

НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ АВІАЦІЙНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
Факультет лінгвістики та соціальних комунікацій
Кафедра англійської філології і перекладу

КОНСПЕКТ ЛЕКЦІЙ

з навчальної дисципліни «Лінгвокраїнознавство Сполучених
Штатів Америки» спеціальність 035 «Філологія»

Укладач:

канд. філол. н. Лінтвар О.М.

Lecture 1
INTRODUCTION TO LINGUOCOUNTRY STUDIES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plan

1. Brief introduction of the USA
 2. The naming of America.
 3. National symbols.
 4. Physical geography.
 5. Human geography and demographics.
 6. Language.
 7. System of government.
-
1. Береговенко Н.С. Лінгвокраїнознавство країн першої іноземної мови (англійська): навчально-методичний посібник / Н.С. Береговенко, Н.С. Демченко. – Біла Церква: БНАУ, 2021. – 150 с.
 2. Гапонів А.Б., Возна М.О. Лінгвокраїнознавство. Англomовні країни: підручник / А.Б. Гапонів, М.О. Возна. – Вид 2. – Вінниця: НОВА КНИГА, 2018. – 352 с.
 3. Линтвар О.М. Лінгвокраїнознавство як необхідна освітня компонента підготовки майбутніх перекладачів / О.М. Линтвар // *Актуальні питання іноземної філології*. № 16. Одеса: Видавничий дім «Гельветика», 2022. С. 122-127. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2410-0927-2022-16-18>
 4. Лінгвокраїнознавство: практикум / уклад.: О.М. Линтвар, Ю.М. Плетенецька. – К.: НАУ, 2020. – 76 с.
 5. Лінгвокраїнознавство Сполучених Штатів Америки: методичні рекомендації до самостійної роботи / уклад.: О.М. Линтвар. – К.: НАУ, 2021. – 24 с.
 6. Blinder Alan S. A Monetary and Fiscal History of the United States, 1961-2021 / Alan S. Blinder. – Princeton University Press, 2022. – 432 p.
 7. Clack George. Portrait of the USA / George Clack. – Washington DC: USIA, 2007. – 96 p.
 8. Taylor F. Presidents of the United States of America / F. Taylor. – Independently published, 2019. – 308 p.
 9. The Constitution of the United States of America. – Ottawa: East India Publishing Company, 2022. – 99 p.
 10. The United States. Режим доступу: <https://www.britannica.com/search?query=The+USA>

Brief introduction of the USA • The United States of America (also called the United States, the U.S., the USA, America, and the States) is a **federal constitutional republic comprising fifty states and a federal district**. The country is situated mostly in central North America, where its **forty-eight** contiguous *kən'tɪʃjəs* (суміжні, по-сусідству) states and Washington, D.C., the capital district, lie between the **Pacific and Atlantic Oceans**. The state of Hawaii is an archipelago *ɑːkɪˈpələʒəʊ* in the mid-Pacific. The country also possesses several territories in the Pacific and Caribbean.

The official name of the country is the United States of America (the USA). **United States**, officially **United States of America**, abbreviated **U.S.** or **U.S.A.**, byname **America**, country in North America, a federal republic of **50** states. Besides the 48 conterminous *kən'tɜːmɪnəs* сусідні states that occupy the middle latitudes of the continent, the United States includes the state of **Alaska**, at the northwestern extreme of North America, and the island state of **Hawaii**, in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The conterminous states are bounded on the north by **Canada**, on the east by the **Atlantic Ocean**, on the south by the **Gulf of Mexico and Mexico**, and on the west by the **Pacific Ocean**. The United States is the **fourth** largest country in the world in area (after Russia, Canada, and China). The national capital is **Washington**, which is coextensive with the District of Columbia, the federal capital region created in 1790.

The United States emerged from the **thirteen** British colonies established along the East Coast. Numerous disputes between Great Britain and the colonies following the **French and Indian War** led to the **American Revolution**, which began in 1775, and the subsequent **Declaration of Independence in 1776**. The war ended in **1783** with the United States becoming **the first country to**

gain independence from a European power. The current constitution was adopted in **1789**, with the first ten amendments, collectively named **the Bill of Rights**, being ratified in **1791** to guarantee many fundamental civil liberties.

The major characteristic of the United States is probably its great **variety**. Its physical environment ranges from the **Arctic to the subtropical**, from the moist **rain forest** to the **arid desert**, from the rugged mountain peak to the flat **prairie**. Although the total population of the United States is large by world standards, its overall population density is relatively low. The country embraces some of the world's largest urban concentrations as well as some of the most extensive areas that are almost devoid of habitation.

The United States contains a highly **diverse population**. Unlike a country such as China that largely incorporated indigenous peoples, the United States has a **diversity** that to a great degree has come from an immense and sustained **global immigration**. Probably no other country has a wider range of racial, ethnic, and cultural types than does the United States. In addition to the presence of surviving **Native Americans** (including **American Indians**, **Aleuts** ə'lju:t, and **Eskimos** eskiməʊz) and the descendants of **Africans** taken as **slaves** to the New World, the national character has been enriched, tested, and constantly redefined by the tens of millions of immigrants who by and large have come to America hoping for greater social, political, and economic opportunities than they had in the places they left. *(It should be noted that although the terms "America" and "Americans" are often used as synonyms for the United States and its citizens, respectively, they are also used in a broader sense for North, South, and Central America collectively and their citizens.)*

The United States is the world's greatest economic power, measured in terms of **gross domestic product** (GDP). The nation's wealth is partly a reflection of its rich **natural resources** and its enormous **agricultural output**, but it owes more to the country's **highly developed industry**. Despite its relative economic self-sufficiency in many areas, the United States is the most important single factor in **world trade** by virtue of the sheer size of its economy. Its **exports and imports represent major proportions of the world total**. The United States also impinges on (засіває) the global economy as a source of and as a destination for investment capital. The country continues to sustain an **economic life** that is more **diversified** than any other on Earth, providing the majority of its people with one of the **world's highest standards of living**.

The United States is relatively young by world standards, being less than **250** years old; it achieved its current size only in the mid-20th century. America was the first of the European colonies to separate successfully from its motherland. The United States still offers its residents opportunities for **unparalleled personal advancement and wealth**. However, the depletion of its resources, the contamination of its environment, and the continuing social and economic inequality that fix areas of poverty and downfall all threaten the institution of the country.

The naming of America

The question of the discovery of America is not a new one. The man who discovered the New World in the 15-th century was **Christopher Columbus**. He was born in Genoa [dʒenəʊə]— in the busy Italian seaport on the Mediterranean Sea — in 1451. He saw foreign countries; he learnt the art of navigation, of charting the sea and drawing maps and soon became a recognized seaman of distinction. He was obsessed by a plan of reaching India sailing westward instead of the way by Africa. But Columbus landed in one of the islands of the Caribbean in 1492. Columbus died thinking he had reached the East Indies – Ост-Індіа. And he never knew he had discovered a new continent. But why is not America called Columbia? It was because a mapmaker did not think of Columbus in time. Columbus died thinking he had reached the East Indies. (That is why he named the native people "Indians".) But explorers who came after him soon realized the land across the Atlantic was entirely new to them. The first person to put this into writing was **Amerigo Vespucci**, an Italian businessman and pilot from Florence, who sailed to South America in **1499, 1501 and 1503**. In a letter Vespucci claimed to have found a "**Mundus Novus**" (**New World**). The idea of a New World was exciting, and Vespucci's travels became more famous in his days than Columbus's. That is why when a mapmaker **Martin Waldseemuller** created an updated map of the world in 1507 he named South America in honour of Vespucci. Afterward this mapmaker felt he had made a mistake in doing so and removed the name from a later map. But it was too late. The name "America" was already being used all over Europe, and it became attached to the North American continent as well. Columbus's discovery of a land previously unknown to most Europeans changed the world forever. His arrival in the New World marked the beginning of an extraordinary era of European discovery, conquest, and colonization in

America.

National symbols. The national flag

The Stars and Stripes is the most popular name for the National Flag of the US. **Francis Scott** first called it **Star-Spangled Banner**. In **1814** he wrote the poem that became the national anthem. William Driver gave the name **Old Glory** to the US flag in 1824. After the Declaration of Independence on **July 4, 1776**, the Continental Congress resolved that "the flag of the US be **13 stripes alternate red and white and 13 stars white in a blue field. Red is for courage, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance and justice.** The stripes stand for **13** original colonies. There is no historical basis for assigning each star to a particular state. Presidential orders fixed the positions of the stars in **1912** (for 48 states) and in **1960** (for 50). The US flag flies over the White House whether or not the President is in Washington, D.C. The US flag flies over the Capitol (American Congress) every day. The flag is customarily displayed from sunrise to sunset. When flown at night, it should be spotlighted. The US flag should be flown on legal public holidays and other special days.

The US national anthem "**The Star-Spangled Banner**". Congress adopted "the Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem in **1931**. The poem was written in September 1814 when British troops invaded Washington and set on fire the Capitol. A Maryland attorney **Scott Key** (1779- 1843) was commissioned to help the release of his friend from the British navy. His request was granted, but they had to stay aboard because the British attacked Baltimore. The British bombarded Fort McHenry during the night of September 13-14. Through the smoke Key saw a huge American flag flying over the port. As dawn arrived the flag was still there! Key was so inspired that began making notes for a poem. On the evening of September 16, Key composed the poem in a Baltimore hotel. The next day the poem was printed on a handbill under the title of "**Defense of Fort McHenry**". A month later Key retitled the poem "**The Star-Spangled Banner**". In **1917**, **Irving Berlin** wrote "**God Bless America**" for his Army musical, Yip, Yip, Yaphank, but did not use it. In 20 years, the popular singer Kate Smith asked him for a patriotic song for a national radio broadcast in 1938. It became an overnight sensation! Many people suggested that it should be a national anthem. Over the years, it has been considered America's unofficial anthem, since "The Star-Spangled Banner" has difficult lyrics and a difficult tune.

Great Seal of the United States

In 1782, soon after the United States won its independence, the **bald eagle** was chosen as the national bird of the new country. American leaders wanted the eagle to be a symbol of their country because it is a bird of strength and courage. They chose the bald eagle because it was found all over North America.

Charles Thomson, the first official record keeper of the United States, recommended a design for the **Great Seal** – Велика державна печатка of the United States on June 20, 1782. Congress adopted his suggestion that same day. The Great seal became the official "signature" of the new nation. In **1782**, the Great Seal of the United States was used for the first time by **President George Washington** on an official document. The Great Seal is a *stamp of promise* that is adhered to each official document. The bald eagle appears in the center of the Seal. In one claw (кіготь) is found an olive branch with 13 olives and 13 leaves. In the other claw are 13 arrows. The arrows and the olive branch represent **strength and peace**. In the beak is a scroll inscribed with a Latin phrase *E pluribus unum*, meaning "out of many, one" which means that out of 13 colonies came one nation. The national motto "**In God We Trust**" expresses the country's ideals. It also appears on the reverse side of the one-dollar bill.

The Statue of Liberty. In 1886 the Statue, a gift from France, was unveiled and ever since has been a symbol greeting immigrants arriving in the USA.

Physical Geography

The area of the USA is 9,834,000 km², making it the 4th largest country in the world. It has three land borders, two with **Canada and one with Mexico, and one territorial-waters boundary with Russia. It is otherwise bounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Bering Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean.** The United States landscape varies greatly: temperate forestland on the East coast, mangrove (мангри, мангрові ліси) in Florida, the Great Plains in the centre of the country, the Mississippi-Missouri river system, the Great Lakes which are shared with Canada, the Rocky Mountains west of the plains, deserts and temperate coastal zones west of the Rocky Mountains and temperate rain forests in the Pacific Northwest.

The climate varies along with the landscape, **from tropical in southern Florida to tundra in**

Alaska. Most of the North and East experiences a **temperate continental climate**, with hot summers and cold winters. Most of the American South experiences a **subtropical humid climate** with mild winters and long, hot, humid summers. Rainfall decreases markedly from the humid forests of the Eastern Great Plains to the semiarid prairies on the High Plains near the Rocky Mountains.

Arid deserts, including the Mojave extend through the lowlands and valleys of the American Southwest from westernmost Texas to California and northward throughout much of Nevada. Some parts of the American West, including San Francisco, California, have a Mediterranean climate. Rain forests line the windward mountains of the Pacific Northwest from Oregon to Alaska.

The Great Lakes are a group of **five** large lakes on or near the United States-Canadian border, sometimes referred to as *inland seas*. They consist of **Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron (or Michigan–Huron), Erie, and Ontario**. They are the largest group of fresh water lakes on the earth, and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system is the largest fresh-water system in the world. The St Lawrence (річка св. Лаврентія) river connects the Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

Human Geography and Demographics

According to the US Census Bureau, the population estimate for 2018 is around **327 mln.** and growing quite quickly. The percentage of females was 50.9 %. Despite the post-war "Baby Boom" that has left most European countries with a high percentage of pensioners today, with the number rapidly increasing, over a quarter of Americans are under 18 as birth rates are still high. **Immigration** is still significant. Americans, in part due to categories decided by the U.S. government, generally describe themselves as being one of five **ethnic groups**: White, (also called Caucasian) – 68.0%; African American, (also called Black) – 13%; Hispanic, (also called Latino) – 13.5%; Asian American – 4% and Native American – 1.5%.

The USA heavily stresses that its immigrants fuse their various cultural identities together in this '**melting pot**', (плавильний котел) rather than retain ethnic groups with their own clear identities. Obviously this will not always be the case and many anthropologists and sociologists have invented theories that modify the official view to offer a compromise that is nearer to reality. Two of these many theories are the "**salad bowl**" culture theory and the "**pizza**" culture theory.

Theories:

Of all the many different nationalities and ethnic groups which have gone into the making of America, *some* have quickly assimilated. They have largely lost or intentionally given up many of those specific markers which would make them much different from their neighbors. This process of assimilation, or "Americanization," – becoming part of the "**melting pot**" – has characterized the immigrant experience in American history. Other Americans have, while becoming American in other ways, maintained much of their ethnic identities. In this sense, U.S. society has been linked to a "**salad bowl**." It does not follow, however, that these Americans are any less aware or proud of their American nationality. Japanese-Americans provide a well-known example. Perhaps a better metaphor for American society than either "the melting pot" or the "salad bowl" would be that of a "**pizza**" (which has become, by the way, the single most popular food in America). The different ingredients are often apparent and give the whole its particular taste and flavor, yet all are fused together into something larger.

Washington, D.C., officially the District of Columbia is the capital city and administrative district of the United States of America. The headquarters of all three branches of the U.S. federal government are in Washington, as well as the headquarters of most federal agencies. Washington also serves as the headquarters for **the World Bank** and **the International Monetary Fund**. Washington has many imposing buildings and monuments. **The Capitol and White House** are the most historic. Other leading tourist attractions are the **Washington Monument and Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials**. In Washington there is a monument to Ukrainian bard Taras Shevchenko.

New York City (officially named the City of New York), often referred to as "**the Big Apple**", is the largest city in the United States. It is the world's most important centre for global finance and communications. The city is also home to hundreds of world-class museums, galleries, and performance venues. New York City comprises 5 boroughs (боро): *Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island*.

Language

English is the name of a language, but also the adjective from the noun 'England'. When using terminology to differentiate between language dialects, "American English" (AmE) or "US English" are sufficiently accurate to enable either name to be used comfortably. "British English" assumes that

the Scots, Welsh and Irish all speak the same dialect as the English. This is not at all true. Americans (and many others around the world) invariably but mistakenly use the term "British English" to describe that which is correctly called "AngloEnglish". The convention in British academic writing on linguistics is actually to use one of three terms, Anglo-English, English English (or EngEng) or English in England. Academic convention is also to split Anglo-English into three dialects.

The USA has **no official language**, but **English** is used de **facto nationwide**. **Spanish** is the second language and it is estimated that around 20 % of Americans speak Spanish as their first language. American English or U.S. English is the diverse form of the English language used mostly in the United States of America. According to the 1990 census, 97 percent of U.S. residents speak US English "well". As of 2004, more than *two-thirds* of native speakers of English use the American dialect. English was inherited from British colonization. The first wave of English-speaking immigrants was settled in North America in the 17th century. They brought with them AngloEnglish words that remained in their vocabulary but were replaced in Anglo-English itself. "*Diaper*" for example, is archaic Anglo-English, replaced by "**nappy**" but the word survives in AmE. Similarly "gotten" as the past participle of "get" is also archaic in Anglo-English. From this date, there were also speakers in North America of the **German, French, Dutch, Native American, Spanish, Swedish and Finnish languages**. For almost a century, the majority of immigrants were **German** speakers and this had a major effect on American grammar, spelling and vocabulary. American English has both spelling and grammatical differences from Anglo-English, some of which were made as part of an attempt to rationalize the English spelling used by AngloEnglish at the time.

The first American dictionary was written by **Noah Webster in 1828**. At the time America was a relatively new country and Webster's particular contribution was to show that the USA spoke a different dialect from the various British ones, and so he wrote a dictionary with many spellings differing from the standard. Many of these changes were initiated unilaterally *одиночково* by Webster. Webster also argued for many "simplifications" to conventional spelling. Many words are shortened and differ from other versions of English. Frequently, German spellings such as 'center' are used instead of 'centre'. Conversely, American English sometimes favors words that are morphologically more complex, whereas Anglo-English uses clipped forms, such as AmE '*transportation*' or Anglo-English '*transport*' or where the British form is a back-formation, such as AmE '*burglarize*' and Anglo-English '*burgle*' (from burglar).

The federal government

It is composed of three branches:

Legislative: the bicameral Congress, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, makes federal law, declares war, approves treaties, has the power of the purse, has the power of impeachment, by which it can remove sitting members of the government.

Executive: the president is the commander-in-chief- of the military, can veto legislative bills before they become law, appoints the members of the Cabinet and other officers who administer and enforce federal laws and policies.

Judicial: The supreme Court and lower federal courts, whose judges are appointed by the president with Senate approval, interpret laws and overturn those they find unconstitutional.

The United States has an advanced mixed economy in which there is a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. United States is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The USA is the world's foremost economic and military power, with global interests and an unmatched global reach.

America's gross domestic product accounts for close to a quarter of the world total, and its military budget is reckoned to be almost as much as the rest of the world's defence spending put together.

The country is also a major source of entertainment: American TV, Hollywood films, jazz, blues, rock and rap music are primary ingredients in global popular culture.

The United States originated in a revolution which separated it from the British Crown. The constitution, drafted in 1787, established a federal system with a division of powers which has remained unchanged in form since its inception.

Lecture 2
GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
REGIONAL VARIATION. NATURAL DISASTERS

Plan:

1. American territories.
2. Regional variation.
3. Rivers. Lakes.
4. Climate patterns.
5. Vegetation and animal life.
6. Mineral resources.
7. Population.
8. Natural disasters.

The United States of America is the third largest country in the world in population, and the third largest country in area (Russia, Canada) and China – the fourth (controversial)). It is situated in *central North America* with *Canada* to the north, *Mexico* to the south, *the Atlantic Ocean* to the east and *the Pacific Ocean* to the west. The two newest states *Alaska* (1959) and *Hawaii* (1959) are separated from the continental US.

The United States has possession of various island territories in **the Caribbean Sea** and **the Pacific Ocean**. Some of them, such as *Guam* and the *Virgin Islands*, have a large degree of self-government. *Puerto Rico* is a commonwealth associated with the United States that has been given wide powers of self-rule by the US Congress. *American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands* each send to Congress a representative who votes only in committees.

The United States has 16 territories, 2 of which are disputed or 4 according to some texts, with the remaining being undisputed territories of the United States. From the world map, majority of these territories are located in the Pacific including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Island which are all inhabited territories. The other two inhabited islands are located in the Caribbean sea ; they are Puerto Rico and U. S Virgin Islands. Of the uninhabited territories, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll are all located in the Pacific Ocean.

The country occupies a favourable geographical position. **The Atlantic Ocean** is of great importance for the country's sea communications with *Europe, Africa* and *South America*, and the Pacific Ocean — with *Asia* and *Australia*. The two oceans are connected by the *Panama Canal*.

The *territory* of the USA stretches 2,600 km from north to south, and 4,500 km from east to west. There are high mountains and vast prairies, tropical heat and arctic cold, fertile valleys and bare desert areas.

The country, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, can be divided into seven major land regions. The regions are: (1) *the Appalachian Highlands (North Carolina)*; (2) *the Coastal Lowlands*; (3) *the Interior Plains*; (4) *the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands*; (5) *the Rocky Mountains*; (6) *the Western Plateaus, Basins, and Ranges*; and (7) *the Pacific Ranges and Lowlands*.

Regional variation

The (1) **Appalachian Mountains** run along the Atlantic coast of the country. They extend from the northern tip of Maine to Alabama. They are ancient, strongly destroyed mountains of no great height (2,000 m). The Appalachian Mountains consist mainly of the numerous mountain ranges which are nearly parallel with the Atlantic coastline and extend from near the Gulf of Mexico north into Canada.

The eastern slopes of the Appalachians merge with the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

The (2) **Coastal Lowlands** extend from southeastern Maine, across the eastern and southern United States, to eastern Texas. The region has three subdivisions: (1) *the Piedmont*, (2) *the Atlantic Coastal Plain*, and (3) *the Gulf Coastal Plain*.

The (3) **Interior Plains** occupy a huge expanse of land that stretches from the Appalachian Highlands in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west. Glaciers covered much of the region during the Ice Age. Today, much of this area is heavily forested. Farther south the glaciers flattened the land and formed rich soil ideal for growing crops.

The western part of the region, called the **Great Plains**, has vast grasslands where livestock

graze. It also has large areas of fertile soil that yield maize, wheat, and other crops. Few trees grow on the Great Plains.

Glaciers carved out the five **Great Lakes** in the Interior Plains. The **Mississippi River** is the region's other great waterway.

The (4) **Ozark-Ouachita Highlands** rise up between the Interior Plains and Coastal Lowlands. The highlands form a scenic landscape in southern Missouri. The region is named for the Ozark Plateau and the Ouachita Mountains. The highlands include forested hills, artificial lakes, and many underground caves and springs. Much of the region has poor soil for farming but fertile land lies along the river valleys.

Nearly all the Western part of the United States is occupied by **the Cordillera Mountain System**. The Cordillera Mountains extend from Mexico to Canada and Alaska. It is a region of high plateaus crossed by streams which flow through deep canyons. The highest elevation in the USA is **Mount McKinley** in Alaska — (6,194 m).

The (5) **Rocky Mountains** are part of the Cordillera mountain system. They extend from northern Alaska, through Canada and the western United States to northern New Mexico. They form the eastern chain of the Cordilleras. Many peaks of the Rockies are more than 4,250 metres high. As compared with the Appalachians, they are **young** and their peaks are capped with snow. The **Continental Divide**, or **Great Divide**, passes through the mountains. It is an imaginary line that separates streams that flow into **the Pacific Ocean** from those that flow into **the Atlantic**.

Close to the western edge of the Sierra Nevada, in California, there is a particularly lonely stretch of desert named **Death Valley** by pioneers who tried to cross it in their rush to the goldfields. For 225 kilometres hardly a bush can be seen in this ancient lakebed. This area is called — **the Bottom of the United States**.

The mountain ranges of the United States stretch **longitudinally** and afford no protection against the cold northerly winds. This accounts for the country's climate, which is notably colder than that of Western Europe or North Africa in the same latitudes.

The (6) **Western Plateaus, Basins, and Ranges** lie west of the Rocky Mountains. It is the driest part of the United States. Parts of it are wastelands (пустыни) with little plant life. But the region has some forested mountains, and some fertile areas where rivers provide irrigation water necessary for growing crops. In other areas, livestock graze on huge stretches of dry land.

The plateau's spectacular river gorges including the **Grand Canyon**, rank among the world's great **natural wonders**. The Basin and Range part of the region is a vast area of mountains and desert lowlands between the Columbia and Colorado plateaus.

The (7) **Pacific Ranges and Lowlands (Coastal range)** stretch across western Washington and Oregon and most of California. The region's eastern boundary is formed by **the Cascade Mountains** in the north and by **the Sierra Nevada** in the south. Volcanic activity formed the Cascades.

Rivers

The rivers of the United States belong to the **Atlantic and the Pacific basins**. The chief and the longest river of the country is **the Mississippi**.

It originates in the Interior Plains. Together with its west tributary (притока) **the Missouri** the Mississippi flows some 7,300 km from its northern source in the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. Other important tributaries of the Mississippi are **the Ohio River, the Red, and the Arkansas River**.

The Rio Grande (about 3,200 km long) is the most important river of the southwest. It forms a natural boundary between Mexico and the USA.

Another important river of the USA is the **Hudson River** which empties into the Atlantic Ocean at New York.

Another river flowing into the Atlantic Ocean is **the Tennessee River** which, together with its branches in the southern Great Valley, has about 50 dams and provides flood control and hydroelectric power. New England's chief river is **the Connecticut**.

The two largest rivers of the Pacific side are **the Colorado** in the south and **the Columbia** in the north. These rivers start in the Cordilleras and empty into the Pacific Ocean.

Lakes

The United States has thousands of lakes of all kinds and sizes. **The Great Lakes** make up the largest group of lakes in the country. It is also the greatest collection of fresh-water lakes in the world. The total area of the Great Lakes (over 245,000 km²) is equal to that of Great Britain. Only **Lake Michigan** lies entirely inside the US. The other four lakes – the **Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario** –

form a border between north-eastern United States and Canada. The lakes are interconnected by short rivers and channels. Between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, on the Niagara River, which links the two lakes, there are the powerful *Niagara Falls*, precipitating from the height of almost **50 meters**.

Another group of lakes is to the west of the Rocky Mountains. The most famous of these salty lakes are *Great Salt Lake* in Utah, and *the Salton Sea* in Southern California. Great Salt Lake is the largest of many shallow, salty lakes in this area. Bathers cannot sink in Great Salt Lake because the high salt content enables swimmers to float with ease.

The following region of numerous lakes lies along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic shore. There are hundreds of small lakes and lagoons in coastal swamps приморські болота or behind sandy coastal dunes.

Climate

Climate is the aggregate of day-to-day weather conditions over a period of many years. It is the result of the interaction of many different elements, the most important of which are **temperature** and **precipitation**.

Climatic patterns are a result of the interaction of three geographic controls. The first is *latitude*. The second control is based on the *relationship between land and water*. Land tends to heat and cool more rapidly than water. Proximity to large water bodies also tends to have a positive influence on precipitation levels, with coastal locations receiving generally higher amounts.

The third prime geographic influence on climate is *topography*. Most obvious it is the relationship between elevation and temperature, with higher elevations cooler than lower elevations. The influence of topography can be broader, however, because it affects *wind flow*.

Recapping the above information one can say that the United States has many kinds of *climate*. The weather ranges from the warm, wet conditions of the Appalachians to the desert conditions of some of the western states. The *northern part of the Pacific* coast enjoys a *moderate climate* with a cool summer and a rather warm winter without a permanent snow cover. The *southern part of the Pacific* coast has a *Mediterranean climate*: a hot, cloudless and dry summer and a cool and rainy winter. The rainfall is rather small.

The southern and far western parts of the United States have milder winters than the rest of the country. Average January temperatures generally decrease from south to north.

Alaska is arctic, but the southern coast is milder than the rest of the state. *Hawaii is tropical*.

When speaking about the distribution patterns of *precipitation* (rain, snow, hail, and other forms of moisture) one should mention that *the Cascade Mountains* and *the Sierra Nevada Mountains* are so close to the west coast, that they catch the largest amount of the rain from the Pacific Ocean before it can go further inland. As a result, there is too little rain for almost the whole western half of the United States, which lies in the “rain shadow” of the mountains. In a great part of that territory, therefore, *farmers* must *depend on irrigation* water from the snows or rains that are caught by the mountains. So the wettest area in North America is along the Pacific coast.

One of the most important and at the same time striking geographical boundaries in the United States is the **50-centimetre rainfall line**, which runs north and south almost through the middle of the country. East of the line, farming is relatively easy, and the population is relatively large. West of the line, one finds man-made irrigation systems, dry-farming, grazing and fewer people.

The climate of the United States varies greatly from place to place. The highest temperature ever recorded in the country was 57°C. It was registered at Death Valley on July 10, 1913. The lowest recorded temperature was — 62°C It was registered in Alaska, on January 23, 1971.

Vegetation and Animal Life

Vegetation There are several ways of describing vegetation regions of the USA. Perhaps the simplest is to divide the country into three broad categories — **forest, grasslands, and scrublands**. One can also include here **tundra** although it occupies only some parts of northern United States.

By the 1970's almost half the forests had been cut down and large areas in the prairies had been ploughed.

The “natural” vegetation, has been so substantially removed, rearranged, and replaced that it seldom is found now.

In the north-east and in the region of the Great Lakes there are mixed forests of *pine, fir, silver-fir, lime and ash*. Farther **south** they are replaced by broad-leaf forests of oak, maple, tulip-tree and plane-tree; still farther south there appear magnolia, laurel and other evergreen plants.

In California one can come across sequoia or redwood.

Animal Life The mixed forests zone is the home of the *brown bear, lynx, glutton, and marten*.

In the forests of the Appalachians there is *Virginia deer, red lynx, chipmunk, mole, different kinds of bats.*

The Southeast is represented by alligator, turtle, peccary, opossum, coyote, rattle-snake, badgers and gophers. Of birds there is flamingo, pelican and humming-bird.

The semi-desert and desert zones are inhabited by different rodents and reptiles.

On the Cordillera slopes there is Rocky Mountain sheep, grizzly bear, jaguar and armadillo.

Mineral Resources

Large deposits of mineral fuels have been discovered across these sedimentary lowlands. The most important *coal* deposits in America have been mined in the Appalachian field.

The Western Interior Field is also large. The coal found in this field is of slightly poorer quality than that found in the eastern fields and has only recently begun to be mined. There are also several extensive fields of **brown coal** in the northern Great Plains.

There are many small and a few large *bituminous* deposits scattered through and along the eastern margins of the Rocky Mountains.

Scattered deposits of *oil* and *natural gas* are found throughout the Appalachian coal field

The *metallic minerals* in the north of the USA and Appalachian Mountains include **copper and iron.**

A third and extensive region of metallic minerals is formed by the western mountains. There are scattered deposits of **gold and silver.** Of great industrial importance are the large deposits of **copper, zinc, lead, molybdenum, and uranium** found in this western region, as well as smaller deposits of **tungsten, chromite, manganese** and other minerals.

The population

Some parts of the nation are growing much faster than others. The fastest growth, as usual, was concentrated in the West. Growing more slowly were the Midwest and the Northeast.

A vital role in the formation of the population of the United States was played by the *immigration.* Immigrants from different countries very often live by solid communities – *Franco-Canadians* in the north of New England, *Germans* in Pennsylvania, *Swedes* in Minnesota, *the French* in Louisiana, *the Slavs* in the northeast and the Lake District.

More than half of the population is concentrated in the industrial Northeast (Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut). *California* is the most populated state – 27 million people. *Wyoming* – is the least populated state.

Ancestry The United States has one of the world's most varied populations in terms of ancestry. The population includes descendants of people from almost every part of the world.

The first people to live in what is now the United States were *Indians, Eskimos, and Hawaiians.* The Indians and Eskimos are descended from peoples who migrated to North America from *Asia* thousands of years ago. The ancestors of the Hawaiians were *Polynesians* who sailed to what is now Hawaii from other Pacific islands about 2,000 years ago.

Most *white Americans* trace their ancestry to *Europe.* Most *Hispanic Americans* are people who immigrated — or whose ancestors immigrated — to the United States from *Latin America.* A small percentage of them trace their ancestry directly back to *Spain.*

Most *black Americans* are descendants of *Africans* who were brought to the United States as slaves during the 1600's – 1800's and forced to work on plantations.

Since the 1800's, the United States has attracted immigrants from Asia. Most Asian Americans trace their ancestry to China, India, Indochina, Japan, Korea, or the Philippines.

For census purposes, the United States is divided into urban areas and rural areas. An urban area, as defined by the US Census Bureau, is a community with 2,500 or more people. A rural area is a community with fewer than 2,500 people.

In 1790, the year of the first census, about **95** per cent of the nation's people lived in rural areas, and only about **5** per cent were urban dwellers. Through the years, these percentages changed steadily and dramatically as a result of the reduction of employment in agriculture and the increase of those employed in *industry, trade, finance, and service.* Today, about **74** per cent of all the people live in urban areas. Only about **26** per cent live in rural areas.

Urban life Although the urban areas cover less than 2 per cent of the land, they are the home of about three-fourths of the people. **New York City,** with about 7 million people, is the largest US city by far. **Los Angeles** has about 3 million people. **Chicago** has a population of about 2 million. Five other US cities — **Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit, and Dallas** — each have more than 1 million people.

Networks of suburbs surround many US cities. There are about **335** metropolitan areas in the United States. The four largest are, in order of size, the *Los Angeles, Long Beach, New York City, and Chicago areas*.

Urban economies provide jobs for a great variety of workers. Urban life also has many other positive features. Because of their large populations, urban areas generally offer a wide variety of specialized services and shops. Urban dwellers can take advantage of an assortment of restaurants, recreation facilities, and places of entertainment. These and other features make urban areas exciting and interesting places to live for many people.

The people of large urban areas are also *divided economically*. Urban society includes *extremely wealthy* and *extremely poor* people, and a huge *middle class*. The wealthy live in luxurious flats or condominiums (apartment buildings), or in large, comfortable single-family houses. Middle-class housing also includes flats, condominiums, and single-family houses. In contrast, large numbers of urban poor people live in substandard housing. They rent crowded, small flats or run-down (старих) single-family houses.

Rural life More than **98** per cent of all the land of the United States is classified as rural. But much of the rural land is uninhabited or only lightly inhabited.

Farms provide the economic basis of the nation's rural areas. But only about **5 per cent** of the country's rural people work on farms. Many other rural people own or work in businesses related to agriculture, such as grain and feed stores and warehouses. Mining and related activities and light industries also employ many rural people. Still other rural Americans work as teachers, police officers, salesclerks, or in other occupations.

American farmers of today lead vastly different lives from those of their grandparents. In the home, farm families may have all the comforts and conveniences of people who live in cities. During the 1900's, the car, telephone, radio, and television have brought American farm families into close contact with the rest of the world.

For many rural Americans, social life centres around family gatherings, church and school activities, special interest clubs, and such events as state and county fairs.

The gaps between economic classes are not as large in rural areas as in urban areas. Most rural Americans live in single-family houses. The majority of the houses are comfortable and in good condition. But some people, including many who live in parts of Appalachia have run-down houses and enjoy few luxuries.

Natural disasters

The following natural disasters are the most common disasters that occur in the United States, yet most are situated in specific regions.

Heat Waves

Heat Waves are brought on by incredibly hot weather mixed in with unbearable humidity, for good measure. **The eastern** United States are typically hit with scorching humidity, which starts in the **Gulf of Mexico**, combined with hot air masses from **Mexico's desert**. As recently as **March 2012**, an intense heat wave broke temperature records across the country. While heat wave-related deaths are lower in the U.S. compared to the rest of the world, even minor heat waves have been the cause of dozens of deaths per year.

Drought

Droughts have plagued the U.S. in the past, most famously in the "dust bowl."- район пилових буревиїв. Severe droughts affect the country's farming industry. Droughts are still such a common problem that the **National Integrated Drought Information System** (NIDIS) was enacted in 2006 to forecast and warn states of droughts. Starting that same year, **California suffered through a five-year drought** (since 2006). This is just one of the dozen major droughts that took place over the last decade.

Floods

Floods are surprisingly one of the most common natural disasters. They are also rank among the highest in terms of property damage. The after-effects of Hurricane Katrina led to the floods in Mississippi and Louisiana, where **1,836** people lost their lives and many more lost their homes and businesses. Sometimes flooding occurs in unusual locations, like when **Colorado** was afflicted by a long-lasting flood during September 2013.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are not as widely reported as they once were. This may be due to their seismic strength or location. In the past five years, the United States was hit with an average of four earthquakes a year

ranging over a **5.5** on the Richter scale. Earthquakes may be common for Californians, but they surprise other states like Alabama and Illinois on occasion as well. Thankfully, the loss of life due to Earthquakes in the United States has been minimal.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are more damaging and dangerous than you'd expect. An estimated 10,000 severe thunderstorms hit the **Midwest and Central United States** per year. *High winds* can cause massive damage to homes, signs and businesses. *Hail* damages crops and has the potential of seriously injuring anyone unlucky to be outside during a hailstorm. *Lightning* itself causes about **80 fatalities** per year, and lead to our next natural disaster.

Wildfire

Wildfires, also known as brush fires and forest fires, are known for their size and speed of ignition. These commonly destroy several thousands of acres in just a few days. These fires are quite common **in the western United States**. California and other dry states like **New Mexico, Nevada and Utah** expect multiple wildfires each summer.

Winter Weather

Snow and Ice are all too common along the Great Lakes states and the northeastern states. Ice Storms and Blizzards hit with the combination of high wind speeds, blinding snow and several days of nonstop snowfall. It doesn't take much ice to affect traffic, airports and general daily life as evidence in 2011. Total damages from that three-day storm were valued at \$1 billion.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes favor the United States more than any other country. This is one thing we wish we didn't lead the world in. The hardest hit areas are definitely in Tornado Alley: **Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and South Dakota**. However, that doesn't mean tornadoes only affect that area. In November 2013, around 80 tornadoes hit the Midwest and arrived in **Illinois**, taking everyone by surprise.

Volcanoes

Volcanic eruption doesn't sound like a large threat. However, in the past 100 years, there have been around three dozen eruptions from volcanoes in the United States alone. One of the most memorable recent volcanic activity was the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in Washington on May 18, 1980. Volcanoes don't seem like a huge threat, considering most of them **lie dormant** (у стані спокою), but they can quickly cause immense damage and destruction. The majority of these volcanoes lie along the western coast, Alaska's coast and Hawaii. People living on the east coast should feel safe about Volcanoes, but perhaps not about our next disaster.

Hurricanes

Hurricanes and cyclones form over the ocean while evaporating water from the ocean into its saturated clouds. Fortunately, these storms don't always make landfall зсув, but their destructive paths are closely watched each summer along **the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast**. An average of 15 to 20 major hurricanes per decade hit the coastal regions of the U.S., causing a tremendous amount of damage to homes, businesses and the environment.

While there may not be a perfect, safe place to live in the United States, the important thing is to know what disasters commonly affects the area where you live and how you should respond in an emergency situation.

Lecture 3 HISTORY OF THE USA

Plan:

1. Colonial America. First colonies in North America.
2. Jamestown and Virginia.
3. Pilgrim fathers and New England.
4. New York and New Jersey. Maryland. Carolina and Georgia.
5. Conflict with Britain.
6. The Great Proclamation.
7. The Boston massacre and the Boston tea party.
8. The continental congress.
9. American revolutionary war.
10. Foundation and growth of the USA.
11. The USA in the 19th century.
12. The rise of the USA.
13. 20th century of the USA.
14. The USA in the 21st century.

Colonial America. First colonies in North America

The first Europeans to establish colonies in North America were the **Spanish**. In 1526 a **Spaniard** called **Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon** attempted to found a colony in Carolina. (He also brought the first black slaves to North America). However the attempt failed. Many Spaniards died of disease and the survivors abandoned the colony. In **1565 Pedro Menendez de Aviles** founded a settlement at St Augustine, Florida, the first permanent European settlement in what is now the USA.

The first **English** attempt to colonize North America was made by a man named **Sir Humphrey Gilbert**. In 1578 Queen Elizabeth granted him permission to establish a colony there. In 1583 Gilbert sailed with a small fleet of ships to Newfoundland. However Gilbert soon abandoned the venture. Gilbert was lost on the voyage home.

However his half-brother, **Walter Raleigh** made another attempt to found a colony. In **1584** he sent two ships to explore the coast. They found what they thought was a suitable place for a colony. In January 1585 Queen Elizabeth the '**Virgin Queen**' allowed him to call the place **Virginia**, after her. Later there were other unsuccessful attempts to found colonies in America.

Jamestown and Virginia

The second expedition of the Virginia Company founded **Jamestown on 14 May 1607**.

In 1611 Sir **Thomas Dale** became the Governor of the colony. He introduced strict discipline with a code of laws called '**Laws, Divine, Moral and Martial**'. Penalties for disobedience were severe.

In 1612 a man named **John Rolfe** began growing **tobacco**. In 1614 the first Virginian tobacco was sold in England. Exports of tobacco soon became the mainstay of the Virginian economy.

In 1619 the first slaves arrived in Virginia. Also in **1619** the first representative government in North America was created when **the House of Burgesses met**.

Pilgrim Fathers and New England

Another English colony was founded **1620**. In England people called Separatists were strongly critical of the Church of England and they did not wish to belong to it. They faced persecution in England so in 1608 a group of them fled to Holland where they were allowed to practice their religion. However they grew dissatisfied there. The colonists set out in a ship called **the Mayflower** and they arrived at **Plymouth (Massachusetts)** in December **1620**. Many of the colonists did not survive the first winter. However a Native American taught them how to grow crops.

In 1634 people from Massachusetts founded the towns in **Connecticut** and **Rhode Island**. The first settlement was at Providence.

Meanwhile a fishing settlement was founded in **New Hampshire** in 1623 (New England). There was also a ship building industry in New England.

New York and New Jersey

In 1624 the Dutch West India Company founded a colony called **New Netherland**. The British captured New Netherland in 1664 and renamed it **New York** in honor of the king's brother the Duke of York. **King Charles II** granted the colony to his brother. He in turn granted the land between **the Delaware and the Hudson** to two men, Lord John Berkeley (1607-1678) and Sir George Carteret

(1615-1680). Carteret came from the island of Jersey in the English Channel and he named the area **New Jersey** after his home. 1682 the area now called Delaware was ceded to William Penn.

Maryland

Maryland was founded as a haven for Catholics. A man named Cecil Calvert was granted territory north of the Potomac River. His brother Leonard led 200 settlers there to found a colony in **1634**. It was named **Maryland** after the king's wife, Henrietta Maria. By 1640 there were about 500 people in Maryland. It soon became another tobacco growing colony.

Carolina and Georgia

Carolina was founded in 1670. Settlers in Carolina came from islands in the Caribbean as well as from Virginia and New England. However from the end of the 17th century many African slaves were transported to work on the plantations. **In 1701 Carolina was divided into North and South Carolina.** **Georgia** was founded in **1732** when George II gave it a charter. It was named after him. The first settlement in Georgia was Savannah.

Conflict with Britain

As the North American colonies grew tension with Britain was inevitable. The British felt that the colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country and this attitude was bound to cause resentment- обурення. As early as **1651** the British Parliament passed a **navigation act**. It stated that any goods grown or made outside Europe must be transported to England in English ships. Other Navigation Acts followed it. The 1660 Navigation Act stated that certain goods (cotton, indigo, sugar and tobacco) could only be exported from the colonies to England or to other colonies. It was followed by acts in 1670 and 1673. However the British made little attempt to enforce these acts and they were widely ignored by the colonists.

In the early 18th century the population of the North American colonies grew rapidly. It was probably about **300,000** at the end of the **17th** century but by **1760 it was over 1 million**. By 1780 it had doubled. In the early 18th century the population was boosted by immigrants from **Northern Ireland** (most of them descended from Scottish Presbyterians). There were also many immigrants from **Scotland** itself. Also in the early 18th century there were many **German** immigrants. Land was cheap in North America and it attracted many people hoping for a better life.

The Great Proclamation

However relations between the colonists and the mother country turned sour after 1763. The British had just finished fighting the **Seven Years War** against **France**. They had won Canada but the war was very expensive. The British were keen to prevent any wars with the Native Americans, which might prove expensive. In **1763** a royal proclamation known as **the Great Proclamation** sought to ban any further westward expansion. It forbade people to move further west. This proclamation was ignored by the colonists but it also caused great resentment. The colonists objected to being told by the British government that they could not expand westwards.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Furthermore in 1763 Americans paid few taxes, certainly less than the British. The British felt that the Americans should pay a greater contribution towards the cost of their defense. **In 1764** the British Prime Minister, **George Grenville, passed the Sugar Act**. The act actually reduced duty on molasses but steps were taken to make sure it was collected! (Smuggling was widespread). The Sugar Act infuriated the Americans and they were alienated further by **the Currency Act of 1764**. The colonies were printing their own money because of a shortage of currency but the act banned the issue of paper money in the American colonies (and so hindered trade).

However most offence was caused by **the Stamp Act of 1765**, which imposed duty on legal documents, newspapers and playing cards. Americans believed that since they were not represented in the British parliament it had no right to impose taxes on them. In the immortal phrase '**no taxation without representation**'. There was a set of protests. Eventually in March 1766 the British were forced to repeal the Stamp Act. By March 1770 all duties except those on tea were removed.

The Boston massacre and the Boston tea party

However American public opinion was galvanized by the '**Boston massacre**' of March **1770**. A group of people in Boston threw snowballs at British soldiers. The soldiers opened fire, killing 5 people and wounding 6 of them. The British failure to execute anybody for the massacre outraged American opinion.

Then in **1773** the British East India Company sent tea to the American colonies to sell. Three ships were sent to Boston with **298** chests of tea. However Boston was a center of resistance to the British. Later men dressed as Indians boarded the ships and threw the tea into the sea.

In 1774 a series of laws were passed called the **Coercive or Intolerable Acts**. The port of Boston was closed rights of people were limited.

The Americans were also annoyed by **the Quebec Act of 1774**. This was an attempt by the British parliament to make the French Catholics loyal to the British Crown. The Act extended the boundaries of Quebec southward and westward. The Americans feared the king intended to settle loyal French speaking Catholics in the West to increase his own power in the region.

The continental congress

Finally in September **1774** a Continental Congress met to decide policy. They demanded the **repeal of the Coercive Acts and of the Quebec Act**. The Congress also denounced British interference in American affairs and asserted the right of colonial assemblies to pass laws and raise taxes as they saw fit.

In **1775** the British declared that **Massachusetts** was in a state of rebellion. British troops were given a free hand to deal with it.

However the American colonies had militias made up of civilians and they resisted the British. Fighting began on 19 April 1775 near Concord. During the march the British lost 73 dead and 200 wounded or missing. **The American Revolution had begun.**

The Continental Congress met again in May 1775 and agreed to raise an army. **George Washington was made its commander in chief**. Congress hoped they could force the British to negotiate but **George III** refused to compromise. Instead he declared that all the American colonies were in a state of rebellion.

Tom Paine in 1776 published a pamphlet called **Common Sense**, which rejected all talk of negotiation with the British and demanded complete independence. Common Sense became a **bestseller**.

Declaration of independence was adopted **on 4 July 1776**.

American revolutionary war

At first sight the British had many advantages. They greatly outnumbered the Americans and had much greater resources. However they were handicapped by long lines of communication.

France 1778 and Spain 1779 declared war on Britain respectively. The **Treaty of Paris ended it in September 1783**.

Foundation and growth of the USA

Later **Articles of Confederation were drawn up** which joined the states into a **federation**. They were adopted **in 1781**. However the arrangement proved unsatisfactory. Between May and September **1787** they wrote a new constitution. The first Congress met in **1789** and George Washington became the first President. **In 1791** ten amendments, known as **the Bill of Rights** were ratified.

In the late 18th century and the early 19th century the population of the USA grew rapidly. Immigrants from Europe poured into the country including many from Germany. Meanwhile the USA expanded westward. **In 1791 Vermont** was admitted to the union as the 14th state. **Kentucky** became the **15th state in 1792** and **Tennessee the 16th in 1796**. **In 1803 Ohio** became the **17th state**.

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Also in **1803** American territory was greatly increased by **the Louisiana purchase**. France claimed a vast amount of land in central North America around the Missouri River and the Arkansas River. In 1803 Napoleon agreed to sell the lot for **\$15 million**. Buying the French land meant there was now no bar to the USA spreading across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. **Louisiana became the 18th state of the union in 1812**.

The American economy also grew rapidly. In the south cotton expanded rapidly after **Eli Whitney** invented the cotton gin in 1793. In the North trade and commerce grew rapidly. By 1860 more than 60% of the world's cotton was grown in the USA. In the decades after the war of 1812 the Northern States began to industrialize. Furthermore the first **railroad** was built in the USA in **1828**.

After 1814 there was fighting between Seminole Indians from Florida and settlers from Georgia. As a result of the first Seminole War. Spain ceded **Florida to the USA in 1821**. **Florida became a US state in 1845**.

TEXAS JOINS THE USA

In the 1820s the Mexican government welcomed Americans who wished to settle in its thinly populated territory of Texas. However the American settlers soon quarreled with their Mexican masters and in 1835 they began a rebellion.

However on 21 April 1836 Texan troops under Sam Houston routed the Mexican army. Texas became independent and Sam Houston became its first president. **In 1845 the USA annexed Texas and it became the 28th US state.** However the Mexicans never accepted the independence of Texas and they were infuriated when the Americans annexed the territory. The US annexation of Texas led directly to war with Mexico.

THE MEXICAN WAR

On 13 May **1846** Congress declared war on Mexico. The Mexican War was ended by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in February **1848**. Mexico ceded **New Mexico and California to the USA.**

THE PACIFIC COAST OF THE USA

The population of California boomed when a gold rush occurred. Gold was discovered at **Sutter's Mill in 1848**. In the fall of 1848 newspapers in the East published the news that gold could be found in California and a gold rush began. The huge wave of migrants created a huge demand for industries products and the Californian economy prospered. California was admitted to the union as a state in **1850**.

Oregon was admitted to the union as a state in **1859**.

THE INDIAN WARS

As the USA expanded westward there were many wars with the Indians. As a result by the **treaty of Greenville, 1795**, the natives were forced to cede most of **Ohio** to the Americans. Later, 1814, **Alabama** got under American control.

Andrew Jackson later became President and in 1830 he signed the **Indian Removal Bill** which forced Indians east of the Mississippi River to move to Oklahoma. The **Choctaws** in 1832, the **Creeks** in 1835 and the **Chickasaw** in 1837. The **Cherokees** - in 1838-39. (So many of them died on the trail it was called the '**Trail of Tears**'). In the 1850s the USA also fought wars with the natives of the Northwest.

The USA in the 19th century

The USA continued to grow rapidly. New states were added. **Iowa** was added to the union in 1846. **Wisconsin** followed in 1848. **Oregon** was admitted in 1859 and **Kansas** was admitted in 1861.

However the rapidly growing nation was torn apart by the **issue of slavery**. In the northern states slavery was gradually abolished and the USA became divided into '**free states**' and '**slave states**'.

THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE

In 1803 the USA bought land from France. This was known as the **Louisiana purchase**. In 1819 part of the territory asked to be admitted to the union as a state in which slavery was allowed. However at that time the USA was evenly divided between free states and slave states. Another slave state would upset the balance. Furthermore northerners feared that more slave states would be created in future.

A **row** occurred between **northerners** and **southerners**. Eventually an agreement was reached. **Missouri** was admitted as a **slave state** but at the same time part of Massachusetts became the state of **Maine** so the balance of slave and free was preserved. Furthermore a line was drawn across the continent. States north of it were to be free, south of it they were to be slave. However the Missouri compromise was only a temporary solution.

THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

Eventually a compromise was reached. The Compromise of 1850 stated that the territories of **New Mexico** and **Utah** could decide for themselves whether they wished to allow slavery or not when they applied to become states. A **fugitive slave law** was also passed which said that slaves who ran away to the north should be returned to their masters.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 allowed them to choose whether to permit slavery or not when they applied to become states.

In the **Dred-Scott case** of 1857 the Supreme Court decided that **slaves** were not and never could be US citizens. It also declared the 1820 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional. The case enraged public opinion in the north.

The civil war was not caused just by the **question of slavery**. North and south were also divided over **tariffs**. The northern states began to industrialize in the early 19th century. By the middle of the century the **north** was becoming an **industrial**, urban society. Northerners wanted tariffs to protect their industries. However the **south** remained an **agricultural** society. Its economy was based

on plantations worked by slaves. Southerners objected to tariffs (митні збори) because they bought goods from the north or from Europe and tariffs made them more expensive. North and south were quite different economically and culturally.

THE OUTBREAK OF CIVIL WAR

The civil war was finally provoked by the election of **Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865 as president since 1861**. Lincoln did not believe he had the power to abolish slavery in states where it already existed. However he firmly opposed the expansion of slavery into territories of the USA, which were likely to become states in future. His policy meant that **in future free states would outnumber slave ones**. As a result of his election **South Carolina ceded from the union in 1860. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas followed it early in 1861**. Together they formed **the Confederate States of America on 4 February 1861**. **Jefferson Davis(1808-1889)** became the President.

Fighting began on **12 April 1861**. **Arkansas** ceded from the union on 6 May 1861. It was followed by **Tennessee and North Carolina**.

However the south was easily outmatched by the north. The north outnumbered the south 4 to 1 in men of military age. Furthermore while the north had begun to industrialize the south remained an agricultural society. Furthermore the south suffered from disunity. Despite these disadvantages the south won some early victories.

The last Confederate army surrendered on **26 May 1865**. However Lincoln did not live to see the end of the war. John Wilkes Booth shot him on 14 April 1865. Lincoln was watching a play in Ford's Theater when Booth shot him in the head. The president died the next day. **Andrew Johnson** took his place.

THE END OF SLAVERY

13th amendment which banned slavery. It was ratified by December **1865**.

RECONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTH

Congress passed the **Civil Rights Act 1866**. It stated that all people born in the USA were now citizens regardless of race, color or previous condition (i.e. if they were former slaves). **Johnson** vetoed the act but congress overrode his presidential veto.

Later in the south white people re-asserted their rule and black people were forced to become subservient. Furthermore in **1866-1867** the **Ku Klux Klan** was formed to terrorize black people. They played an important role in restoring white rule by scaring black people into not voting.

The rise of the USA

In the late 19th century the population of the USA grew very rapidly. By 1900 it was almost 76 million. Immigrants from Europe poured into the USA hoping for a better life. Many people were lured by the **Homesteader Act of 1862**. Settlers were offered 160 acres of land free provided they agreed to till it for 5 years.

American industry also boomed. In the late 19th century the USA was the fastest growing industrial nation in the world. By the end of the century it had surpassed Britain in production of **iron** and **steel**. The American railroad network also grew rapidly. The first **transcontinental railroad** was built in **1869**. Meanwhile, in **1859**, Edwin Drake (1819-1899) **struck oil in Pennsylvania**. Soon there was a flourishing oil industry in Pennsylvania. The first **oil pipeline** was built in **1865**.

Meanwhile American agriculture continued to boom. It was helped by new technology. A **mechanical reaper** was invented in **1834**. John Deere (1804-1886) invented the **steel plow** in **1838**. In **1854** the first successful self-governing **windmill** (that changed direction automatically to face the wind) was made.

THE SPANISH WAR

In **1898** the USA fought a war with **Spain**. In the 1890s Cuba rebelled against Spanish rule and the Spanish dealt with the rebels very harshly. That enraged American public opinion. In April 1898 the USA went to war. The last Spanish troops in Cuba surrendered on 26 July. **By a peace treaty, which was signed in Paris on 10 December 1898**, Cuba became independent while the USA took **the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam**.

The Spanish War proved the USA was now a great power. By 1910 the USA had overtaken Britain as the richest and most powerful nation in the world.

20th century of the USA

In the early 20th century three new states were admitted to the union, **Oklahoma in 1907 and Arizona and New Mexico in 1912**.

Also in the early 20th century the USA built the **Panama Canal**. President **Theodore Roosevelt** decided to build a canal across Panama. The canal was built in the years 1904-1914.

THE USA IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

When **the First World War** began in **1914** the USA remained neutral. However on 1 February 1917 Germany began unrestricted **submarine warfare**. That meant that any neutral ship attempting to trade with Britain was a target for submarines. Furthermore British intelligence intercepted a telegram from Arthur Zimmermann, German Foreign Secretary. It stated that in the event of a war between Germany and the USA efforts should be made to persuade Mexico to attack the USA. The Mexicans were offered parts of the USA as a reward if they did so.

On 6 April 1917 the USA declared war on Germany. America had a strong navy but a relatively small army. But German troops were pushed back until Germany surrendered on **11 November 1918**.

Meanwhile **women gained the vote**. In April 1917 only 11 states allowed women to vote. However in 1918 the House adopted the **14th amendment**, which allowed women to vote and came into effect in **1920**.

THE 1920s

For most people (not all) the 1920s were a time of prosperity. Electrical appliances became common, refrigerators, irons and fans. Radios also became common. Cars also became common in the 1920s. Americans enjoyed the highest standard of living in the world.

The 1920s were also the era of prohibition. The **eighteenth amendment** came into force in 1920. It banned the 'manufacture, sale or transportation' of **alcohol**. However people simply made alcohol illegally and drank it in '**speakeasies**'. Worse, prohibition boosted organized crime as gangsters tried to control the supply of alcohol. Prohibition ended in **1933**.

THE WALL STREET CRASH

In 1929 the American economy began to falter. On **24 October 1929, known as Black Thursday**, panic selling began and prices on stocks fell catastrophically, an event known as the **Wall Street Crash**. Business confidence disappeared, banks failed and industry slumped. Industrial production in the USA had fallen by half and exports fell. By 1932 about one quarter of the work force was unemployed. When people lost their jobs they could no longer buy goods and demand fell so *more* people lost their jobs. There had been economic slumps in America before but this one was more severe than anything previously experienced. It was known as **the Depression**.

THE DEPRESSION

President **Hoover** did try and help. He persuaded employers to maintain wages at their present levels. He also increased spending on roads, bridges and public buildings. He believed in what he called '**Rugged individualism**'. He believed too much state help would make people dependent. For the unemployed life during the depression was very harsh. Many were reduced to attending **soup kitchens** run by charities. (The soup was sometimes called 'Hoover stew'). Destitute people lived in shanty towns they called **Hoovervilles**. Hoover became deeply unpopular and in 1932 **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** ^{rəʊzɪvɛlt} was elected President.

THE NEW DEAL

Roosevelt assured the American people that the only thing they had to fear was **fear** itself. He promised the American people '**A New Deal**'. However between 1933 and 1939 he had only limited success.

At first Roosevelt persuaded Congress to pass a number of laws in a hectic period known as '**The Hundred Days**'. One of the first things Roosevelt did was to close all the **banks** in the USA by law. **The Emergency Banking Act** of 9 March 1933 meant they would only open again if the Federal government declared they were solvent. This measure persuaded people it was safe to deposit their savings in banks. Restoring faith in banks was the first step to dealing with the depression.

In 1935 **the Social Security Act** created old age pensions and an unemployment insurance scheme. However mass unemployment only ended with the coming of war.

THE USA IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

On 7 **December 1941** the Japanese attacked the American Pacific fleet at **Pearl Harbor**. The next day Congress declared war on **Japan**. On 11 December 1941 Germany and Italy declared war on the USA. The USA mobilized all its resources for war. Industrial output doubled during World War II and by 1943 there was full employment. Only 2,000 aircraft were made in 1939 but by 1944 the figure was 96,000. The American public suffered less than people in other countries because the USA escaped occupation or air raids.

The USA's massive industrial strength made the defeat of the **Axis powers** (Germany, Italy and Japan) inevitable. Unfortunately Roosevelt did not live to see the end of the war. He died on 12 April 1945.

Modern USA

THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE

After World War II the USA was by far the richest and most powerful nation in the world. However relations between the USA and the Soviet Union quickly cooled after 1945. **By 1947 the Cold War** had begun. The USA gave money to both **Greece and Turkey (financial support)**. The USA also provided massive aid for Europe, which was devastated by war. The aid given was called **the Marshall Plan** after Secretary of State George C. Marshall who first proposed aid for Europe in June 1947. The aid was given in **1948-1951** and it greatly assisted European recovery. However in **1950** the USA was drawn into the **Korean War (to 1953)**. But Peace treaty is not signed till now.

THE FAIR DEAL

In his domestic policy **Truman** tried to extend the New Deal (his policies became known as the '**Fair Deal**'). but he was frustrated by Congress which refused to pass most of his proposed laws. In 1949 Congress increased the **minimum wage** and extended **state benefits** to another 10 million people. Furthermore in 1949 the **Housing Act** provided for **slum clearance** and for **public housing** for more than 800,000 people.

McCARTHYISM IN THE USA

The early 1950s was the era of **McCarthyism**. At that time there was a great fear of communist infiltration. In 1946 **Winston Churchill** announced that an '**iron curtain**' was descending across Europe. Puppet communist regimes were installed in Eastern Europe in countries like **Hungary** and **Bulgaria**. Later – in **Czechoslovakia**.

Fear was fanned by the case of **Alger Hiss**. He had been a high-ranking government official. In 1948 a former communist called Whittaker Chambers said that Hiss was a spy for the Soviet Union. Hiss denied the charge. He was convicted in January 1950. The case increased fears of communist subversion.

Furthermore in 1949 the Russians exploded an atomic bomb. The American people were shocked to hear that spies had helped the Russians to develop a bomb by leaking them information. Into this atmosphere of fear stepped Senator Joseph McCarthy (1908-1957). McCarthy then began a witch-hunt in which many people lost their jobs. However eventually McCarthy overreached himself and he began to accuse too many important people. Public support lowered

Despite McCarthy the 1950s were a prosperous period for America. Unemployment was low, living standards rose and TV became common. The USA launched its first satellite in **1958**. However the prosperity was not shared by everyone.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE USA

In reality, of course, facilities for black people were always inferior. In 1954 the Supreme Court recognized this and overturned the previous decision. However most white people in the south were strongly opposed to desegregation. In the south most black people did not register to vote.

However black Americans or African Americans had great success with non-violent campaigning. In 1955 Montgomery Alabama had a law, which said black people must sit at the back of buses. In December 1955 a woman called Rosa **Parks** sat at the front of a bus and refused to move. She was arrested. Black people then organized a boycott of the buses. Finally segregation on buses was ruled unconstitutional. One of the leaders of the boycotts was to become famous. He was the Baptist Minister **Martin Luther King** (1929-1968).

In 1960 black students in Greensboro, North Carolina were refused service in a restaurant. They then staged a **sit-in**. The sit-in movement quickly spread to shops, hotels, theaters and parks and had some success in forcing them to desegregate.

In 1962 President Kennedy sent troops to the State University of Mississippi to enforce a court order that a black student should be admitted. In **1963** a quarter of a million people marched on Washington to demand civil rights legislation. Martin Luther King made a speech beginning with the immortal words '**I have a dream**', in which he outlined his vision of racial harmony (In April 1968 the great orator Martin Luther King was assassinated. His death provoked further riots).

In 1964 Lyndon B. Johnson signed the **Civil Rights Act**, which gave all people equal rights in voting, education, public accommodation and federally assisted programs.

Native Americans also began to protest about their treatment (1968).

JOHN F. KENNEDY

In the early 1960s Kennedy strengthened the American armed forces. He also committed the USA to landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade. Kennedy also created the **Peace Corps**, which sent volunteers to help with various educational, economic and welfare schemes in poor countries. Furthermore in 1963 Kennedy signed the **Equal Pay Act** which made it illegal to pay men and women different amounts for doing the same work.

In his foreign policy Kennedy his activity led to **the Cuban missiles crisis**. The Russians placed long-range missiles on Cuba that were capable of hitting the USA. Kennedy was assassinated on **22 November 1963**.

WATERGATE

The **Watergate scandal** was a **scandal** during and after the 1972 Presidential Election. United States President and Republican Richard Nixon was running for election against Democrat George McGovern. On 17 June 1972 five men broke into the Democratic Party Headquarters in the Watergate Building. The five were arrested. However President Richard Nixon denied that his administration had anything to do with the break in.

Subsequently investigations revealed that a number of White House staff were involved in planning the break in and in arranging a 'cover up'.

Nixon firmly denied that he was personally involved in any attempted 'cover up'. **Having lost all support Nixon resigned on 9 August 1974**.

After Vietnam and the Watergate scandal the USA suffered a recession in the mid-1970s. **Despite its troubles the United States remained by far the richest and most powerful nation in the world.**

Meanwhile the Cold War came to a sudden end in **1989** when communism collapsed in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 leaving the USA the world's only superpower.

The USA in the 21st century

In the 21st century the population of the USA continued to grow rapidly, partly due to immigration. Today the population of the USA is 318 million. The USA suffered a recession in 2008-2009 but soon recovered. Afterwards its economy grew steadily. Meanwhile in 2008 Barack Obama was elected the first African American president. Today the USA is still the most powerful country in the world. At present J. Biden is the president of the USA making history by his Asian American counterpart K. Harris taking the office of vice president.

