruption surrounding the "court" party in London. This approach produced a political ideology called republicanism

Corruption was the greatest possible evil, and civic virtue required men to put civic goals ahead of their personal desires men had to volunteer to fight for their country

No taxation without representation

By 1763, Great Britain possessed a vast holding on the North American continent. In addition to the thirteen colonies, sixteen smaller colonies were ruled directly by royal governors. At this time, the colonists considered themselves loyal subjects of the British Crown, with the same historic rights and obligations as subjects in Britain.

The problem was that Britain refused to consult with the colonies about taxes, thereby violating the historic British principle of "no taxation without representation." London said the Americans were "virtually" represented, and did not need to be consulted; but most Americans rejected that theory.



philosophy Montesquieu: System of balances the philosophy of John Locke: Idea of social contract Jean-Jaque Rousseau:

crisis

While there were many causes of the American Revolution, it was a series of specific events, or crises, that finally triggered the outbreak of war.

Boston Tea Party

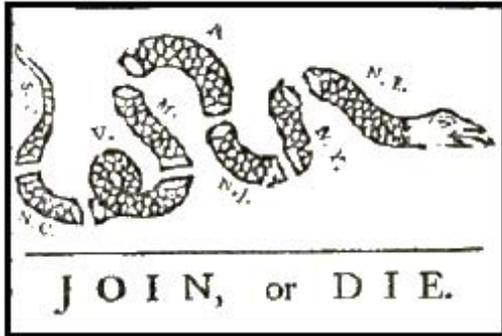
The "Tea Act", passed by Parliament in 1773, allowed the British East India Company to sell tea without the usual colonial tax, thereby allowing it to undercut the prices of the colonial merchants. Americans were outraged that it imposed a monopoly, again without consultation. On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty dressed up like Indians and dumped all the tea into the Boston harbor.



Patriot calls for an intercolonial conference were answered by the First Continental Congress which began meeting in Philadelphia and which soon became a de facto national government

The Battle of Lexington and Concord took place April 19, 1775, when the British sent a regiment to confiscate arms and arrest revolutionaries in Concord. It was the first fighting of the American Revolutionary War, and immediately the news aroused the 13 colonies to call out their militias and send troops to besiege Boston

cartoon



This 1765 cartoon by Benjamin Franklin was recycled to encourage the former colonies to unite against British rule.

On January 10, 1776, Thomas Paine published a political pamphlet entitled *Common Sense* arguing that the only solution to the problems with Britain was republicanism and independence from Great Britain.

~ Declaration of Independence

Treaty of Paris

explanation

Treaty of Paris of 1783

signed on September 3, 1783, and ratified by the U.S. Congress on January 14, 1784, formally ended the American Revolutionary War between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America that had rebelled against British rule in 1776.



content

The treaty contained the following terms:

- Recognizing the thirteen colonies as free and sovereign States
- Establishing the boundaries between the United States and British North America
- Granting fishing rights to United States fishermen in the Grand Banks, off the coast of Newfoundland and in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence
- Recognizing the lawful contracted debts to be paid to creditors on either side
- United States Congress will "earnestly recommend" to state legislatures to recognize the rightful owners of all confiscated lands "provide for the restitution of all estates, rights, and properties, which have been confiscated belonging to real British subjects
- United States will prevent future confiscations of the property of Loyalists
- Prisoners of war on both sides are to be released and all property left by British army in the United States unmolested (including "Negroes")
- Great Britain and the United States were each to be given perpetual access to the Mississippi River
- Territories captured by Americans subsequent to treaty will be returned without compensation



Puritanism and Religion

Calvinism

John Calvin

John Calvin

John Calvin (July 10, 1509 – May 27, 1564) was a French Christian theologian during the Protestant Reformation and was the originator of the system of Christian theology called Calvinism. He was born Jean Chauvin (or Cauvin) in Noyon, Picardie, France, to Gérard Cauvin and Jeanne Lefranc. Calvin derives from the Latin version of his name, Calvinus.



>> God promised by the mouth of Isaiah (Isaiah 49:23) that queens should be the nursing mothers of the church << John Calvin

explanation



Calvinism is a system of Christian theology and an approach to Christian life and thought within the Protestant tradition articulated by John Calvin, a Protestant Reformer in the 16th century, and subsequently by successors, associates, followers and admirers of Calvin, his interpretation of Scripture, and perspective on Christian life and theology. Calvin's system of theology and Christian life forms the basis of the Reformed tradition, a term roughly equivalent to Calvinism.

"Calvinism" is virtually synonymous with "Reformed Protestantism", encompassing the whole body of doctrine taught by Reformed churches.

basic idea

basic idea

- **Total depravity:** As a consequence of the fall of man, every person born into the world is enslaved to the service of sin. All people by their own faculties are morally unable to choose to follow God and be saved because they are unwilling to do so out of the necessity of their own natures.
- **Unconditional election:** God's choice from eternity of those whom he will bring to himself is not based on foreseen virtue, merit, or faith in those people. Rather, it is unconditionally grounded in God's mercy.
- **Limited atonement:** The death of Christ actually takes away the penalty of sins of those on whom God has chosen to have mercy. It is "limited" to taking away the sins of the elect, not of all humanity.
- **Irresistible grace:** The saving grace of God is effectually applied to those whom he has determined to save (the elect).
- **Perseverance of the saints:** Any person who has once been truly saved from damnation must necessarily persevere and cannot later be condemned. The word saints is used in the sense in which it is used in the Bible to refer to all who are set apart by God.



Puritanism values

work hard to become successful special interest in the Old Testament

believes

- An emphasis on private study of the Bible
- A desire to see education and enlightenment for the masses (especially so they could read the Bible for themselves)
- The priesthood of all believers
- Perception of the Pope as an Antichrist
- Simplicity in worship, the exclusion of vestments, images, candles, etc.
- Some approved of the church hierarchy, but others sought to reform the episcopal churches on the presbyterian model.



explanation

dissenters who wants to live their own religion

Puritanism

The Puritans were originally members of a group of English Protestants seeking "purity" — further reforms from the established church — during the Protestant Reformation, though many later sought separation from the church.

The central tenet of Puritanism was God's supreme authority over human affairs, particularly in the church, and especially as expressed in the Bible. On the individual level, the Puritans emphasized that each person should be continually reformed by the grace of God to fight against indwelling sin and do what is right before God. A humble and obedient life would arise for every Christian.



religion in the USA

separation of state and religion US image is formed by religious belief and patriotism

Religion



Religion is a significant part of the culture of the United States. The United States is one of the most religious developed nations in the world; according to a 44-nation survey by the Pew Global Attitudes Project, religion is more important to people in the US than to those in other industrialized nations, second only to Ireland.

Politicians frequently discuss their religion when campaigning and many churches and religious figures are highly politically active.

About **80%** of the American people are Christians (Roman Catholics, Protestants, Baptists, Methodists...), **10%** belong to other religions (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist...) and **10%** of them are atheists.

new development

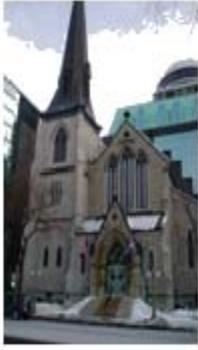
Protestant churches have declined Conservative churches have grown the electronic church gets more and more important

facts

just 60% are members of a church religion is business and follows the law of competition Major faith are: Catholicism, Protestantism and Judaism

Presbyterianism

believe in special destiny think they are gods chosen people



Presbyterianism

is a form of Protestant Christianity, primarily in the Reformed branch of Christendom, as well as a particular form of church government. Its primary tenets include the five solas: Scripture alone, faith alone, Christ alone, grace alone, glory to God alone. It is practised by many (although not all) of those Protestant churches which historically subscribed to the teachings of John Calvin (known as Reformed churches).

based on Manifest Destiny

explanation

Manifest Destiny



is an explanation or justification for an expansion and westward movement, or, in some interpretations, an ideology or doctrine which helped to promote this process.

It expresses the belief that the United States had a mission to expand in order to bring peace and democracy to the world. Originally it was a political catch phrase that became a historical term. Often it is used to describe the expansion across North America towards the Pacific Ocean.

Manifest Destiny means expansionism combined with a belief in natural superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race, American exceptionalism and romantic nationalism. Some people see in the term the American "mission".

mission to expand frontierspirit

- origin

origin



the phrase was used first in 1845 by the journalist John L. O'Sullivan concerning the annexation of Texas but attracted little attention. His second use on December 27 1845 was more influential: He argued that the United States have the right to annex Oregon for the purpose of bringing democracy. So O'Sullivan believed in the Manifest Destiny as a higher law without using force.

The concept became popular only after it was criticized by Whig (opponents of the Polk administration) on January 3, 1846.

>> *And that claim is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us.* << John L. O'Sullivan

key themes

the virtue of the American people and their institutions

the mission to spread these institutions, thereby redeeming and remaking the world in the image of the U.S.

the destiny under God to accomplish this work

The first theme is traced to American Puritanism.

A lot of people agreed to the belief that the US embodies new ideals of freedom and democracy

>> *[America is] the last best hope on earth* << Abraham Lincoln

influences and consequences

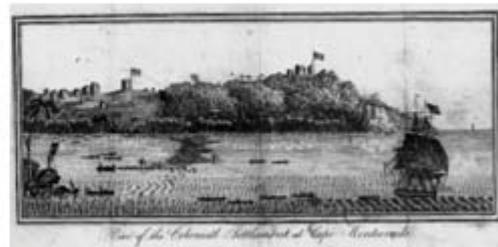
influences and consequences

- politicians used the term "Manifest Destiny" to justify the expansion west
- the Indians were decimated by diseases and the white military
- in the Mexican- American war (1846-48) Nevada, Arizona, Utah, California und New Mexico were conquered
- the gold rush in the 19th century and slavery increased immigration



City upon the Hill

Refers to the phrase used by John Winthrop in his famous sermon, "A Model of Christian Charity," of 1630. He warned the Puritan founders of Massachusetts Bay Colony (New England) that their community would be a city watched by the world. The phrase is based on the metaphors of Salt and Light in the "Sermon on the Mount"



→ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid."

>> *For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken* << John Winthrop

~ Puritanism mission to bring peace and democracy to the world

American Dream

social idea of individualism or development of the own personality

The American Dream is the belief that in the United States of America, hard work can lead to a better life, usually through the earnings of money. These were values held by many early European settlers

American Nightmare excluded people

The American Dream Downfall:

- Consumerism and Economic materialism: Its emphasis on material possessions as a way of finding happiness is seen by critics as being somewhat superficial or meaningless.
- Overconsumption of resources: U.S. supplies of petroleum and natural gas are on the decline. Both hyper-consumerism and the continued explosion of the suburbs have contributed to America's increasing reliance on oil imported from unstable regions of the world.
- Social Justice: The American Dream has been criticized as promoting an ethic of selfishness and promoting social inequality.
- Social Darwinism: It simply is not possible for everyone to become prosperous through determination and hard work alone.
- Social Control: The American Dream has been criticized as a useful ideal for social control by encouraging people to spend their time and energy working hard for material possessions rather than working to change the balance of power and the way that society is structured.
- other factors: success, luck, family, language, and wealth one is born into is ignored



Indians blacks homeless people

economically

exploration of resources constant competition fear to lose

today

dot com boom -> interest in the internet dream that all children can go to school and get an education to open up new spheres in space

values

pursuit of happiness

belief in equality, freedom, progress competition and hard work personal advancements

power and strength military

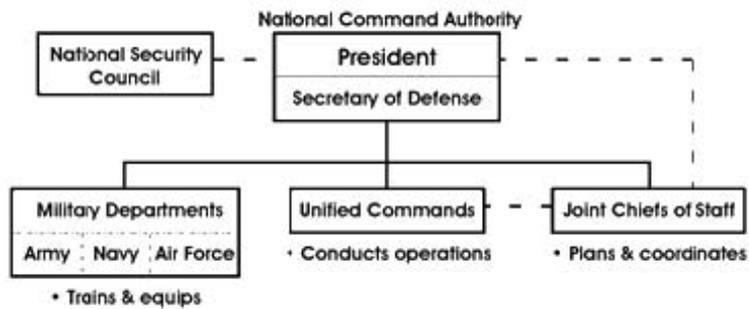
power aircraft carrier nuclear power careless use of weapons (50% of all Americans own weapons) all the services are under the command of the president of the United States of America

explanation -organisation

military

The military of the United States, officially known as the United States Armed Forces, consist of the:

- United States Army
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States Coast Guard



economically

pro **good education and jobs**

service sector white collar workers

global players and culture

IBM Disney Mc Donalds more or less stable currency stock trading large markets

innovation

Innovation

- The U.S. achieved successes in space science and technology, leading to a space race which led to rapid advances in rocketry, weaponry, material science, computers, and many other areas. This technological progress was epitomized by the first visit of a man to the moon, when Neil Armstrong stepped off of Apollo 11 in July 1969.
- The U.S. was also perhaps the most instrumental nation in the development of the Internet.
- In the sciences, Americans have a large share of Nobel Prizes, especially in the fields of physiology and medicine.
- The National Institutes of Health has contributed to the completion of the Human Genome Project.



leading technology

science genetic engineering biotechnology NASA computer

based on

better production methods growing population increasing infrastructure natural resources
immigration mobility system of free enterprise Puritan values

impact

increasing middle class and living standard attract investors creation of mills and mines

- explanation

economy

The United States has the largest national economy in the world. In this mixed economy, corporations and other private firms make the vast majority of microeconomic decisions, and governments prefer to take a minimal role in the domestic economy. Because of this, the U.S. has a small social safety net, and business firms in the U.S. face considerably less regulation than those in many other nations.



pillars of the economy



The largest sector in the United States economy is services, which employs roughly three quarters of the work force. The economy is fueled by an abundance in natural resources such as coal, petroleum, and precious metals. However, the country still depends for much of its energy on foreign countries. In agriculture, the country is a top producer of corn, soy beans, rice, and wheat, with the Great Plains labeled as the "breadbasket of the world" for its tremendous agricultural output. The U.S. has a large tourist industry, ranking third in the world, and is also a major exporter in goods such as airplanes, steel, weapons, and electronics.

great gap between poor and rich

expansion

frontierspirit open up new land means new chances possibility of starting a new life

formed the American character

self- reliance individualism initiative enterprneurial spirit

new frontiers

space science (cloning)

frontier

In the United States, the frontier was the term applied to the zone of unsettled land outside the region of existing settlements of Americans. In a broad sense, the notion of the frontier was the edge of the settled country where unlimited free land was available and thus unlimited opportunity. Throughout the history of both the United States and Canada, the expansion of settlement was largely from the east to the west, and thus the frontier is often identified with western areas of both countries.



American Old West

American Old West



The American Old West was the myths, legends and stories--many of them true--that collected around the Western United States, from 1865 to 1890.

As a setting for works of fiction, the period quickly became so popular as to define its own genre, the "Western." Although such works often put forth a highly romanticized conception of the era, they also promoted great interest in its true history.

Homestead Act

Homestead Act of 1862



was a United States federal law that gave one quarter of a section of a township (160 acres, or about 65 hectares) of undeveloped land in the American West to any family head or person who was at least 21 years of age, provided he lived on it for five years and built a house of a minimum of 12 by 14 feet, or allowed the family head to buy it for \$1.25 per acre (\$0.48/km²) after six months.

American Dream from dishwasher to millionaire be successful own money be the master of your own destiny

world leadership positive view dominant world power

~ **economical power** ~ military power

land of unlimited opportunities

attracts immigrants offer new chances

increases national autonomy

open up new markets enter other markets wants economical competition rather than military confrontation

preservation of peace

defense systems treaties

participation in peacekeeping missions in worlds major trouble spots

decisive power in conflicts

First World War

First World War

At the start of the First World War in 1914, the United States remained neutral. In 1917, however, the United States joined the Allied Powers, helping to turn the tide against the Central Powers. For historical reasons, American sympathies were very much in favor of the British and French, even though a sizable number of citizens, mostly Irish and German, were opposed to intervention. After the war, the Senate did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles because of a fear that it would pull the United States into European affairs. Instead, the country pursued a policy of unilateralism that bordered at times on isolationism.



Second World War

Second World War



The nation did not fully recover until 1941, when the United States was driven to join the Allies against the Axis Powers after a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan. World War II was the costliest war in American history, but it helped to pull the economy out of depression because the required production of military materiel provided much-needed jobs, and women entered the workforce in large numbers for the first time. During this war, scientists working for the United States federal government succeeded in producing nuclear weapons, making the United States the world's first nuclear power. Toward the end of World War II, after the end of World War II in Europe, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Japan surrendered soon after, on 2 September 1945, which ended World War II.

Cold War

Cold War



After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became superpowers in an era of ideological rivalry dubbed the Cold War. The United States promoted liberal democracy and capitalism, while the Soviet Union communism and a centrally planned economy. The result was a series of proxy wars, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the tense nuclear showdown of the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

foreign policy **Americanisation**

loss of other non- American culture

dominant American culture global players influence of advertisement

act against the international law

don't respect UN decisions (e.g. Iraq war)

export weapons in third world countries increase of conflicts

don't act according to their own values

no equality social services health system gap between poor and rich

no freedom introduction of a quota concerning immigration people have to assimilate

- no justice

Guantánamo Bay detainment camp

serves as a joint military prison and interrogation center. The prison holds people suspected by the Executive branch of the U.S. government of being al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives, along with some people no longer considered suspects who are being held pending relocation elsewhere.



The status of this prison, above political beliefs, is not clear and may be against Human Rights and democratic ethics and laws, although U.S. courts have partially accepted the status of the prison as existing outside many of the U.S. laws, with the caveat that additional rights be provided regarding due process. In June 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court further restricted the Bush administration's use of military tribunals to try the detainees.

Human right abuses (Iraq War)

- Abu Ghraib torture and prisoner abuse
- Haditha killings - alleged murder of 24 civilians, including women and children
- Ishaqi incident - alleged murder of 11 civilians, including five children
- Hamadiya incident - alleged kidnapping and murder of one civilian
- Mahmudiyah incident - alleged gang-rape and murder of a 14 year old girl and the murder of her parents and 7 year old sister, all civilians.
- Mukaradeeb - alleged bombing and shooting of at least 42 civilians



- ~ no interest in international cooperation
- Iraq conflict

Iraq War

The Iraq War, also known alternatively as the Second or Third Gulf War, is a military engagement encompassing the invasion and occupation of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist Iraq by a U.S.-led coalition, ongoing asymmetric warfare between an insurgency and coalition troops plus the New Iraqi Army, as well as violence between the country's Shia and Sunni populations.



The war in Iraq was originally justified as part of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Specifically, the Bush Administration argued that Saddam Hussein had ties to al-Qaeda, and that his overthrow would lead to democratization in the Middle East, decreasing terrorism overall.

actuator of the war were the terroristic attacks on september 9/11

September 9/11

The September 11, 2001 attacks consisted of a series of coordinated terrorist suicide attacks upon the United States, predominantly targeting civilians, carried out on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.



Motives

- U.S. support of Israel.
- U.S. military occupation of the Arabian Peninsula.
- U.S. aggression against the Iraqi people.

The fatwa says that the United States:

- Plunders the resources of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Dictates policy to the rulers of those countries.
- Supports abusive regimes and monarchies in the Middle East, thereby oppressing their people.
- Have military bases and installations upon the Arabian Peninsula, which violates the Muslim holy land, in order to threaten neighboring Muslim countries.
- Intends thereby to create disunion between Muslim states, thus weakening them as a political force.
- Supports Israel, and wishes to divert international attention from (and tacitly maintain) the occupation of Palestine.



Approximately one month after the attacks, the United States led a broad coalition of international forces to invade Afghanistan in pursuit of al-Qaeda forces in order to topple the Taliban regime for harboring what it referred to as a terrorist organization

reject international help

e.g. Katrina want to prevent their image

act according to their own interest

war because of oil (waste of oil) pollution of the environment

Kyoto Protocol



The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

is an amendment to the international treaty on climate change, assigning mandatory targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to signatory nations.

signed and ratified: **green**
signed, ratification pending: **yellow**
signed ratification declined: **red**
no position: **grey**



the USA wastes a lot of raw material and causes pollution but not takes part in the protocol

need no reasons for war

cowboy image dominance of power police the world

force others to free their trade

open markets stock trade

Bush act like a Terminator

no ideas how to solve domestic problems seems to be not really informed solution for problems is violence softs separation between church and policy

exaggerated self- image

religious conflicts cultural conflicts

innerpolitical problems **employment**

people have to work harder for less higher and fire mentality

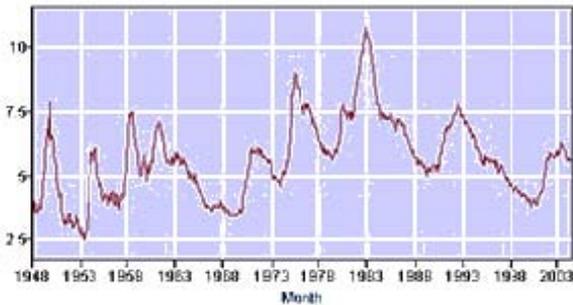
high unemployment rate

mechanisation

globalisation

automation Some of the likely costs of unemployment for society include increased poverty, crime, political instability, mental health problems, and diminished issue in economics.

Unemployment- rate



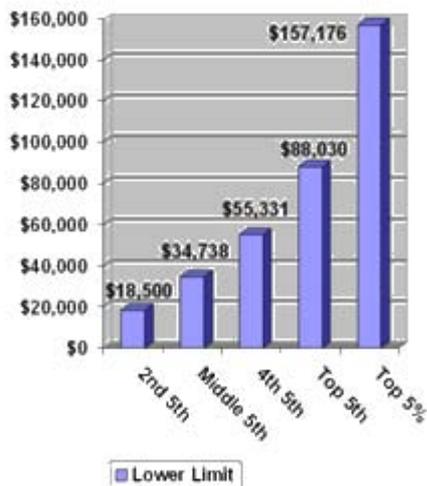
economy

negative trade balance: More Imports than exports dollar not stable anymore fear that Arabic states will trade oil in Euros

gap between poor and rich

millions of poor people high crime rate

Income



high costs of health care

Health care system



The United States is alone among developed nations with the absence of a universal healthcare system.

Components:

Medicare for the elderly and disabled, with a historical work record and Medicaid, for indigents, provides taxation-financed coverage.

- This care is generally provided by privately owned hospitals or physicians in private practice, but public hospitals are common in older cities. Medicare is a federal government program providing coverage to people age 65 or older.
- Medicaid is a federal and state program providing coverage to low-income and disabled persons.
- The Indian Health Service provides public funded care for indigenous peoples.
- Employer benefit based health insurance remains quite common with larger employers. Workers injured on the job are covered by government mandated worker compensation insurance and wage replacement benefits.

American Nightmare

no money no success

natural disasters

hurricanes earthquakes tsunamis

war to distract from innerpolitical problems

crime and punishment background

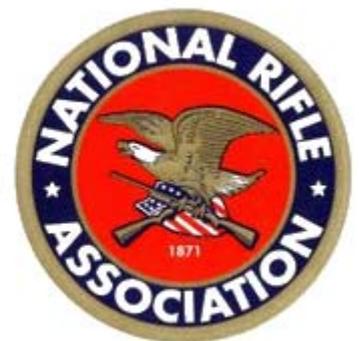
there are 34 million serious crimes each year but just 3 millions are arrested (costs) over 50% of the people own weapons there is a higher crime rate than in other western states

National Rifle Association

right to own a gun based on the second Amendment

National Rifle Association

The National Rifle Association, or NRA, is a group for the promotion of marksmanship, firearm safety, and the protection of hunting and personal protection firearm rights in the United States, established in New York in 1871 as the American Rifle Association. It sponsors firearm safety training courses, as well as marksmanship events featuring shooting skills and sports. The NRA is sometimes said to be the single most powerful non-profit organization in the United States. It predicated its political activity on *gun ownership being a civil liberty* protected by the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights, claiming to be the oldest civil liberties organization in the United States.



reasons for crime

low education alcohol or drug abuse social problems urbanisation

measurements

prevention better education youth should work in prison (experiences)

resocialisation find a job social integration

death penalty

pro without there would be more criminal delicts because criminals have nothing to loose
high costs trials are paid by tax payers overcrowded cells and courts

con no second chance discrimination of blacks inhumane prevention instead of punishment

info

Death penalty

Blue: Abolished for all crimes

Green: Abolished for crimes not committed in exceptional circumstances

Orange: Abolished in practice

Red: Legal form of punishment for certain offenses



In most places that practice capital punishment today, the death penalty is reserved as punishment for premeditated murder, espionage, treason, or as part of military justice.

immigration and integration history info

History

1600-1790	<p>the first successful English colony in what is now the United States was established as a barely successful business enterprise, after much loss of life, in 1607 in Jamestown, Virginia.</p> <p>→ Other colonies were established as fishing settlements from the Basque, French, English and Portuguese</p> <p>→ All the colonies, after they were started, grow almost entirely by natural growth with immigrant populations rarely exceeding 10%.</p>
1790	<p>The 1790 population already reflects the approximate 50,000 “Loyalists or Tories”, who emigrated to Canada at the end of the American Revolution and the less than 10,000 more who emigrated to other British possessions including England.</p>
1820	<p>After 1820, immigration gradually increased. For the first time, federal records, including ship passenger lists, were kept for immigration.</p>
1849	<p>the California Gold Rush spurred significant immigration from Mexico, South America, China, Australia, Europe and caused a mass migration within the US, resulting in the state of California being admitted to the union on September 9, 1850, with a population of about 90,000.</p>
1880	<p>Eastern Europeans, mainly Catholics, immigrated.</p>
1910-1920	<p>were the high point of Italian immigration to the United States. Over 2 million Italians immigrated in those years</p>
1933	<p>Jews and others were fleeing from Nazi Germany</p>
1950	<p>a lot of people flee from the Korean War</p>
1956	<p>the Hungarian revolution leads to a higher immigration- rate</p>
1975	<p>The U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam and the subsequent armed Communist takeover of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia brought a new wave of immigrants.</p>
2006	<p>U.S. Legal immigrants to the United States are at their highest level ever at over 35,000,000.</p>



introduction of a quota today

mixed suburban communities interracial marriage accepted accepted in higher positions and sport racism declines

background models

Pizza

Pizza- Model

The pizza is the idea that the U.S. is neither a melting pot nor a salad bowl but a pizza. Like a pizza all the different cultures have a base on which they are placed. Some of the ingredients can be combined by a slow process, others can be just partly or not combined, but they are all part of the same thing.



the pizza - model combines the idea of assimilation and pluralism in one culture

salad bowl

Salad bowl

The salad bowl is the idea that the U.S. is not a melting pot but a salad bowl. It is known as cultural mosaic in Canada. Where all the different cultures are combined (like a salad) but they do not merge together as a homogeneous culture. Each culture keeps its own distinct qualities, just as a tomato does not take on traits of a carrot merely by being placed adjacent to it. It has been accused of being a communitarianist model, while supporters of it speak of multiculturalism.



Melting Pot

The melting pot is a metaphor for the way in which homogeneous societies develop, in which the ingredients in the pot (people of different cultures and religions) are combined so as to lose their discrete identities and yield a final product of uniform consistency and flavor, which is quite different from the original inputs. It implies both a melting of cultures and intermarriage of ethnicities, while cultural assimilation often occurs without intermarriage.



reasons USA

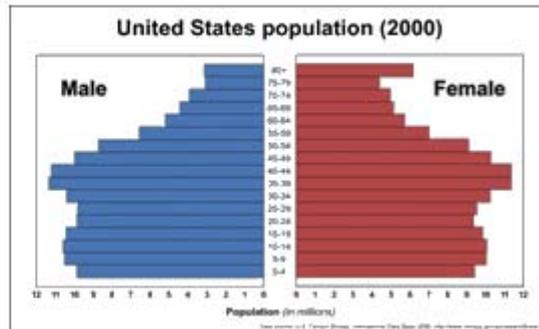
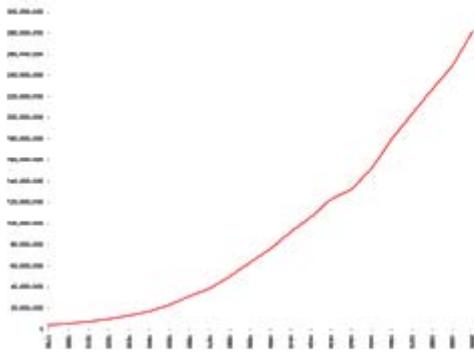
USA has little difficulties to integrate the people America as dominant and attractive culture America as a culture of different ethnics find better jobs or payment flee from war, persecution or disease dream of a better future

problems immigrants own culture

religion habits language moral law live below poverty line high crime rate

growth of population -**racial composition**

Population of the USA



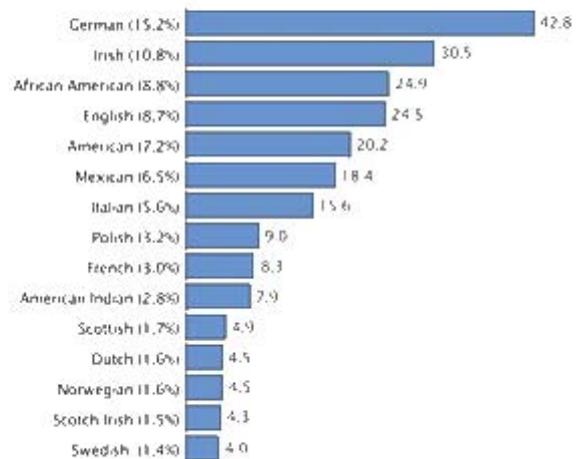
America's racial composition is:

- White American, 80.4%, or about 238.3 million, (the definition of White includes people of European, North African, West Asian, and Central Asian (e.g., Turkic) ancestry; and Hispanic people who are White)
- Black or African American 12.8% or 37.9 million,
- Asian American 4.2% or 12.4 million,
- American Indian 1% or 2.9 million
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander 0.2% or 0.6 million,
- Two or more races 1.5% or 4.5 million

The figures above include people who declare mixed race or multiracial ancestry, and/or who identify themselves as Hispanic.

Figure 2.
Fifteen Largest Ancestries: 2000

(In millions. Percent of total population in parentheses. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/2002/doc/ip13.pdf.)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

explanation immigration

Immigration



Immigration to the United States of America is the movement of non-residents to the United States, and has been a major source of population growth and cultural change throughout much of the American history even though the foreign born have never been more than 15% of the population since about 1675. The economic, social and political aspects of immigration has caused controversy regarding race, ethnicity, religion, economic benefits, job growth, settlement patterns, impact on upward social mobility, levels of criminality, nationalities, political loyalties, moral values, and work habits.

racial integration assimilation

Racial integration,

or simply integration includes desegregation (the process of ending systematic racial segregation). In addition to desegregation, integration includes goals such as leveling barriers to association, creating equal opportunity regardless of race, and the development of a culture that draws on diverse traditions, rather than merely bringing a racial minority into the majority culture. Desegregation is largely a legal matter, integration largely a social one.



Assimilation

Cultural assimilation, or 'assimilation' for short, is an intense process of consistent integration whereby members of an ethno-cultural group, typically immigrants, or other minority groups, are "absorbed" into an established, generally larger community. This presumes a loss of all or many characteristics which make the newcomers different. A region or society where assimilation is occurring is sometimes referred to as a "melting pot".



Assimilation can have negative implications for national minorities or aboriginal cultures, in that after assimilation the distinctive features of the original culture will be minimized and may disappear altogether.

multiculturalism

Multiculturalism

is an ideology advocating that society should consist of, or at least allow and include, distinct cultural groups, with equal status.

In the United States multiculturalism is not an official policy at the federal level. At the state level, it is sometimes associated with English-Spanish bilingualism. However, the government, in recent years, has moved to support many multiculturalist policies.



pro based on civil right equality of all people benefit through cultural exchange learn from the other cultures learn to respect others

con no social intergration no national unity no assimilation fragmentation of society creation of cultural ghettos

Typical multicultural policies

Around the world, important government multicultural policies can include:

- dual citizenship
- government support for newspapers, television, and radio in minority languages
- support for minority festivals, holidays, and celebrations
- acceptance of traditional and religious dress in schools, the military, and society in general
- support for arts from cultures around the world
- programs to encourage minority representation in politics, education, and the work force



multiculturalist policies can be seen as opposing assimilation

race of the future

Race of the future

The Race of the Future theory states that due to the process of miscegenation, the mixing of different ethnicities or races, especially in marriage, cohabitation, or sexual relations, all the races are blending to become one race in the future.



acts

Immigration acts

- The Naturalization Act of 1790 established the rules for naturalized citizenship
- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first (and only) explicitly race-based immigration act.
- The Immigration Act of 1924 aimed at freezing the current ethnic distribution in response to rising immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as Asia.
- The National Origins Formula was established in 1929. Total annual immigration was capped at 150,000. Asians were excluded but residents of nations in the Americas were not restricted.
- The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 somewhat liberalized immigration from Asia, but increased the power of the government to deport illegal immigrants suspected of Communist sympathies.
- The Immigration Act of 1965 discontinued quotas based on national origin, while preference given to those who have U.S. relatives. For the first time Mexican immigration was restricted.
- The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 granted amnesty to illegal immigrants who had been in the United States before 1982 but made it a crime to hire an illegal immigrant.
- The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 made drastic changes to asylum law, immigration detention, criminal-based immigration, and many forms of immigration relief.
- The Real ID Act of 2005 created more restrictions on political asylum, severely curtailed habeas corpus relief for immigrants, increased immigration enforcement mechanisms, altered judicial review, and imposed federal restrictions on the issuance of state driver's licenses to immigrants and others.



introduction of quotas are necessary to keep the economy and health care system stable
quotas are against the American Dream and the imagination of unlimited opportunities

slavery Civil War

Civil War

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was a sectional conflict in the United States of America between the federal government (the "Union") and 11 Southern slave states that declared their secession and formed the Confederate States of America, led by President Jefferson Davis. The Union, led by President Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party, which opposed expansion of slavery, rejected any right of secession. Fighting began April 12, 1861 when Confederate forces attacked a Federal fort at the Battle of Fort Sumter.



By 1864, long-term Union advantages in geography, manpower, industry, finance, political organization and transportation were overwhelming the Confederacy. In 1865, the Confederacy collapsed and the slaves were freed.

The main results of the war were the restoration and strengthening of the Union, and the end of slavery in the United States.

the 11 states that seceded from the Union and lost the war in 1865 were ruined. Reconstruction was just partly successful and there was an economically difference between the two parts of the nation for a long time.

explanation

slavery

racial segregation

Slavery

The history of slavery in the United States began soon after Europeans first settled in what in 1776 became the United States. It ended in practice in 1863-65 with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; it legally ended with the Thirteenth amendment of 1865.

Originally in the American colonies, 1600 to 1800, American Indians (Native Americans) and other groups, mostly white Europeans such as captured soldiers, minor criminals, etc., were used as slaves (indentured servants, see *Bound Over* by John Van Der Zee), but by the 19th century almost all slaves were blacks. During the British colonial period, slaves were used mostly in the Southern colonies and, to a lesser degree, in the Northern colonies as well



Racial segregation

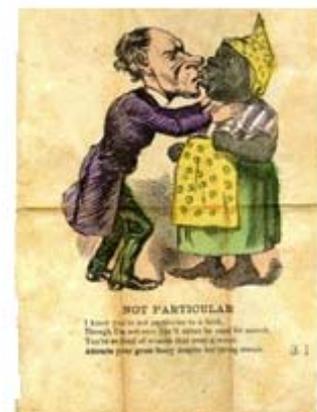
is characterized by separation of people of different races in daily life when both are doing equal tasks, such as eating in a restaurant, drinking from a water fountain, using a rest room, attending school, going to the movies, or in the rental or purchase of a home.



racism

Racism

Many historians have argued that racism has been an integral part of the United States of America since it was first colonized by Europeans. In general, the question of race and the practices of racism have been major issues in American politics and daily life since before the country became independent in the late eighteenth century, and continue to have a major role in political and social life today. Racism exists among members of every ethnic group and demographic. Specifically among those of African American, Caucasian, Jewish, Native American and Latin Heritages. All of these ethnic groups have racists within, and likewise all of these ethnic groups have members within that have been a victim of racism.



discrimination

Discrimination



To discriminate socially is to make a distinction between people on the basis of class or category without regard to individual merit. Examples of social discrimination include racial, religious, sexual, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic, height-related, and age-related discrimination.

Civil Right Movement Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American political activist, the most famous leader of the American civil rights movement, and a Baptist minister. Considered a peacemaker throughout the world for his promotion of nonviolence and equality treatment for different races, he received the Nobel Peace Prize before he was assassinated in 1968.

King organized and led marches for blacks' right to vote, desegregation, labor rights and other basic civil rights. Most of these rights were successfully enacted into United States law with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

King was assassinated at 6:01 p.m. April 4, 1968, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Friends inside the motel room heard the shots and ran to the balcony to find King shot in the throat



>>I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal<<
Martin Luther King Jr.

explanation

Civil Right Movement



The African-American Civil Rights Movement refers to a set of noted events and reform movements in the United States aimed at abolishing public and private acts of racial discrimination against African Americans between 1954 to 1968, particularly in the South. By 1966, the emergence of the Black Power Movement, which lasted from 1966 to 1975, enlarged and gradually eclipsed the aims of the Civil Rights Movement to include racial dignity, economic and political self-sufficiency, and freedom from white authority. Several scholars have begun to refer to the Civil Rights Movement as the Second Reconstruction.

seperate but equal

Separate but equal

After the American Civil War (1861–1865) brought about the end of slavery, the segregation period began. African-Americans and European-Americans would receive the same services (schools, hospitals, water fountains, bathrooms, etc.), but that there would be distinct facilities for each race. In practice, the services and facilities reserved for African-Americans were almost always of lower quality than those reserved for whites; for example, most African-American schools received less public funding per student than nearby white schools.



disadvantages today

Disadvantages have remained

- less job chances and bad paid jobs
- less health care
- less education and poor schools
- higher death rate of infants
- higher chance to get in prison
- more black persons are murdered



key events

Brown v. Board of Education

Brown v. Board of Education, 1954

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision regarding the case called *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (Kansas)*, in which the plaintiffs charged that the education of black children in separate public schools from their white counterparts was unconstitutional. In the court's ruling, it was stated that the "segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a detrimental effect upon the colored children. The impact is greater when it has the sanction of the law; for the policy of separating the races is usually interpreted as denoting the inferiority of the negro group."



- Rosa Parks (bus boycott)

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955-1956



On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks (the "mother of the Civil Rights Movement") refused to get up out of her seat on a public bus to make room for white passengers. Rosa was arrested, tried, and convicted for disorderly conduct and violating a local ordinance. After word of this incident reached the black community, 50 African-American leaders gathered and organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott to protest the segregation of blacks and whites on public buses. The boycott lasted for 382 days (1956 was a leap year), until the local ordinance segregating African-Americans and whites on public buses was lifted.

despite of the governmental regulation racism is a social problem in the United States

law

Thirteenth Amendment

Thirteenth Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Fourteenth Amendment

Fourteenth Amendment

The amendment provides a broad definition of national citizenship. It requires the states to provide equal protection under the law to all persons (not only to citizens) within their jurisdictions.

Section 1: All person born naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside

Fifteenth Amendment

Fifteenth Amendment

Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



Emancipation Proclamation

Emancipation Proclamation



The Emancipation Proclamation was a presidential order on January 1, 1863 declaring the freedom of all slaves in those areas of the Confederate States of America that had not already returned to Union control. It was not a law passed by a Congress but a proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln, based on the war powers given to the President by the Constitution.

Civil Rights Act

Civil Rights Act of 1964

was landmark legislation in the United States that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Originally conceived to protect the rights of black men, the bill was amended prior to passage to protect the civil rights of everyone, and explicitly included women for the first time. The Act transformed Southern society overnight, and had a long-term impact on the whole country. It prohibited discrimination in public facilities, in government, and in employment.



Voting Rights Act

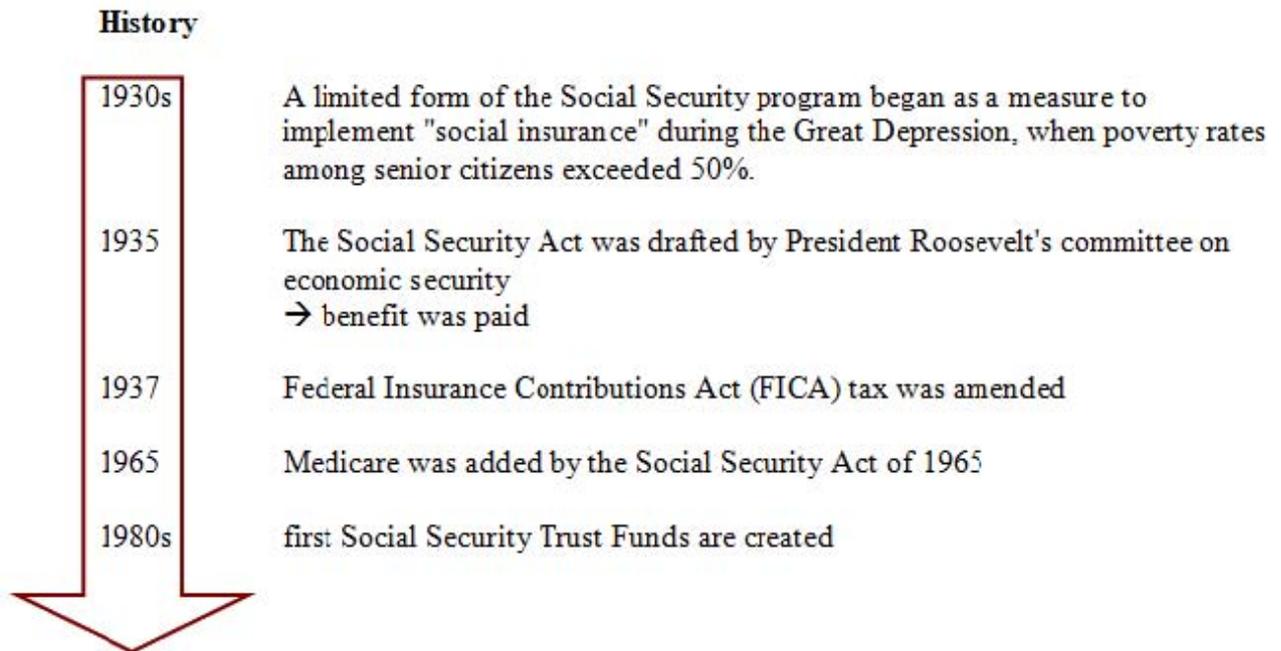
National Voting Rights Act of 1965



outlawed the requirement that would-be voters in the United States take literacy tests or pay a poll tax to qualify to register to vote, and it provided for federal registration of voters — instead of state or local voter registration which had often been denied to minorities and poor voters — in areas that had less than 50% of eligible minority voters registered. The act also provided for Department of Justice oversight to registration, and the Department's approval for any change in voting law in districts whose populations were at least 5% Black.

assistance for the poor child welfare unemployment insurance medical care for old people

social security history



retirement benefit

Retirement benefits



The largest component of the social security system is the payment of retirement benefits. Throughout a worker's career, the Social Security Administration keeps track of his or her earnings. The amount of the monthly benefit to which the worker is entitled depends upon that earnings record and upon the age at which the retiree chooses to begin receiving benefits.

The earliest age at which (reduced) benefits are payable is 62

private insurance is needed or an insurance paid by the employer explanation

Social Security

Social Security in the United States is a social insurance program funded through a dedicated payroll tax. It is formally known as the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund program. When initially signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, the term Social Security covered unemployment insurance as well. The term now is used to mean only the benefits for retirement, disability, and death, which are the three main benefits provided by traditional private-sector pension plans.



15% of the American population lives below the poverty line

Social security Trust Fund

Social Security Trust Fund

is the United States federal government's means of accounting for workers' and employers' paid-in contributions to the Social Security system and benefits paid out to retired or disabled workers or their survivors, as well as administrative expenses. More importantly, it also provides the legal basis for making benefit payments in the future when FICA contributions will be less than aggregate benefit payments.



healthcare system

Medicaid

Medicaid



is the US health insurance program for individuals and families with low incomes and resources. It is jointly funded by the states and federal government, and is managed by the states. Among the groups of people served by Medicaid are eligible low-income parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with limited income.

Medicare Medicare is a health insurance program administered by the United States government, covering people who are either age 65 and over, or who meet other special criteria.

Health care system



The United States is alone among developed nations with the absence of a universal healthcare system.

Components:

Medicare for the elderly and disabled, with a historical work record and Medicaid, for indigents, provides taxation-financed coverage.

- This care is generally provided by privately owned hospitals or physicians in private practice, but public hospitals are common in older cities. Medicare is a federal government program providing coverage to people age 65 or older.
- Medicaid is a federal and state program providing coverage to low-income and disabled persons.
- The Indian Health Service provides public funded care for indigenous peoples.
- Employer benefit based health insurance remains quite common with larger employers. Workers injured on the job are covered by government mandated worker compensation insurance and wage replacement benefits.

health care costs in the United States are high but there are serious gaps in the public health care system

A lot of people are not able to afford a health insurance

no national health scheme comparable to EU standards

history

the native population originally came from Asia and was mistakenly called "Indians"

discovery of America

first discovered by the Vikings

by Columbus



Christopher Columbus

was a navigator and an admiral for the Crown of Castile whose transatlantic voyages opened the Americas to European exploration and colonization.

first settlers

sought for raw material and resources conquered land destroyed existing cultures settled down and found colonies were religious and political dissenters started to build farms, infrastructure and industry had democratic principles

~ Declaration of Independence ~ Civil War Twenties

Great Depression



was a worldwide economic downturn which started in 1929 (although its effects were not fully felt until late in 1930) and lasted through most of the 1930s. It centered in North America and Europe, but had damaging effects around the world. The most industrialized countries were affected the worst including the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Canada, and Australia. Cities around the world were hit hard, especially those based on heavy industry. Unemployment and homelessness soared. Construction virtually halted in many countries.

the economy was ruined by the stock market crash 1929

New Deal

New Deal

From 1932 onward Roosevelt argued that a restructuring of the economy—a "reform" would be needed to prevent another depression. New Deal programs sought to stimulate demand and provide work and relief for the impoverished through increased government spending, by:

- reforming the financial system, especially the banks and Wall Street.
- instituting regulations which ended what was called "cut-throat competition" which kept forcing down prices and profits for everyone. (The NRA—which ended in 1935).
- setting minimum prices and wages and competitive conditions in all industries (NRA)
- encouraging unions that would raise wages, to increase the purchasing power of the working class (NRA)
- cutting farm production so as to raise prices and make it possible to earn a living in farming (done by the AAA and successor farm programs)



~ First World War ~ Second World War ~ Cold War

constitution democratic system Declaration of Independence 27 amendments

A constitutional amendment is an alteration to the constitution of a nation or a state. In jurisdictions with 'rigid' or 'entrenched' constitutions amendments require a special procedure different from that used for enacting ordinary laws

Preamble of the constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

historical influence

US bill of rights



In the United States of America, the Bill of Rights is the term for the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. These amendments explicitly limit the Federal government's powers, protecting the rights of the people by preventing Congress from abridging freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religious worship, and the right to bear arms, preventing unreasonable search and seizure, cruel and

unusual punishment, and self-incrimination, and guaranteeing due process of law and a speedy public trial with an impartial jury.

Magna Carta

Magna Carta



Magna Carta was the most significant early influence on the long historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today. Magna Carta was originally created because of disagreements between Pope Innocent III, King John and his English barons about the rights of the King. Magna Carta required the king to renounce certain rights, respect certain legal procedures and accept that the will of the king could be bound by law.

1787 the Constitution was written by the Founding Fathers and took effect 1789

seperate branches seperation of power

Three branch system



In drafting the United States Constitution, the framers included features of many novel concepts including the then-new concept of the separation of powers. The concept is also prominent in the state governments of the United States; as colonies of Britain, the founding fathers felt that the American states had suffered an abuse of the broad power of the monarchy. As a remedy, the American Constitution limits the powers of the federal government through several means, but in particular by dividing up the power of the government among three competing branches of government. Each branch checks the actions of the others and balances their powers in some way.

executive branch

head is the president power of veto head of the armed forces head of the state

explanation

President

The President of the United States of America is the head of state of the United States. In the U.S. Constitution, the President is also the chief executive of the federal government and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

Because of the hyperpower status of the United States, the American President is one of the world's best-known public figures, and often described as the most powerful person on earth. The President is sometimes referred to as "the leader of the free world," although the usage of this phrase has declined since the end of the Cold War.



Constitutional Powers

Constitutional powers

- Operational command of government services and contracts
- Sole power to wage war (operational command of the military)
- Responsibility for negotiating treaties
- Power to appoint judges, diplomats, cabinet, and department heads
- Police powers of arrest, detainment, and search
- Prosecutes crimes
- Collects taxes

leader is the vice president A vice president is an officer in government or business who is next in rank below a president

Congress

House of Representatives

The House and Senate are coequal houses. However, there are some special powers granted to one chamber only. Bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives, as well as any impeachment proceedings.



Senate

Senate

The House and Senate are coequal houses. However, there are some special powers granted to one chamber only. The Senate's advice and consent is required to confirm presidential nominations to high-level executive and judicial positions, and for the ratification of treaties.



explanation

Congress

The United States Congress is the legislature of the United States federal government. It is bicameral, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives has 435 voting members (plus a nonvoting delegate from the District of Columbia), each representing a congressional district and serving a two-year term. House seats are apportioned among the states on the basis of population. Each state has two Senators, regardless of population. There are 100 senators, serving staggered six-year terms. Both Senators and Representatives are chosen through direct election.



constitutional powers

Constitutional powers

- Power to write laws
- Power to enact taxes, authorize borrowing, and set the budget
- Sole power to declare war
- Various other powers of the federal government
- Subpoena (investigative) power
- Power to confirm Supreme Court judges and Executive cabinet officials

Judicial branch

head is the Chief Justice

Chief Justice



The Chief Justice of the United States is the head of the judicial branch of the government of the United States, and presides over the Supreme Court of the United States. The highest judicial officer in the country, the Chief Justice leads the business of the Supreme Court and presides over the Senate during impeachment trials of the President of the United States. In modern tradition, the Chief Justice also administers the oath of office to the President, but this is not required by the Constitution or any other law.

Supreme Court



The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the United States, with powers of judicial review given to itself as decided in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), though it appears to have been contemplated by Alexander Hamilton. Each U.S. state has a state supreme court.

Law

basis: English Common Law division in state law and federal law interpretation through supreme court

constitutional powers

Constitutional powers

- Sole power to interpret the law and apply it to particular disputes
- Power to determine the disposition of prisoners
- Appointed for life
- Power to compel testimony and the production of documents

Fourth branch

the press

The press



has also been described as a "fourth power" because of its considerable influence over public opinion (which it wields by widely distributing facts and opinions about the various branches of government). Public opinion in turn affects the outcome of elections, as well as indirectly influencing the branches of government by, for example, expressing public sentiment with respect to pending legislation.

independent executive agencies The federal executive is a very large bureaucracy, and due to civil service rules, most mid- and lowlevel employees do not change when a new person becomes President. High- level regulators are appointed by the president but they often sit for long fixed terms and enjoy independence from other policy makers.

Direct Democracy a sort of pure democracy, everybody takes part in

Checks and balances

The phrase "checks and balances" was originally coined by Montesquieu. In a system of government with competing sovereigns (such as a multi-branch government or a federal system), "checks" refers to the ability, right, and responsibility of each power to monitor the activities of the other(s); "balances" refers to the ability of each entity to use its authority to limit the powers of the others, whether in general scope or in particular cases.

→ no institution can achieve total power



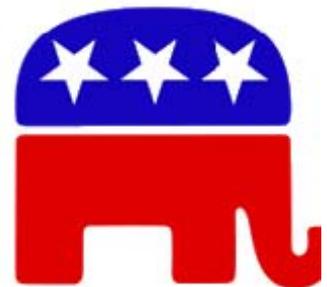
Political Parties

Republicans

Republican Party

is the more socially conservative and economically libertarian of the two major parties, and has closer ties to both Wall Street (large corporations) and Main Street (locally owned businesses). Republicans have a strong belief in personal responsibility, limited government, and corporate entrepreneurship.

Republicans emphasize the role of corporate and personal decision making in fostering economic prosperity. They favor free-market policies supporting capitalism, economic liberalism, and limited regulation.



Democrats

Democratic Party



The Democratic Party is one of two major contemporary political parties in the United States. The party was established by Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson in the 1828-32; the name "Democratic" was in use by 1834. It is the oldest political party in the world. The Party advocates most civil liberties, social freedoms, equal rights, equal opportunity, and a free enterprise system tempered by government intervention. The Party believes that government should play a role in alleviating poverty and social injustice, even if that means a larger role for government and progressive taxation to pay for social services.

presidential elections are held every fourth year

role

passes laws provides goods and services achieve financial and economic stability